



Senator Kurt Fevella

February 2025
Newsletter



Senate District 20:
'Ewa Beach, Ocean
Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry,
Iroquois Point, and
portion of
'Ewa Villages

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Have a question/comment?
Let's talk story!

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Aloha Family and Friends,

The first month of 2025 has passed us and hopefully you and your loved ones had an amazing start to the year. As mentioned previously, the legislative session is now in full effect, leaving my hands a little more full than before. Despite this, I want to put the spotlight on Campbell High School for their efforts in encouraging activism in students, giving me opportunities to continue engaging with my community.

Over January, a handful of our bills were heard - some of which received their inspiration from you all. In particular, SB189 on coverage for mammograms and SB191 on low-income energy assistance passed for further hearing. For those who've approached me about these issues, your support does not go unnoticed.

Although session has commenced and bills have been submitted, it is never too late to get involved in the process by testifying. There is a lot of work ahead of us but this newsletter marks the significant progress that's been made.

Mahalo and God bless,

Legislative Session Opening Day January 15, 2024



Sen. Fevella preparing to take his seat on the Senate floor.

One of the few days in the year I enjoy more than Christmas, is opening day. This one specifically, was special because it was the 33rd biennial legislative session. The senators claimed a little more of the spotlight this year with our walk into the chamber to mark commencement. It was a reminder of the responsibility we carry with us in this square building. Among the words spoken at the podium, one thing worth reiterating were Senate President Kouchi's strong push for us to invest in our keiki and their education for the sake of keeping our locally grown talent here on the islands - a belief I echo.



A guest on opening day blowing the pū for Sen. Fevella.

Some of the best moments happened off the floor. A huge mahalo to everybody who took the time out of their day to visit the office. Renewable energy is an issue we are trying to push hard for this session and a notable number of parties stopped by to drop off the latest information on the subject. The resources provided eventually played a vital role in the legislation we drafted and in legislation to be drafted.



In the Community

OHA Board of Trustees Investiture Ceremony January 9, 2025



Sen. Fevella Greeting Chair, Kai Kahele

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs had their investiture ceremony last month to induct their board of trustees. It was only right for me to stop by to congratulate some friends on their new positions as board members. Native Hawaiian culture often gets sidelined, meaning students are leaving school knowing less and less about the history of our state and Ōlelo Hawai'i is fading away. There is a responsibility shared between OHA and myself to promote the rich culture of our islands. Let's wish our trustees the best for this upcoming year!



Board members during the investiture ceremony.

Chamber Week - High School Capitol Visit January 17, 2025



Campbell HS students with Sen. Fevella in his office

It's always a treat when students get to visit our capitol. For Chamber week, high school students including those from JCHS made their way to the square building to present their solutions to problems they face everyday - ranging from education to infrastructure. These young advocates are always encouraged to speak up because they know their issues best and the insight they've gained helps policy makers like myself make more informed decisions. Campbell students later made a visit to our office to discuss the Ewa Beach public and school library's inadequate hours, which we later drafted a bill for.

Campbell High School - Women in STEAM DAY January 22, 2025



Students showing off a "Girls Who Code" flag

James Campbell High School hosted a one of a kind event earlier this year with their Women in STEAM Day, which I was lucky to be invited for. As an alumni, nothing makes me happier than seeing JCHS providing better and better opportunities for students to get ahead. Professional women from SSFM and STEMworks showed up to offer valuable career resources. Students were platformed to show off their approaches to engineering questions and programming - some of the most sought after fields of work in Hawaii. Inclusivity in STEAM is only going to grow more important, so mahalo to JCHS for recognizing it early.



Sen. Fevella speaking with a team of JCHS students on their presentation



Capitol Update

Working Families Caucus Press Conference - February 3, 2025



Senator Fevella speaking at the press conference.

The working families caucus held our first press conference to talk about the bill package we worked hard to introduce this session. Included amongst those bills is HB695, requiring the DLIR to establish a family and medical leave insurance program. HCAN came out in support of the measure. They've been one of the biggest advocates for paid leave this session and we at the caucus collaborate with them to see our bills come to fruition. As it stands, people are forced to pay for the care they must provide to loved ones and children with the income they lose from their work absence. Families who struggle enough to put food on the table, should not be punished even more.

UH Research Day - February 4, 2025

We recently toured the University of Hawaii's Research Day event at the Capitol, where various UH departments set up booths to showcase their groundbreaking research and innovations aimed at improving Hawaii's industries. Topics covered ranged from agricultural technology and sustainable practices to advancements in education and cancer therapy. Accompanied by Senator Kim, we visited each booth, engaging with researchers and learning about their contributions to the state's progress. The event provided a valuable opportunity for us to connect directly with the University's efforts to address Hawaii's most pressing challenges. As we are all aware, self-sufficiency ranks highly on Hawaii's priorities. The projects tackling wastewater alternative innovations and the preservation of indigenous Hawaiian plant species deserve a spotlight for capturing my attention.



Senator Fevella and Senator Kim viewing a booth.

Legislative Recap - February 7, 2025



Sen. Fevella speaking about his bill on KHON2

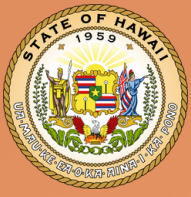
Since the 2025 legislative session began, several of our bills including SB624, SB612, SB1272, SB199, and SB202 have passed first hearing thanks to your support. As these bills move up to the second round of committee hearings, we want to remind you that continued support is required to push these bills to the finish line. In particular, SB612 relating to rent to build equity and SB1272 relating to towing companies may face opposition moving forward. Keep an eye on the [Capitol](#) website to stay up to date with our measures.

Kupuna Caucus Press Conference - February 7, 2025

At the Kūpuna Caucus press conference, food and health security were the highlights of our bill package. A significant number of our Kūpuna rely on low-income welfare programs to support themselves up which is why the bills included in our package aim to restore SNAP benefit levels, fund in-home services, and extend rent supplement programs. You do not have to be a member of the caucus to attend these conferences - many who came out simply wanted to provide their perspective. Our package extends from SB877 to SB881. You are invited to support the bills you believe would improve quality of life for you or your loved ones.



Members of the Kupuna Caucus on press conference day



Important Dates & Contacts

Ewa Beach
Neighborhood Board
Thursday, February 13

President's Day
February 17, 2025

First Crossover
March 6, 2025



SPREAD ALOHA Everyday

Connecting our Community

Emergency Services

Ambulance/Fire/Police: 911

State Emergency Management Division: 808-733-4300

State Highway Safety Hotline: 808-831-6714

Utilities

Hawaiian Electric Co. (trouble only): 808-548-7311

Hawaiian Telcom (customer care): 611

Board of Water Supply (report leaks): 808-748-5000 ext. 1

The Gas Company (trouble only): 808-526-0066

Community Concerns

City Refuse & Bulky Item Collection: 808-768-3200

(Missed) Pickup in 'Ewa Beach: 808-768-9732

Graffiti Hotline (HPD): 808-723-3475

Damaged Sidewalks: 808-768-8159

Public Trees: 808-971-7151

Clean Stream Hotline: 808-768-7890

Medicare Call Center: 800-633-4227

Social Security: 800-772-1213

Potholes (City): 808-768-7777

Potholes (State): 808-536-7852

City & State Departments

Education ('Ewa)
808-692-8000

City Dept. of Facility Maintenance
808-768-3343

Handi-Van Operations
808-456-5555

Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands
808-620-9531

Dept. of Health
808-586-4400

Mental Health Hotline
DOH Hawaii CARES
808-832-3100 or
1-800-753-6879

Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations
808-586-8844

Unemployment Insurance Claims
808-762-5751

Land and Natural Resources
808-587-0401

Neighborhood Board Commission
808-768-3710

Parks & Recreation
808-768-3003

Public Safety
808-587-1288

Transportation Services
808-768-3053

Transportation
808-587-2150