

MILILANI/WAIPAHAU COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 – DECEMBER 2020

Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The holidays are here, and despite the immense challenges we have faced throughout 2020, I hope the spirit of the season continues in your home. It is a time of deep reflection and celebration; time spent with loved ones focused on the values we share as a collective 'ohana. There is no doubt that with COVID-19 cases on the rise, we can anticipate case numbers to increase over the coming weeks and months. The pandemic fatigue has settled in over the past 9 months, but hope is on the way!

With the arrival of the vaccine, we now begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel and a vision for the future that is to come. It will not be easy, and it will require all of us working together as a community to keep one another healthy and safe...but I know that with your help we will get there. Like many of you, the new year will bring uncertainty as we prepare for a session unlike any other we have seen in Hawai'i's history; requiring additional safety precautions and new operations for testifiers. These changes may not always be comfortable, but they are necessary--and we remain committed to them in order to best serve our community.

Please stay vigilant as we work together to prioritize health, safety and wellness for all as we welcome the new year. I wish you and your 'ohana a wonderful holiday season...**Mele Kalikimaka a me Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!**



SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Member:
Special Committee on
COVID-19

Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228
(808) 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



[Click the image](#) to download the Aloha Safe app to your smartphone to stay updated with contact tracing & how to keep your 'ohana safe from COVID-19!

STATE ADDS TRUSTED PARTNERS FOR PRE-TRAVEL TESTING PROGRAM



In accordance with safe travel recommendations, the State of Hawai'i requires pre-travel testing confirmation for quarantine exemptions. Expanding upon the program, the state has now added new trusted partners for its domestic transpacific and inter-county pre-travel testing programs. These partners were selected based on their ability to administer the test and expand the testing network, with the goal of making it easier to safely travel to and throughout Hawai'i.

Tests must be completed and results received within 72 hours of travel and the state mandated Safe Travel App must be completed. Test results can be uploaded to the application for proof upon arrival. Please note that test result timelines may vary depending upon the partnered site, most often noting that results will be received within 1-3 business days. For a full listing of trusted travel partners, head to their official [WEBSITE](#).

DOE 'OHANA HELP DESK

'OHANA HELP DESK Winter break schedule

SUNDAY 20	MONDAY 21	TUESDAY 22	WEDNESDAY 23	THURSDAY 24	FRIDAY 25	SATURDAY 26
X	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	X	X	X
SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	WEDNESDAY 30	THURSDAY 31	FRIDAY 01	SATURDAY 02
X	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	X	X	X
SUNDAY 03	Resumes normal operating hours from Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 onward					
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.						

Students and families needing tech support throughout Winter Break can call the 'Ohana Help Desk (OHD) which will continue providing services with modified hours from Dec.20-Jan.2, with normal operating hours resuming from Jan. 3, 2021 onward. Calls will be received when OHD is closed so leave a message via chat at chat.ohanahelpdesk.org, or leave a voicemail at 643-DESK (3375). The IT Help Desk is closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and on all State Holidays. For more information visit their [WEBSITE](#).

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [State of Hawaii COVID-19 Portal](#)

The official COVID-19 state portal for all the latest updates and information on COVID-19.

2. [Senate Special Committee on COVID-19](#)

The Hawaii State Legislature's official site for updates by the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19. (Senator Kidani is a member of this committee)

3. [One Oahu](#)

The City & County of Honolulu's COVID-19 Response Team. This site shares frequently updated and relevant pandemic updates and resources for the community.

3. [Hawaii State Department of Health](#)

Stay updated with the most recent health updates on COVID-19 in Hawaii.

4. [Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation \(PEUC\)](#)

A temporary federal program that provides additional benefits to individuals who have established a regular unemployment claim, effective March 29, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

SHOW ALOHA LAND



Enjoy the amazing drive-thru light show, “Show Aloha Land” at Aloha Stadium--a safe, spectacular holiday experience just in time for the season! The 20 minute light show is choreographed to holiday music and a 50ft Christmas tree, with plate lunches available from food booth vendors.

Reserve your show online at showalohachallenge.com, tickets are \$50 per vehicle and benefits Show Aloha Challenge helping keiki & kupuna.

MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL BANNERS

Mahalo nui to the Leaders for Life Hawaii Lions Club and President Andrew Menor for this fantastic idea to continue the Mililani cheer in lieu of a parade with a Parade of Banners!



Organizations and community leaders have created banners to line the Mililani High School fence with festive messages to share the holiday spirit. Drive by and [VOTE](#) for your favorite banner online!

LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Kanoelani Elementary School’s Principal Stacie Kunihisa, who received the National Life Group’s LifeChanger of the Year 2020-2021 Spotlight Award!



Principal Kunihisa has done an amazing job creating the “[Parent Pointers](#)” and “[Quarantine Quotes](#)” YouTube series amongst other digital initiatives to guide families on their distance learning journey. She continues to lead the Kanoelani ‘ohana with incredible compassion, innovation and dedication, and I am so proud to see their online community thrive!

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [Aloha United Way](#)

Call 211 for the only statewide hotline partnering with the Department of Health for help finding food, shelter, financial assistance, childcare, disability services, etc.

3. [MEDQUEST](#)

The Department of Human Services MEDQUEST division provides eligible low-income adults and children necessary access to health and medical coverage through managed care plans. Find out if you are eligible and file your application online for medical assistance coverage

4. [SNAP](#)

The Supplemental Nutrition and Food Assistance Program is funded through the USDA to qualifying households. Find out if this program will support your family at the link above.

5. [Hawaii Foodbank](#)

This dedicated nonprofit has been at the forefront of this pandemic working tirelessly to provide and distribute food throughout the community. Learn more about their efforts as well as more information on their upcoming food drives or to donate or volunteer.

Free Grab-and-Go meals program extended through June 30, 2021

The Grab-and-Go school meals program currently running at 203 public schools has been extended **through June 30, 2021** by the US Department of Agriculture and will continue to provide free meals to children ages 18 and younger.

Children can receive free meals regardless of whether or not they are enrolled at the distribution site, are public school students, or are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch programs.

Meal distribution will be **at lunchtime only**. Pick-ups will include one lunch for that day and one breakfast for the following day, per child. Please contact your school for meal serving times.

Pick-ups will be available Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and designated school breaks, at drive-thru lines at the campuses listed below and walk-up lines where possible. Dine-in options will not be offered.

Social distancing is required and masks must be worn at all times. There will be no personal interaction between serving staff and the community. All meals will be placed in take-out containers.

Families have the option to visit their nearest participating school to ensure that sites can prepare the appropriate number of meals consistently each day to prevent shortages or waste.

Only one meal pick-up will be allowed per child per day at these locations. Parents may contact the school of their choice for more details.

Meals at other schools not listed for the Grab-and-Go program will be distributed on normal schedules and pricing rates.

For prescribed meal modifications, send an email to specialdiets@k12.hi.us or call (808) 784-5500.



Photo: Koloa El.



Photo: Lokelani Inter.

Notice to Parents & Guardians

Meals may be picked up without children present but parents and guardians must provide one of the following verification documents:

- Official letter or email from school listing child(ren) enrolled
- Recent student report card(s)
- Attendance record(s) from parent portals of school websites
- Birth certificate(s) of child(ren)
- Student ID card(s)
- Driver's permit(s)/license(s) for high school students
- State-issued ID of the student



Photo: Dole Middle



Photo: Campbell High

DISTRICT AREA SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN GRAB-AND-GO MEAL PROGRAM:

August Ahrens Elementary School
Honowai Elementary School
Kaleiopuu Elementary School
Kipapa Elementary School
Mililani High School
Mililani Middle School
Waikele Elementary School
Waipahu Elementary School
Waipahu High School
Waipahu Intermediate School

SECRET SANTA PROJECT HAWAII



Mahalo nui to the founders of the Secret Santa Project Hawaii, for their generous hearts! The 2020 Prudential Spirit Award Winner, Rylee Brooke Kamahale, and Miss Hawai'i Jr. High School America 2019, Kadence Fergerstrom, have been working tirelessly to bring holiday cheer to local families.

The year-round toy drive collection aims to bring Christmas to the low income and houseless keiki of Hawai'i, adopting shelters, organizations and families to provide Secret Santas gifts to. The project has served over 1,000 families since 2016, and in 2020 alone they will provide gifts for over 500 recipients from the Life 360 Network. I am so proud to see them realize their "kids helping kids" motto especially during the holidays!

CLIMBHI BRIDGE

ClimbHI Bridge is a new portal connecting Educators and Businesses to provide hands-on learning opportunities with public high school students throughout the state.

The program links students and teachers with career, internship and mentorship opportunities with local businesses and non-profits, including job shadowing, teacher externships, job-readiness activities, career fair participation, site visits and more. The program aims to prepare students for the workforce with valuable experience and set them up for career success. ClimbHI will roll out at all HDOE high schools by the end of 2021 and will include more than 200 Hawai'i businesses and non-profits.

For more information and how to participate, visit their [WEBSITE](#) or reach them via email at: info@climbhi.org.





FOR A COVID SAFE

Holiday Season



Kū Makani 
The Hawai'i Resiliency Project



COVID-SAFE HOLIDAY TIPS



Consider Small Gatherings.

Tight-knit isn't just for socks.

Limit your holiday festivities to the members within your household. If you have a child traveling home from college, ask them to get tested and quarantine before they interact with other family members.

Postpone Your Travel.

Spread aloha, not germs.

Keep yourself, family and friends safe this year by postponing travel. This holiday season, stick to sharing gifts and joy from afar.

Shop Online.

Good health is priceless.

Shopping in crowded stores is considered high-risk for COVID transmission. Take advantage of online deals. Many Hawai'i retailers have gone online so you can still shop local.



Host a Virtual Holiday Dinner.

Together, but separate.

Stay physically separated now so that nobody is missing when we are together again. Consider using a virtual video platform this holiday season to celebrate and stay connected with loved ones.

Contactless Meal Sharing.

A new way for old traditions.

Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others, is a great way to safely care for those who need it most. Remember to mask-up when preparing and packaging the dish.



We know that holidays can be particularly difficult for some people. We are here for you. If you are experiencing increased stress or emotional hardship, call **Hawaii CARES at 832-3100 (or 1-800-753-6879)** for support.

Box Breathing

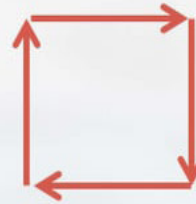
Give yourself the gift of calm



Trace the box and follow the breathing steps.
Repeat several times.
Increase to 3 counts, then 4 counts.

Step 1:
Breathe in
through
nose for 2
counts

Step 2:
Hold breath
for 2 counts



Step 3:
Breathe out
through
mouth for 2
counts

Step 4:
Hold breath
for 2 counts

Color Your Canvas

Relax your brain & reduce stress



Holiday Checklist

- Put up lights & other holiday decorations.
- Hum your favorite holiday songs.
- Dance. Just dance.
- Watch a favorite TV show or movie.
- Reach out to one person each day.
- Get out in the fresh air and enjoy nature.
- Unplug. Take time off social media & the news.
- Drink water & eat in moderation.
- Get enough rest. Take a nap or go to bed early.



Community Resources

We all struggle sometimes and the holidays can add to the challenge. If you need extra emotional support, please call:

Friendship Line (for seniors): 1-(800)-971-0016

Parent Line: 526-1222 or 1-(800)-816-1222

Hawaii CARES: 832-3100 or 1-(800)-753-6879

Crisis Text Line: Text ALOHA to 741741

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

An occasional email brought to you by the Public Access Room (PAR)

DECEMBER 2020

December means that session is just around the corner



[Get Registered](#)



[Session Calendar](#)



[Collaborate with Stakeholders](#)



[Opening Day](#)

Get Registered on the Legislature's Website



Make sure that you've set up an account on the legislature's website, capitol.hawaii.gov. All that's required is an email address. You'll need to be registered to use the interactive features: receive email hearing notices, use the webform to submit testimony, and generate measure tracking reports.

Already have an account? Make sure you remember the password, so you don't find yourself in a frenzy once session starts. If you have time, you may want to refamiliarize yourself with the website — or contact PAR and we'll give you a quick guided tour.

Session Calendar



The 2021 Regular Session will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20th. (That day, the third Wednesday in January, is set by the Hawaii constitution.) As for all of the other deadlines that our legislative lives will be guided by, those can be found on the session calendar — established each year by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Typically, it's published between late December and the start of session. Where to find it? It will be posted under the "[Current Legislature](#)" tab on the [Public Access Room's \(PAR's\) website](#). You'll also find it on the legislature's website in the upper left corner.

Collaborate with Stakeholders



As we're waiting for session to get started, it's a great time to check in with various stakeholders — people or organizations that are concerned with the same issues or bills as you. Consider others who testified in years past on similar issues. Don't forget that you can learn a lot by listening to those who disagree with you. A full understanding of others' perspectives and interests will serve you well as your bill comes forward.

Opening Day

*Note: The Capitol will remain closed to the public through 2021, thus Opening Day celebrations will not include the usual in-office celebrations to maintain COVID-safe protocols.



In addition to being the first day of the legislative session, opening day means that the drafted bills the legislators have been working on can begin to be introduced. Traditionally, it also offers a sense of occasion — this year will be the opening of the Thirty-first Legislature, and there may be a few speeches and even a song or two as things get started. The proceedings are broadcast, so you can watch as the Senate and House of Representatives launch the new session. (Click on the "[Broadcasts/Video](#)" button on the legislature's website to find broadcast and streaming information.)

QUICK FACTS

COVID-19 Vaccines



| @HAWAIISENATE



ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Yes. Any vaccine distributed in the United States must undergo a rigorous examination and be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for safety and effectiveness.



ARE COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE?

No. COVID-19 vaccines are not currently available but several companies are in late stages of development and a few manufacturers have applied for emergency use authorizations.



WHEN WILL A VACCINE BE MADE AVAILABLE IN HAWAII?

The first supply of the COVID-19 vaccine will likely be available in mid-to-late December 2020. Supplies will increase over time, and most people should be able to get vaccinated later in 2021.



WHO WILL GET THE FIRST VACCINES?

Vaccination will be prioritized for people in high-risk groups — such as front-line healthcare workers; first responders; people with underlying conditions; and people 65 and older living in congregate or overcrowded settings



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For the most up to date information on COVID-19 vaccines in Hawai'i, visit:

<https://hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine/>