



# REPRESENTATIVE STACELYNN ELI

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## HAPPY 'APELILA (APRIL)!

Hawai'i State House District 43

With less than 14 days left in this 2022 legislative session, I am excited to share in this month's newsletter the status of some great bills. We will be starting our conference committee meetings with our senate counterparts as we finalize the last details of bills before we send them to the Governors Office. Wishing you all the best this April and as we head into our summer months. Please be healthy and safe!

Mahalo,

- *Stacelynn Eli*



Rep. Eli looking over bills as they are being discussed during legislative session



## HB 2466 HD2 SD1 UPDATE

I am excited to share that the Taro Bill I introduced this session has successfully passed through the Ways and Means Committee in the Senate. It will now head to our last part of our legislative process, which is conference. HB 2466 HD2 SD1 is so important because I know how important it is to farmers and our community. We heard from many farmers, consumers, and allies to the farming community alike. We also heard testimony that this will not just allow our farmer's ability to sustain themselves, but to also help to expand their long-term success as farmers. HB2466 HD2 SD1 is reflective of my goals and priorities to find ways to advocate for our small businesses, promote economic sustainability, and allow families to be food independent. The testimony below is just some of the many stories that have come to light during the hearings for HB 2466 HD2 SD1.



"HB2466 HD2 SB1 will also encourage more farmers throughout Hawai'i to grow taro and support local taro production, as well as contribute to local food production and stimulate our Hawai'i economy, by reducing our need to import millions of pounds of taro a year to cover consumption."

- Dr. Kū Kahakalau  
Kapapa Lo'i o Keali'ikua'aina

"This legislation will help me to retain a little more of the income made from Kalo, which I can then recycle back into the economy."

- Daniel Bishop  
Farmer & Retired HFD



"State tax and monetary policies should be designed to encourage private initiative to help stabilize farm economics in the State of Hawai'i, to promote employment and economic growth, and to distribute the tax burden equitably. Further such policy should be used by the state, when appropriate, to encourage agricultural growth and expansion. HFB supports HB 2466, HD2, SD1, which is an investment in Hawai'i's taro farmers."

- Hawai'i Farmers Bureau

"By making taro more widely accessible, more Native Hawaiian families can reconnect with this culturally important food source."

- B.A. McClintock

## 2022 Legislative Highlights

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In the beginning of the 2022 Legislative session, over two thousand bills were drafted and introduced. As we now head toward the last weeks of session, I wanted to highlight three bills, that if passed, will truly be monumental.

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### *SB 2021 SD1 HD2 - Relating to Increasing the Payment Amount for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' PRO RATA Share of the Public Land Trust.*

Establishes the office of Hawaiian affairs' pro rata share of the moneys derived from the public land trust. Establishes a working group to determine pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust and back amounts due. Appropriates funds from the carry-forward trust holding account to OHA. This bill will work to address the past shortcoming the legislature failed to address in the past. OHA says with the infusion of these past funds will allow them to help more families here in Hawai'i fulfill their mission, and fund more programs.

### *SB 3289 SD2 HD2 - Relating to Hawai'i Retirement Savings.*

Establishes the Hawaii retirement savings program, administered by the Hawaii retirement savings board, in consultation with the department of labor and industrial relations and department of budget and finance, to provide a state-facilitated payroll-deduction individual retirement savings plan to private sector employees who do not have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans beginning on an implementation date to be determined by the board. Authorizes an implementation and evaluation study, followed by an implementation strategy and timetable, prior to implementation of the program. Provides a state match of \$500 for the first fifty thousand participants. I know many of you called in support of this bill, so mahalo to you all and AARP for your advocacy!

### *HB 510 HD1 SD1 - Relating to Taxation.*

Makes the state earned income tax credit refundable and extends the availability of the tax credit for an additional 6 years. Health improves with increasing income, and the impacts of a rise in income are greatest for those at the lowest end of the wage scale. Research shows that those who move out of the lowest income level to the next receive the greatest percentage increase in life expectancy and health status. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the 2018 federal EITC lifted about 5.6 million people out of poverty, including about 3 million children, and reduced the severity of poverty for another 16.5 million people, including 6.1 million. Making the state EITC refundable would boost the income of 98,810 Hawai'i families by \$425 on average yearly, and would add an estimated \$50,364,240 in economic activity.

# DHHL UPDATES

In response to last months events on Haleakalā Ave., we can now confirm the DHHL/DOT emergency traffic mitigation plans set for the homestead. Working in two different phases, phase 1A will begin this month with the instalment of 6 speed tables in the upper homestead on Haleakala Ave. and Nānākuli Ave. Project completion is set for early May. Phase 1B will follow completing the lower valley speed mitigation plans.



Phase 1A traffic mitigation plans includes the instillation of 6 speed tables, and 1 raised crosswalk. Mahalo to Mr. Ed Sniffen and his DOT crew for their help!  
(Below) The diagram of a raised crosswalk and a speed table.

