

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**  
T.Amato's overview of 2023 successes  
and what's ahead for 2024!



- **Over \$53 million** in new funding for our community (96753)!
- **Fund obtained** for AFFORDABLE housing, Workforce housing, Preschool and Infrastructure development in Kihei
- **Funds to mitigate flooding** and to **repair schools**
- **New support** for Teachers, Healthcare workers and **Pets** >
- **Overdue increases** in Teacher pay approved (it's about time)
- **Protecting Human Rights:** Reproductive health: your **right to choose**
- **Protecting Public Safety:** Ending gun violence
- **Better Medical:** Dental care access, more nurses and CNA training, forgiveness for medical practitioner loans and more
- **Protecting our environment:** Preserving environmental oversight
- **Ethics Reforms:** Limiting Campaign finance cash + ending nepotism!
- **Legalizing Recreational Marijuana-** still fighting for this....





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

## A Message from Terez Amato:

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,



As we begin a new year I am reflecting on our last year: Wow, what a year it was! Environmentally, socially and economically, 2023 left its lasting imprint in our history books. **We passed landmark legislation** to improve schools, housing, medical care and much more. In 2024 **I'll continue fighting for your rights** and protections, to ensure South Maui receives its fair share. I'll work on getting funding and making laws for **affordable housing, flood and fire prevention**, greater support for our teachers, businesses and union workers,

protecting our fragile environment, supporting better medical care, ensuring reproductive rights, fighting against gun violence, even protecting your pets.



We saw the tragic devastation of a historic town steeped in royal history as a result of unmitigated environmental climate change. With that came the loss of lives, homes, jobs, businesses and revenue. As Co-Chair of one and member of two more wildfire special working groups **I have been working hard every day to get resources to our families and businesses.**

Every step of the way, at every opportunity, I have been working hard for you and amplifying your voices; and while its impossible to predict what 2024 will bring, just remember:

**I am working for you,  
I am working for the people.**

**Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!  
Your neighbor and State Representative, Terez Amato**



**\$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 Kihai, Maui



# Working For The People Representative Terez Amato's Legislative Update: The year in review



**I work for you. You deserve to know what I have accomplished for the people of South Maui in 2023:**

**One of the most important things a State Legislator can do is to stand up for your rights:** With the WLC I proudly defended body autonomy and a person's right to choose, protecting medical practitioners and your right to privacy (ACT 2). I was proud to protect our community by supporting Judiciary and being a primary introducer of landmark legislation to reduce gun violence.

**I worked closely with our Senator McKelvey.**

I served as **Vice Chair of Human Services** and as a member of HLT and CPC committees. **As a primary introducer of 26 bills** I supported **kūpuna healthcare**, training new caregivers, teacher pay increases, disability access, & protecting state parks. I supported dozens of bills for housing, education, environment, human rights like LGBTQ rights, a pilot homeless housing program (Act 95), support for Human Services, mental health care, better reimbursement for Dentists and so much more.



**\$ It is high time that South Maui received its fair share: We can save taxes and still fund programs: I worked to bring in federal funds and also in my first year in office our district received an unprecedented >\$53Million in CIP funds; \$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 new housing infrastructure on Hawaiian homelands and a whopping \$45 Million for workforce housing in Kihei, which is already in use housing Lahaina fire victims. **Housing our people is a top priority!****

Every day I wake up and wonder who I can help today. I supported striking union workers and Ukrainian heroes, Veterans and domestic violence victims, met with businesses, teachers, and worked closely with House Leadership getting things done! If I could say it all in a page it would be boring. It is not. **It is an honor.**

**And this was my first year working for you. Things are looking up!**




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

In 2024 as always, Team T.Amato will be working hard, standing up for you and South Maui protecting our environment and amplifying your voice.

**We must enact laws to help small businesses that are now in trouble, prevent rent gouging, and support even more housing initiatives.** Just a few of the other bills I'll work to get passed in 2024 are listed here:



**Rent to Pet Owners!** 94% of rentals in 96753 won't allow pets. Pets can help reduce mental health costs and 91% of people support this bill. And we love our fur-kids. I'll introduce a tax credit to encourage landlords to voluntarily rent to pet owners. People need their pets. Let's do this!

**Legalizing Recreational Marijuana:**  In 2024 I'll be vigorously supporting our Judiciary chair and legalization. Marijuana is medicine. It saves lives. In Colorado violent crime was reduced, opioid deaths were reduced 6.5% and enormous needed state revenue was created after legalization! It is high time HI did this. Don't let your rights go up in smoke: **#LegalizeIt.**



**Increase food security:** I support local farming. After the fire I co-chaired the 'Special Interim Committee on Food Water and Other Supplies.' I am introducing Right to Eat legislation to **buy more locally farmed produce** to distribute at foodbanks. The "Right To Garden" law will enable residents to grow food where they live. Let's **feed our people and increase food security.**

14% of our population are mobility disabled, half of them are kūpuna. **Right to Accessibility for Disabled and Kūpuna** (HB1413: RAD Kūpuna bill) will increase handicap parking, require ADA compliance and **Right To PLAY** (HB1414: Right to Playgrounds Accessible to ALL Youth) requires parks and public schools, to include special needs playground equipment.

**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)



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