

State Senator

BRANDON ELEFANTE

Representing Senate District 16 - 'Aiea, Hālawā, and Pearl City

Connecting Communities • Protecting Our Planet • Supporting Strong Schools



JAN 2024



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year to you and your 'ohana!

Wishing you blessings in abundance of love, joy, health, peace and prosperity.

I am honored and privileged to continue to represent our community and I remain committed to being your voice at the state legislature. As we enter the second half of the biennium of the 32nd Legislature, and with Opening Day on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, I pledge to work collaboratively with my colleagues as we advocate for the betterment of Hawaii.



At this time, I would also like to introduce my legislative team for 2024 - Legislative Aide Taylor Sayles, Legislative Analyst Michael Greenough, and Office Manager Janice Salcedo. Combined they have over 50 years of legislative experience. As always, we welcome you to share your thoughts and concerns.

Aloha,

Brandon

SENATOR ON THE MOVE...

In the interim, I was privileged to make many site visits throughout our great state and beyond to see firsthand the many facilities and meet with staff.

I had the opportunity to do site tours of Senate District 16 to better understand the needs and wants of our district by getting project updates, meeting with state officials and leaders of the community.



One of those projects is the Navy water and sewer project in the Hālawā Heights area and meeting Project Engineer Manager Rachael Hunter.

Keaīwa Heiau State Recreation Area was another interesting site visit I made with staff. It is such a beautiful natural resource and we need to protect it! DLNR officials were on hand with updates of park needs at 'Aiea Loop Trail.

I also had the opportunity to tour our State Department of Defense facilities



and headquarters. A special thanks to General Hara, Brigadier General Mitsuyoshi, and Major Lee for taking the time to share their roles and functions. Many thanks to our service people in the Hawai'i Air National Guard and Hawai'i Army National Guard for their leadership and commitment to serve our state and country. I also got to meet with some members from the Youth Challenge Academy and hear their personal stories of transformation in their lives.



As vice chair of the Public Safety Committee I felt it was important to visit each of our prisons including the Saguaro Prison in Arizona and most recently, Kulani and Hawaii Community Correctional Centers. These visits were an eye-opening experience and extremely informative. The biggest takeaway is that we need to do more to not only protect our communities, but improve our commitment to providing safety for staff and rehabilitation to those incarcerated.





Senator Brandon Elefante
Hawaii State Senate
District 16

Member of the following
Senate Committees

Public Safety - Military Affairs - Vice Chair
Water and Land - Vice Chair
Judiciary
Transportation / Culture and the Arts

HOW TO REACH US

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BILLS BEING INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ELEFANTE FOR 2024

RELATING TO SCHOOL SECURITY - Requiring DOE to establish training and hiring of security personnel at all schools and facilities where students are present.

RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS - Repeals existing law that preempted local ordinances or regulations that regulate the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices and nullified and voided any conflicting local laws and regulations. Allows counties to adopt ordinances that regulate the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices that do not conflict with and are more stringent than the state law.

RELATING TO AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS - Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide trainings on the use of automated external defibrillators for certain state employees and security staff.

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERIES - Establishes an electric vehicle battery recycling and disposal program. Prohibits disposal of propulsion batteries as solid waste. Prohibits producers of propulsion batteries from refusing propulsion batteries for reuse, remanufacturing, repurposing, or recycling. Establishes producer responsibility for propulsion batteries embedded into vehicles or sold separately in the State or through remote sale. Authorizes the Department of Health to inspect any place, building, or premise and issue warnings and citations for failure to comply. Establishes management plan and fines.

RELATING TO LICENSED PROFESSIONALS - Requires the department of commerce and consumer affairs to post the business address and business phone number of each licensed professional on its public website.

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COVERAGE - Prohibits a health care insurer from requiring an insured diagnosed with stage two through stage five cancer to undergo step therapy prior to covering the insured for the drug prescribed by the insured's health care provider, under certain conditions.

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS - Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

RELATING TO INMATE IDENTIFICATION - Mandate DPS provide a process for inmates to get a State ID ASAP while incarcerated including getting necessary birth certs/SS cards.

RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY - Establishes additional fines and penalties for convictions of speeding in a school zone.

RELATING TO AGE APPROPRIATE DESIGN CODE ACT - Establishes the Hawaii Age-Appropriate Design Code to promote privacy protections for children and ensure that online products, services, or features that are likely to be accessed by children are designed in a manner that recognizes the distinct needs of children at different age ranges. Establishes a Children's Data Protection Working Group to assess and develop recommendations on the best practices for the implementation of the Hawaii Age-Appropriate Design Code.

RELATING TO PERSONAL SAFETY - Prohibiting the use of electronic tracking of individuals and their property without a valid court order.

RELATING TO DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION - Requires the Director of Transportation to establish and implement a Digital Identification Pilot Program. In coordination with the counties and various agencies, requires the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Legislature.

RELATING TO STATE CAPITOL TOURS - Requires the governor to implement a state capitol tour program for volunteer docents to conduct tours of the capitol building and grounds.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

JANUARY 2024

15th - MLK Holiday Observed

17th - Legislature Opening Day

19th - Bill Intro Cutoff

22nd - State of the State Address

FEBRUARY 2024

8th - Triple Referral Deadline

15th - Double Referral Deadline

16th - First Lateral

19th - President's Day Observed

29th - Single Referral Deadline



At the Council of State Governments 2023 Western Legislative Academy with colleagues Rep. Adrian Tam, Rep. Lisa Marten, former Representative Marcus Oshiro, Rep. Rachele Lamosao in Colorado Springs, CO.



Senators Dela Cruz, Wakai, Elefante, and Kanuha listening intently to the Director of Public Safety's testimony on budget requests to the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Public Safety & Military Affairs.