

HAWAII STATE SENATOR

BENNETTE E. MISALUCHA

Aiea Neighborhood Board Legislative Report



JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Aloha mai kakou and Hauoli makahiki hou! Since my last newsletter in November, our office has been preparing and transitioning to begin the 31st Hawaii Legislature on January 20, 2021. Since being sworn into office after the General Election, I continue to find joy in serving my community as your state senator - a public servant role that I relish. Steeped in my beliefs is the teaching: *To whom much is given, much is required*.

I am happy to announce that I will serve on four senate committees. They are: Commerce and Consumer Protection, Energy, Economic Development Tourism and Technology (serving as Vice Chair); Water and Land; and Human Services. During the three-month-long legislation session, it is my intent to keep you informed on bills moving in both the Senate and House which have an impact not only statewide, but also within our communities. With the Capitol building still closed to the public, all hearings will be conducted virtually and anyone wishing to testify will do so remotely. I hope you will engage with the legislative process, and please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

"To whom much is given, much is required."

To be transparent in my efforts, I look forward to keeping you informed via our neighborhood newsletters, and e-newsletters distributed twice a month. Please "friend" us on our new Facebook page (Senator Bennette Misalucha so that I may continue to share daily news and events with each of you. I also welcome your comments on issues or any concerns you have in our communities.

I appreciate that you have entrusted me to serve you here in Aiea as your Hawaii state senator. I am beholden to each of you as your public servant.

Very Truly Yours,

Bennette & Minlerk

Senator Bennette E. Misalucha District 16

Calendar of Events

<u>January</u>

- **18** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- **20** Opening Day of the 31st Hawaii State Legislature
- **25** Governor David Ige, State-ofthe State Address
- **26** Pearl City Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

February

- **15** President's Day Holiday
- **23** Pearl City Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

We are here to help you...

Phone: 808.586.6230

Email: senmisalucha@capitol.hawaii.gov Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov Facebook: Senator Bennette Misalucha To receive regular newsletters, please subscribe by contacting senmisalucha@capitol.hawaii.gov

* See page 4 to meet the Team



Public Access Room (PAR): phone 808/587-0478; email par@capitol.hawaii.gov; website Irb.hawaii.gov/par [1/8/2021]

You may submit written testimony: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/login

You may view broadcasts of hearings and sessions: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/broadcasts.aspx

January 2021

NEW OPERATIONAL CHANGES

FOR 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Hawai'i State Senate has announced new operational changes ahead of the 2021 legislative session.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Senate is reinforcing pre-existing protocols and implementing several new measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining an open and transparent legislative process.

- Workplace best practices: all employees must wear a face mask. practice social distancing, limit physical contact, and practice good personal hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfecting conference rooms and the Senate chamber before and after use
- Providing employees with personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies
- Installing protective sneeze guards, signage, hand sanitizer dispensers, and air purifiers
- Conducting meetings, hearings, floor sessions, and staff training virtually
- Conducting new employee onboarding online with minimal personal interaction
- Allowing employees to work remotely when possible

PUBLIC ACCESS

- Changes include:
 The Senate will be using Zoom as its online meeting platform
 Committee Chairs will have the option to conduct hearings 100% remotely or offer their members a hybrid set-up with some Senators participating from Senate conference rooms and some joining the hearing remotely.
 Written testimony and videoconference testimony registration will be accepted through the Legislature's website. No in-person testimony will be allowed.
 Testifiers will be given the option to submit remote virtual testimony once written testimony is submitted. Individuals must register no later than 24 hours
- written testimony is submitted. Individuals must register no later than 24 hours prior to the committee hearing in order to be added to the remote virtual

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

Both the Senate and House have agreed on a modified timetable that has the legislative session convening on January 20, 2021 and adjourning sine die on April 29, 2021.

Modifications include:

- · Shortening conference by one week
- Reducing the number of recess days from 13 to 9



Call 808-586-8332 or 800-933-4832 (tollfree)

*Press 1 for general public *Press 2 for medical providers

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AlohaSafe Alert App

Facts and Information

WHAT IT DOES Alerts

An individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will receive a code via text that they will input into the app

- This code will
- anonymously notify other devices about their possible COVID-19 exposure
- If someone receives a notification from the app about potential exposure, they are recommended to self-quarantine and get toted.

• The free & voluntary app can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play stores The app uses Bluetooth technology to anonymously communicate with other

with other phones, measuring the distance of each device and duration of contact • To trigger a notification alert, devices must have been within 6 feet of each other for at least 15 minutes



• Combined with other measures, if 15% of our community uses the app, we can reduce infections by 8% and deaths by 6%

HOW IT HELPS

Reducing the spread

. • 80% of all

smartphone users (56% of

population) would be







HOW IT WORKS The application



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Meet the Team



Richard Mizusawa

Legislative Director

I reside in Aiea. I attended University of Hawaii and earned my degrees in M.Ed and B.A. in Communications. As director, I assist with policy development, constituent relations, and I am responsible for overseeing the team.



Daniel Kosasa

I grew up in Aiea and joined Sen. Misalucha's team as a Legislative Aide, assist ing with legislative affairs, research, and constituent concerns. I received my B.A. in Latin



Ami Sueyoshi

I earned my B.A. in Communications from the University of Phoenix. As office manager, I oversee the dayto-day operations of the office and assist with administrative affairs. guest relations. Prior to working with the Senator, I was in sales/ marketing and non-profit.



Bernie Caalim

I am from Aiea and received my B.A. in English from University of California at Berkeley. My background is hotel marketing communications. I assist Sen. Misalucha with social media and special projects.