



SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

JANUARY 2022 – *Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! This month we welcomed the 2022 Legislative Session with a busy agenda and focused goals. I am proud to continue serving as Vice President of the Hawaii State Senate as well as the Education Committee Chair. In both of these roles, I aim to represent the voices of our students, teachers and families and to seek the best possible solutions to the increasing challenges that we have faced throughout the past few years.

While the state of our local economy has improved since the start of the pandemic, we are not out of the woods just yet. Our response to the pandemic remains a top priority for the Senate as we evaluate budget requests from the State departments throughout session. We opened the month with Ways and Means (WAM) budget briefings with all State departments presenting their budget requests to the WAM committee. Recordings of their presentations can be found on the [Senate YouTube Page](#) for public viewing.

This session, we are looking at addressing various issues for the Central O'ahu community that will largely impact residents within our district, including firework legislation as well as looking at the expansion of infrastructure facilities to ease road congestion and the expansion of Kalaeloa Harbor. The latter may have tremendous impacts on traffic flow, as allowing for cargo to be off-loaded at Kalaeloa could help ease transportation trucking traffic in both east and west bound directions during critical rush hours. In regards to Education, our focus continues to be on ensuring that schools have access to the necessary resources to continue safe and productive learning for students. The committee hopes to work with the DOE on establishing both medium and long-term visions for virtual learning and increasing support for teacher recruitment and retention efforts. We have witnessed firsthand the dire need for educational support, as the pandemic magnified the sheer lack of full time and substitute teachers in the classrooms to maintain structure and consistency for our students.

Though we had been looking forward to plans to reopen the Capitol for the 2022 Session, Omicron has demonstrated just how serious and contagious this variant is as it has wreaked havoc on our workforce, causing shipping and stock delays, flight cancellations, as well as teacher and worker shortages in every industry throughout our state and country. Because of these concerns, the Capitol will remain closed, but we will continue to post information on how to file testimony electronically and how to track bills online to keep you up to date on the advancements made throughout Session.

I know we all shared high hopes for the new year to bring us a sense of relief from the pandemic that has redirected the past two years, but the virulence of the Omicron variant has proven to be much more challenging than predicted. Many of us have been either exposed to the virus or fallen ill with covid in recent weeks, and while our vaccination rates have remained strong throughout 2021, the rates of boosted residents was significantly less, no doubt impacting the sharp surge in Omicron cases here in Hawai'i. I urge you all to follow up with your COVID-19 boosters to bolster your immune system as we brace for a continued surge into February. Let's do our best to protect ourselves and each other throughout this surge!

*with much aloha,
Senator Kidani*



SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Member:
Special Committee on
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Head to [My Official
Capitol Web Page](#)
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of my monthly
newsletters

OPENING DAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

On January 19th we welcomed Opening Day and a wonderful start to the 2022 Legislative Session followed by a Senate Leadership press conference. Although the State Capitol building is still closed due to health and safety precautions, it was exciting nonetheless to celebrate the start of Session alongside my colleagues. Head online to watch the [Hawaii Senate Opening Day Floor Session](#) or watch my [Opening Day video message](#) shared on my [Senate Facebook page](#).



FREE AT-HOME COVID TESTS AVAILABLE FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD

COVID-19 NEWS

**FREE AT HOME
COVID-19 TESTS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE
FOR ORDER.**

WWW.COVIDTESTS.GOV



In our continued battle against COVID-19, the Biden Administration pledged to distribute 1 billion tests to homes throughout the country. Residents can now head online to place an order for FREE home covid tests (including free shipping) to keep your 'ohana safe and protected. Tests are limited 4 per HOUSEHOLD based on resident addresses and orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Click the image to the left or the address below to order your tests online using your home address at:

www.covidtests.gov/

STAY UPDATED ON LEGISLATIVE BILL PROGRESS THIS SESSION



Public participation in the legislative process is essential – don't let legislators do it alone! Sign up for a free account now and share your ideas and perspectives to help make Hawai'i's laws better. You can submit testimony, sign up for hearing notifications, and create a measure tracking list to stay updated on bill progress this session. Sign up online with our [Legislative Reference Bureau!](#)

UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES FROM HIDOE

NEW COVID-19 Guidelines FOR HAWAI'I SCHOOLS GRADES K-12

STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A PERSON WHO HAS COVID-19 SHOULD QUARANTINE FOR FIVE DAYS AFTER LAST CONTACT IF:

- THEY HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR PRIMARY VACCINE SERIES (2 SHOTS PFIZER OR MODERNA, 1 SHOT J&J).
- THEY ARE 18 OR OLDER AND HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PRIMARY VACCINE SERIES BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RECOMMENDED BOOSTER WHEN ELIGIBLE.
- STUDENTS AND STAFF SHOULD GET TESTED ON DAY 5 OF QUARANTINE, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 SHOULD:

- ISOLATE FOR 5 DAYS NO MATTER VACCINATION STATUS.

THEY CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL WHEN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE MET:

- 5 FULL DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE SYMPTOMS FIRST APPEARED OR SINCE THE TEST WAS CONDUCTED.
- NO FEVER FOR 24 HOURS.
- SYMPTOMS HAVE IMPROVED.

STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE NOT REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE IF:

- THEY ARE AGES 5-17 AND HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PRIMARY SERIES OF COVID-19 VACCINES (2 SHOTS PFIZER OR MODERNA).
- THEY ARE 18 AND OLDER AND HAVE RECEIVED ALL RECOMMENDED VACCINE DOSES INCLUDING BOOSTERS.
- STUDENTS AND STAFF SHOULD GET TESTED ON DAY 5 OF QUARANTINE, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS.

In keeping with CDC directives, HIDOE has adopted similar standards regarding new COVID-19 Guidelines for Hawaii Public Schools (grades K-12). While the recent surge in covid cases has seen a shortage of staff and teachers out recovering from illness, safety procedures are maintained throughout the school environment and positive student cases within the classroom remain relatively low. HIDOE aims to continue in-person learning focused on cultivating the safest and most successful environment for students to learn and thrive in. Please see the following pages for HIDOE's extended Wellness Check and Return to Work/School Criteria lists!



Daily Wellness Check

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

HIDOE employees, contracted service providers, visitors and students must complete a wellness check each morning before going to school or work if fully vaccinated or not. Please report any illness or COVID-19 exposure to the school or supervisor.



CHECK FOR COVID-19-LIKE SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS

If any symptoms of illness are present,
do not go to school or work.

- Fever (higher than 100°F or hot to the touch)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, even mild symptoms, should stay home from school, work and other activities. Those with symptoms who have not been tested should be tested as soon as possible.

**HELP US TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS
HEALTHY AND SAFE!**

Return to School/Work Criteria

Revised 1/11/22



Day zero is the day of close contact, positive test, or onset of symptoms.

AGES 18+ NOT BOOSTED or FULLY VACCINATED RECENTLY
PARTIALLY VACCINATED
NOT VACCINATED

AGES 18+ BOOSTED or FULLY VACCINATED RECENTLY

Moderna within 5 months
 Pfizer within 5 months
 J&J within 2 months

AGES 5-17 FULLY VACCINATED

Except High Risk Activities*

RECOVERED FROM COVID-19 IN THE LAST 90 DAYS

CLOSE CONTACT
 with a person who has COVID-19

QUARANTINE

- Stay home 5 days after close contact. If ongoing close contact, quarantine 5 days after the person with COVID is released from isolation.
- A well-fitting mask must be worn at school.
- Test recommended on day 5.
- Watch for symptoms 14 days after close contact.
- If symptoms develop, immediately isolate and get tested.

NO QUARANTINE

- A well-fitting mask must be worn at school.
- Test recommended on day 5.
- Watch for symptoms 14 days after close contact.
- If symptoms develop, immediately isolate and get tested.

POSITIVE
 for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status

ISOLATE

Stay home until all of the following conditions are met:

- 5 days after symptoms first appeared or 5 days after test collection if no symptoms,
- 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Symptoms improved.
 - If symptoms are not improved, stay in isolation up until day 10.

A well-fitting mask must be worn at school.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
 (even mild)

ISOLATE AND GET TESTED FOR COVID-19

Stay home until all of the following conditions are met:

- 5 days after symptoms first appeared or a negative test result,
- 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Symptoms improved.
 - If symptoms are not improved, stay home up until day 10.

A medical provider may use clinical judgment to allow return sooner than 5 days when there is low suspicion of COVID-19 or diagnosis of another health condition (e.g., allergy or asthma).

***HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES**

Activities that do not allow for masking and distancing (e.g., athletics or choir)

- Positive students may not participate in high-risk activities until **10 days** after symptoms first appeared or test collection date if no symptoms.
- Student close contacts not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines **and** boosters for their age group must remain out of high-risk activities **10 days** after the close contact.

MASK EXEMPTION

Individuals who are not able to wear a mask at school (e.g., mask exemption due to a medical reason) and test positive or are a close contact, must isolate or quarantine **10 days**, regardless of vaccination status.