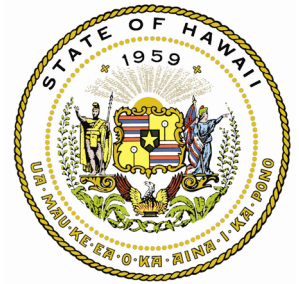


# SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

JULY 2021 – *Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia*



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

July has been a month of progress here at the Legislature as we returned for a special veto override session at the Capitol. The Legislature voted to override six of the Governors vetoes, ranging from issues such as COVID-19 reporting in schools to addressing budget shortfalls in the State's debt service payment and obligations. Some of these vetoes, HB54 and HB1299 for example, were amended on the floor to address concerns raised by the Governors office. Others, such as SB811 or SB1387, were overridden due to policy disagreements in the importance of these bills. From July 6-9 we reconvened to address the vetoes from Governor Ige. The result demonstrated the Legislature's commitment to the people of Hawai'i and the important strides that must be made to move us forward through the enduring pandemic. For a full list of the bills that the Legislature amended and bills whose vetoes were overridden, see the second page of my newsletter. While these decisions are challenging and complex, I am confident that they set a pathway forward that the community deserves as we move into the second half of 2021.

As we head into the August and the anticipation of the upcoming school year, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect upon all of the advancements we have made in the last year. It has been wonderful being able to gather in larger groups now that we are officially in Tier 5 as our vaccination numbers continue to grow. It is imperative especially with additional concerns such as the COVID Delta variant that we remain vigilant about our vaccines and safety practices and I am looking forward to reaching the 70% vaccination target together. No matter the challenges we face as a community, we have and will continue to make the necessary changes Hawai'i needs for the health, safety and future of our residents.



## 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

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Head to [My Official Capitol Web Page](#)  
for a complete archive  
of my monthly  
newsletters



# JULY RECONVENE: VETO OVERRIDE SESSION



The Hawai'i State Senate reconvened July 6-9 for a veto override session. In addition to the actions taken on Tuesday, the Senate approved three floor amendments to meet the Governor's objections in his veto messages for HB54, HB1299 and SB589. The chamber also moved to override the veto for HB53.

The Legislature heard from community members that accountability in reporting of COVID-19 cases by schools were important, which was addressed in SB811. This is especially evident in complex areas that span large geographic regions. In the Pearl City-Waipahu complex, a case reported in that complex area could be at Waiiau Elementary School or Honowai Elementary School in Royal Kunia. In the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua complex a case could be as far north as Waialua High and Intermediate school or next door at Mililani Uka.

I am pleased that my colleagues in the House and Senate agreed with me to override the veto of SB811 which I authored and requires the DOE to report covid cases by each school rather than by the 15 DOE complex areas. Parents, students, teachers and school personnel as well as the community have a right to know where and when there are outbreaks in schools so they can take the extra precautions, particularly when students under age 12 have not yet been able to be vaccinated.

## **Three Floor Amendments were made to address the Governor's bill concerns:**

HB54: Relating To The State Budget

HB1299: Relating To Non-General Funds

SB589: Relating To The University of Hawai'i

## **The Legislature voted to override six of the Governor's vetoes:**

HB53 : Relating To State Bonds

HB862: Relating To State Government

SB263: Relating To Economic Development

SB404: Relating To Electioneering Communications

SB811: Relating To The Department of Education

SB1387: Relating To Microchip Identification



L-R: Senator San Buenaventura, myself, Senators DeCoite, Baker, Kim & Acasio congratulating Senator Lynn DeCoite following her swearing-in ceremony.

## COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES:

### 1. **Vaccine Registration**

Currently accepting vaccination registrations for kupuna ages 75 and older. Eligibility is required based upon Hawai'i's tiered program and must review the prevaccination checklist before receiving their vaccine.

<https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccination-registration/>

### 2. **Hawaii Vaccination Plan**

For more information regarding Hawai'i's detailed vaccination plan, please refer to the CDC-approved executive summary noting the operational structure to reach high-risk groups as quickly and efficiently as possible.

<https://www.oneoahu.org/vaccine>

### 3. **Statewide PODs**

A list of clinics or Points of Distribution (PODS) note locations throughout the state where you can receive your COVID-19 vaccination.

<https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccination-registration/>

### 4. **Vaccine Safety & FAQs**

One Oahu offers information on Hawai'i's distribution plan, safety, what to expect and a list of FAQs to address community vaccine concerns. It is important to note that people who have recovered from COVID-19 are still urged to receive the vaccine with new variants being introduced into the country and natural immunity varying between individuals. Hyper hygiene is still urged after receiving a vaccination.

<https://www.oneoahu.org/vaccine>



## KAUKAU 4 KEIKI FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Kaukau 4 Keiki summer meal program was created to address the gap in food access for children in Hawai'i throughout the summer. Private and public partners as well as the Hawai'i Child Nutrition Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer School Food Services joined forces for the statewide program to provide weekly meal kits for keiki in rural communities who are unable to access the DOE's Grab and Go summer meal sites. On July 10th, volunteers gathered at Mililani High School to provide boxes to local families. Mahalo nui to all of our local partners including Oahu Fresh as well as the Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise for providing volunteers to assist with this successful distribution!



Scott Fuji, Dexter Kishida, Principal Fred Murphy, myself and fellow Rotarians Shelly Morisaki, June Kasaoka and Linda Conboy helping distribute boxes at Mililani High School

## UHWO ACM SITE VISIT



On June 25th I joined Representative Cullen and Chair Luke for a visit to UH Manoa to see the newly completed Academy of Creative Media (ACM) building. It was inspiring to see the future of Hawai'i's Creative Media Bachelor of Arts program and the state of the art equipment that will be available for students to hone their cinematic art skills. The ACM is Hawai'i's only film school which encourages professional development, mentorship and community engagement through a variety of programs including internships, master classes, and industry screenings such as the Hawai'i International Film Festival. Head online to their website for more information about the program: [UHACM](http://UHACM).

## CIP: WAIAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



Governor Ige recently approved a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) in our district, designating \$150K for mechanical & electrical systems repairs and improvements at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). WCF is a minimum-security prison for sentenced male inmates that helps inmates successfully re-enter the community. Projects like these are critical components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better home for our community. I am glad to see WCF receive the necessary improvements to support their program.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

### 1. [State of Hawaii COVID-19 Portal](https://hawaii-covid19.com)

The official Hawai'i state portal for all the latest updates, vaccine PODs and information on COVID-19:

<https://hawaii-covid19.com>

### 2. [One Oahu](https://www.oneoahu.org)

The City & County of Honolulu's official COVID-19 Response Team site offers pandemic updates and helpful community resources:

<https://www.oneoahu.org>

### 3. [Hawaii State Department of Health](https://health.hawaii.gov)

The official DOH website notes the most recent health updates as directed by CDC and FDA guidelines on COVID-19 for the state of Hawai'i:

<https://health.hawaii.gov>

### 4. [Kupuna Vaccine Hotline](https://www.hawaii.gov/211)

Open 7am-10pm seven days a week, the hotline is available to assist kupuna ages 65+ with vaccine registrations as well as for those with limited access to technology, language barriers, those without transportation or family. **Call 211 for help today!**

### 5. [Department of Labor and Industrial Relations](https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/covid-19-ui-benefit-programs/)

Access all of the necessary Unemployment Insurance benefit programs you may be eligible for and schedule an appointment online 3wks in advance for benefit assistance.

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/covid-19-ui-benefit-programs/>



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



With hurricane season upon us and wild fire prevention campaigns brought on by drought happening throughout the state, it is important to be prepared for natural disasters to keep yourself and your 'ohana safe. Click the link below for the [Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency](#) (HIEMA)'s new video on "[What to do in case of a tsunami in Hawai'i](#)" and browse the helpful infographics to guide you through the important safety steps in case of a natural disaster.

## FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH FOR DOE STUDENTS

Thanks to a nationwide waiver from U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education announced this month that all students in Hawai'i's 257 public schools will receive free breakfast and lunch meals for the entire 2021-2022 school year!

### BREAKING NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCED THAT **ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS FOR THE ENTIRE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**



## KEIKI UNDER 6 FOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) announced the Keiki Under 6 Food Support Program which provides benefits for children under the age of 6 who have received SNAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020. Benefits are paid for each month eligible children received SNAP benefits from Oct 2020 - May 2021. Benefits were loaded to the family's Kookua EBT account starting June 24, 2021. NO APPLICATION required. Eligible keiki are automatically enrolled for this program through verification of SNAP participation with the Department's eligibility system.

## KEIKI UNDER 6 FOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

In June 2021 children under 6 in SNAP households will be receiving benefits for the period October 2020 through May 2021. NO APPLICATION IS NEEDED.

Eligible children are automatically enrolled for this program through verification of SNAP participation with the Department of Human Services' eligibility system.

Learn more at [humanservices.hawaii.gov](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov)



## SORA SWEET READS FOR DOE STUDENTS

**Sora SWEET READS**

**ALWAYS AVAILABLE EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS**

MAY 5 - AUGUST 20

Sora The student reading app

Hawai'i Public Schools students can enjoy the [Sora Sweet Reads](#) reading app to borrow FREE e-books, audio books and read-alongs for the next month through August 20th! Log in using your DOE student ID number and keep reading all summer long!

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

### 1. [Driver's License & State ID Extensions](#)

The covid emergency extension for driver's licenses & state IDs expires Aug. 6th. Expired documents may result in penalties so head to the DMV to renew yours before it expires. Head to the link below for a list of updated DMV locations and service hours on O'ahu.

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-csd-menu/site-csd-si-tearticles/38020-city-services-smart-options.html>

### 2. [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#)

This Federal Communications Commission program provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households towards internet service and equipment rentals as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 for computers and devices. To begin applying and enrolling head to their website:

[getemergencybroadband.org](http://getemergencybroadband.org)

### 3. [Third Round of P-EBT](#)

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Education announced a third round of Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT) benefits for keiki who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, or attend a Community Eligibility Provision school during the pandemic.

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/1961-2/>