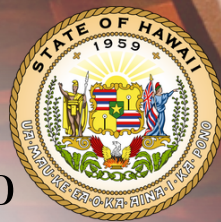




REPRESENTATIVE

Troy N. Hashimoto



# News & Updates

HOUSE DISTRICT 10 OF WAIHEHU, PAUKUKALO, WAILUKU, WAILUKU HEIGHTS, WAIKAPU, SAND HILLS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023



MESSAGE FROM TROY

It is important for any profession to keep learning and improving. As a legislator, thinking "outside the box" for creative solutions may be inspired by working with fellow leaders from different jurisdictions.

In early December, I graduated from the **Council of State Governments' prestigious Toll Fellowship Program**, which I participated with over 50 other state government officials throughout the nation. CSG is unique as it allows officials from all three branches of State government - Legislators, Judges, and Executive Branch Officials to work together.

## Legislation to watch

Over 1,514 House bills were introduced at the start of the legislative session, and below are a few bills I wanted to highlight for you.



### HB 353 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

This measure will appropriate funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawaii Maui college, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

### HB 1245 HD1 RELATING TO AMBULANCES

Appropriate funds to the department of health for the purchase of one ambulance and equipment to be based in central Maui, and to fund pay-related personnel costs for state-certified emergency medical services personnel.

### HB 844 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates funds for University of Hawaii'i Maui college's office of international and regional partnerships for students to study abroad and for study abroad programs.

### HB 1245 HD1 RELATING TO EVICTION MEDIATION

Establishes and appropriates funds for a pre-litigation mediation pilot program. Creates and appropriates funds for an emergency rent relief program.



Receiving recognition from CSG West President, California Assembly member Mike Gipson

Meanwhile, I also participated in the **US-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program** and met fellow leaders passionate about advancing international cooperation.

The culminating event was in Tokyo, Japan. Right outside the ballroom was a newly crafted statue of one of the founders of USJC, the late **U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye**. Glad I was able to take a moment with his son, **Ken**, my colleague **Rep. Holt** and **USJC CEO Suzanne Basilla** to commemorate this great gathering.

## The Green Affordability Plan (HB1049)

During Governor Josh Green's first State of the State Address, he announced his Green Affordability Plan (GAP), which creates a targeted tax bill that provides income relief to working families.



Visiting with Governor Green after listening to his State of the State Address in which he laid out his plan for this upcoming legislative session.

If passed, the GAP will increase income assistance to lowest income families, allow Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) households to access tax credits and receive tax relief, provide tax relief to working families and support working parents (especially mothers) by reducing childcare costs and providing tax credits for teacher's expenses.

Follow HB 1049 or any bills listed above at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov).



I look forward to bringing a renewed resolve to serve our district after the honor of participating in these programs.

My office continues to be here to assist you, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns by calling my office at (808) 586-9444 or by email at [rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Mahalo,

## Ready Keiki: The Promise of Universal Access to Preschool



Learn more: [lt.gov.hawaii.gov/ready-keiki](http://lt.gov.hawaii.gov/ready-keiki)

Ready Keiki is a public-private effort led by Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke, which aims to create 80 preschool classrooms by August 2024 and 465 classrooms by 2032. The plan identifies sites for additional classrooms, increases provider subsidies to expand access to children from lower-income households, and envisions educational partnerships to train new preschool teachers and assistants. The Ready Keiki initiative also envisions on-site early learning classrooms at private businesses and UH campuses.

I wanted to officially announce my appointment to chair the House Committee on Housing for the next two years. I previously served as the vice chair and am ready to tackle one of the largest drivers of affordability that so many of our family, friends and neighbors face. As we continue to deliberate on bills presented to the committee, I am reminded that resilience and adaptability of our community are key strengths Hawaii leaders can rely on to address its housing crisis.

We must continue investing in the housing pipeline and be strategic in finding shovel-ready projects while we find solutions to streamline the permitting process for housing. Our goal is to eliminate barriers and empower our allies - such as the counties, by providing them the tools and authority to make informed decisions for their jurisdictions.

The final component is YOU. Share your thoughts with family, friends and local leaders. Testify on bills before the Housing Committee.

**HOUSE BILL 951**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING**

*This bill deposits \$300 million in general funds into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) and authorizes the use of up to half the funds for mixed-income rental projects for working individuals and families.*

Meanwhile, in early February, the House passed HR 10 which established a working group I will chair. The working group is tasked with overseeing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' execution of the \$600 million appropriated last year in Act 279 to alleviate their long-standing wait list.

**What do you think are the barriers and how the money be spent?**

My main priority is to make sure the funds are responsibly expended in a timely manner. Funding may go to acquisition of new land and homestead lot development, infrastructure improvements, or it may be expended in the form of individual assistance such as downpayment for new lessees and rental support.

Capitol.hawaii.gov

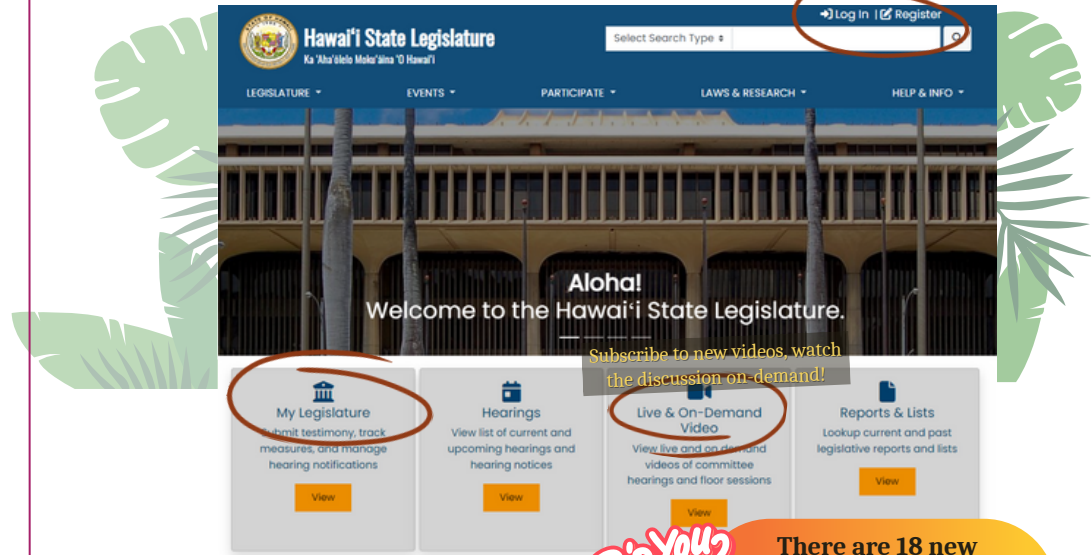
The Legislature has a new website. Bill-tracking has been made easier. Plus, a YouTube Channel is live, which features on-demand and LIVE hearings. If you would like an in-depth guide, visit [lrb.hawaii.gov](http://lrb.hawaii.gov)



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Access your account here or register. Sign-up for notifications when a hearing is scheduled.



**Did You Know?** There are 18 new "Freshmen" lawmakers this session, the most since 1994.

**How to Testify**



So your bill got a hearing? You can support, oppose or submit comments to proposed legislation by written testimony 24 hours before the hearing date, or by requesting to join the session via Zoom. All testimony submitted are public documents.

1

Create an account or log-in at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)

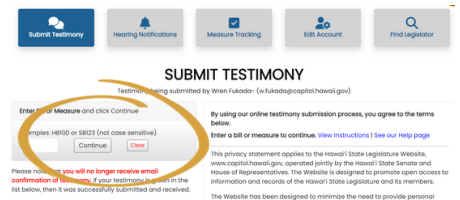
On this page, you can also review bills, add hearing notifications, read reports, and more.



2

Select and enter the bill or measure number

Complete the testimony form on the right. You have an option to upload a file, or paste your comments on the provided text box. Save your draft or submit right away!

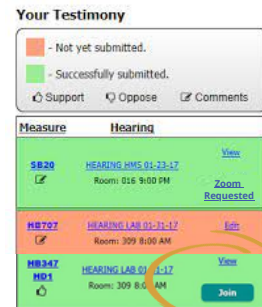


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Testifying via Zoom

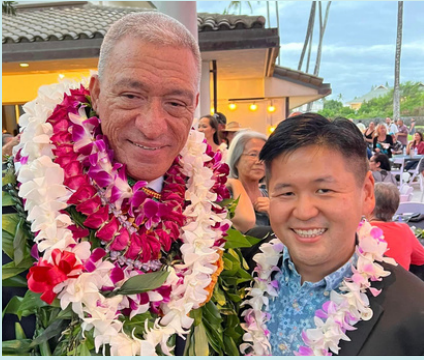
If you selected testifying "remotely via Zoom" on the form and submit, your request is accepted when you see the "JOIN" button 3 hours before the hearing. Make sure your audio and video are working properly, and JOIN the meeting 30 minutes early to get situated.

The Zoom option is disabled 24 hours before the hearing, which is the deadline to submit testimony. Written testimony may still be submitted but will be marked "Late."



Scan code to watch the "How to Testify" video tutorial





**A new mayor in town**

Attending Mayor Richard Bissen's Inauguration on January 2. Excited to work with him and his new team.



**Maui County contingent in the House**

With the Maui Delegation members on the opening of the Thirty-Second Legislature - Education Chair Justin Woodson, Finance Chair Kyle Yamashita, and our three newest members Elle Cochran, Mahina Poepeo and Terez Amato.



**HSTA Legislative Advocacy Day**

With members of the Hawaii State Teachers Association from Maui, Molokai and Lanai. We discussed their priorities including their most important, the need for teacher housing.



**Kahului Airport TSA Checkpoint Meeting**

Hosted a meeting with U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Rep. Kyle Yamashita, along with Maui Airport Manager Marvin Moniz, DOT Director Ed Sniffen, and Senate Transportation Chair Chris Lee to discuss solutions on how to improve Kahului airport's security checkpoints.



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**Everyday is Ag Day**



Learning from Pomai Weigert of GoFarms about their farmer training and AgBusiness programs that are offered across the state.



Stacy Woodson and Jayson Watts of Mahi Pono

Ag Day at the Capitol was coordinated by the Hawaii Farm Bureau, which showcased agricultural advocates such as Mahi Pono, Maui Gold Pineapple, GoFarm Hawaii, and Kamiya Papaya.

It was great to see that they made it through the toughest past few years and are still focused on producing food for our community.

**Iao Valley State Monument: Still Closed**

Iao Valley State Monument will remain closed **until April 15** due to the challenging stabilization work and supply issues.

The monument has been closed since Aug. 1 of last year for the final phase of its slope stabilization project and parking lot improvements. The monument was scheduled to reopen on Jan. 14, but the closure was extended through February.



If you would like updates on the project, please go to [dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/maui/iao-valley-state-monument](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/maui/iao-valley-state-monument)

**Survey: Maui MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (Maui MPO) is a transportation planning organization. The Maui MPO collects data and develops transportation plans for roadways, pedestrian and bicycle routes that are eligible for federal funding to repair, maintain and build transportation networks.

The Maui MPO is currently in the process of updating its Public Participation Plan and continues to seek input from community surveys.

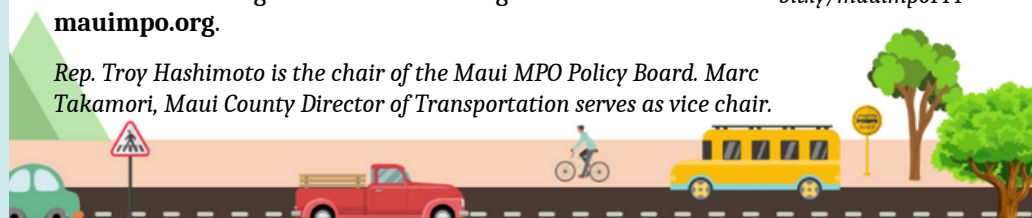
The Maui MPO PPP describes the strategies that will be used to encourage participation by interested parties and the general public in the development of Maui's transportation landscape, and various planning studies. The goal is to ensure the involvement of citizen interest groups, freight industry, commerce associations, major economic development, educational institutions, public transit providers, and other interested persons or groups, including the public at large.

Maui MPO holds regular Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. The schedule and agendas are located on [mauimpo.org](http://mauimpo.org).

Rep. Troy Hashimoto is the chair of the Maui MPO Policy Board. Marc Takamori, Maui County Director of Transportation serves as vice chair.



Scan code to access the survey, or visit [bit.ly/mauimpoPPP](http://bit.ly/mauimpoPPP)





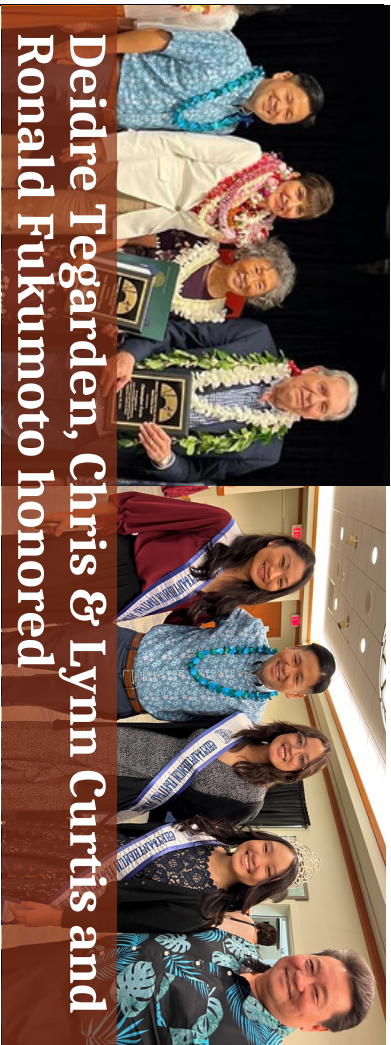
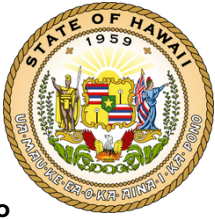


REPRESENTATIVE

# Troy N. Hashimoto

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 332  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Contact: (808) 586-9444  
RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Follow: [linktr.ee/reptroyhashimoto](https://linktr.ee/reptroyhashimoto)



## Deidre Tegarden, Chris & Lynn Curtis and Ronald Fukumoto honored

Attended the 54th Annual Shinnen Enkai celebration of the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui. The Nihon Bunka Awards honored Deidre Tegarden, Executive Director of Nisei Veterans Memorial Center and Sensei Christopher and Lynn Curtis of Maui Ki Aikido for their excellence and lifetime dedication to the perpetuation of the Japanese arts and culture. Rep. Yamashita and I met with Queen Kaitlin Kitagawa, Princess Ava Takahama and Princess Emi Sado of the 68th Annual Chrysanthemum Festival.

Ronald Fukumoto of Fukumoto Engineering was awarded the Waiuku Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Temple's 2023 Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award at the Sokai and Shinnenkai Festivities. The award recognizes the long-time service of a church member.



## Baldwin and Maui High School students attending the 2023 Secondary Student Conference

"It is always refreshing to see the next generation walking the halls of the Capitol as a part of the Secondary Student Conference. It was at this very conference back in 2003, as a delegate, where I got my first exposure to the Hawaii State Capitol. It was also great to see advisors Donna Vierra and Glenda Joyo - they too were my district advisors back in high school!" - Rep. Hashimoto