

From S. Maui Representative

# Terez Amato

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**Working For The People**

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In this issue of **Working For the People**  
**Legislative Update: Actions not just words!**



- **A Message for our community: What do I support?**
- **NEW funding for our community (96753)!**
- **Bills** I'll be introducing and supporting in the 2024 Legislative Session
  - Protecting Jobs and Businesses, Housing, Education, Environment
  - **Legalizing Recreational Marijuana-** still fighting for this.... 
- **Wildfire Update:**
  - Developing a critical information resource
  - Food Water and Other Supplies Working Group
  - Jobs and Businesses
  - Wildfire Prevention
- **2024 Survey: Your voice matters!** I am listening.  
What do you want done at the Capitol? And much more!



# Working For The People Representative Terez Amato's Voter Update



## A Message from Terez Amato:



**Aloha Friends and Neighbors,**

In 2023 we **passed landmark legislation** to improve schools, housing, medical care, protect reproductive rights and much more.



### **2024: New Year, New Goals, Same Values**



This year, my office will be introducing legislation and tracking thousands of bills with the potential to enhance our community. But not all bills do that. My staff and I take this responsibility seriously. I use a community and data driven approach. You should expect no less.

I consistently put the needs of our community first. I read every bill that crosses my desk and my outstanding staff and I review every bill carefully before every vote. **I work for you: I have an obligation to vote the way you want.**

### **How do I decide what bills to introduce? I listen you.**

 I put out surveys, attend community meetings, and talk to people to  determine our community needs. I answer most of your emails personally. I work closely and collaboratively with leadership and my colleagues. Foremost always in my mind is what will help our community most. Please use the survey link in this newsletter to tell me what you want me to do, as I work for YOU!

### **Here is my philosophy:** I have 3 criteria on which I make any decision:

1. Will it help people?
2. Will it preserve and protect our environment?
3. Is it the wish of the people in my community?

If an issue can meet these 3 criteria, I will vigorously fight for it.

**I will legislate from the heart using science as my guide.**

Whether it is protecting children in schools, your right to healthcare and housing, a person's rights to reproductive health care, or our environment, reaffirming society's protections at the state level is one of the most important jobs that any legislator can do. *I will stand up for YOU!*

**With Aloha, Your State Representative, Terez Amato**

# Working For The People Representative Terez Amato's Legislative Update: What's next?



An unprecedented number of small businesses and jobs are disappearing. We need to support jobs and small businesses that have been affected by the wildfire. Our budget is tight this year, yet we must take care of our Ohana.



I'm proud to be a Democratic Representative in the House. Some of the bills I'll be introducing and supporting in 2024 include bills designed to increase state employee recruitment and reduce worker shortages, provide mental health care, protect the environment, and more. Here are a few specific examples:

- **Protecting small businesses and jobs:** Commercial rent freeze after Stafford declared emergencies to prevent price gouging
- **Housing:** Flood mitigation, Rental assistance via revolving fund, Housing accessibility for tenants with pets, Funding for kauhale and homeless
- **Education/Keiki:** Funding childcare, Licensed Psychologists for schools, School medical workforce training/development
- **Food resiliency:** Local farm produce for foodbanks, Right to garden
- **Accessibility/Disability:** HB1413-RAD Kūpuna (**R**ight to **A**ccessibility for **D**isabled and Kūpuna), Right To PLAY (HB1414-Right to **P**laygrounds **A**ccessible to **A**LL **Y**outh), ADA accessible trails
- **Healthcare:** Mifepristone protection in case the supreme court makes more changes, More mental health care providers, Increases to Dept. of Human Services homeless services
- **Environment:** Electric school busses, Solar power loans for homeowners
- ✳️ **Legalizing Recreational Marijuana, creating revenue and saving lives**

**2024 Survey: I am listening-What do you want done at the Capitol?**



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS! Be a part of the process!** I work for you:  
Please take a minute to tell me what matters to you and how we can help our community

[www.TerezAmato.org/survey24-1](http://www.TerezAmato.org/survey24-1)

➔ Scan me

# Working For The People Representative Terez Amato's Legislative Update: Funding



**I work for you. You deserve to know what I am doing for the people of South Maui!**

**It is high time that South Maui received its fair share:** My goal is to lower taxes and still fund critical programs: To save state funds I am working to bring in federal funds, also in my first year in office our South Maui district received an unprecedented over \$53 Million in CIP funds:




Representative Terez Amato  
ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT FUNDING:  
**\$45,000,000**  
To finance the acquisition of TMK 3-9-002-084-0000  
for the Preschool Early Education, Teacher Housing, and  
Affordable Workforce Development Initiative in Kihei, Maui.  
@HawaiiHouseDem | hawaiihouseandemcrato.com

**\$2.5M** including a county match for flood mitigation, **\$4M** for a Kihei special education building, **\$1M** for emergency repairs for South Maui schools, **\$1M** for housing infrastructure on Hawaiian homelands and a **whopping**

**\$45 Million for teacher and workforce housing**, already in use housing fire victims. **Housing our people is a top priority!**

**Immediately** after the wildfire my team created a multilingual info website used by thousands to house evacuees, find a loved one, find a pet, get business aid etc.



The House formed working groups to aid the Maui recovery. As Co-Chair of the 'Food Water and other Supplies' working and also as a member of 'Fire Prevention' and 'Jobs and Business' working groups I have been working to identify gaps and to improve future disaster responses for our community.

**2024 Survey: I am listening-What do you want done at the Capitol?**

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