

State Representative
LISA KITAGAWA



Proudly Serving Kāne'ōhe to Ka'a'awa

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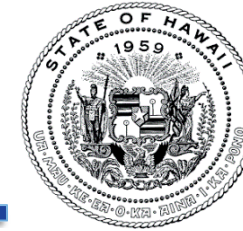
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LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY UPDATES INSIDE!

CAPITOL UPDATE



Representative Lisa Kitagawa

Aloha! Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve you and our community. This year, the Legislature was able to accomplish a lot. In addition to supporting the needs of Maui, we were also able to ensure the State is prepared for future disasters from the impacts of climate change, provide tax relief to the State's asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) families, expand services for mental health care, and address the State's housing crisis, including restraint on the proliferation of short-term rentals. I am proud of what we accomplished this year.

Thank you to the many community members who continue to reach out. It is the many hands and hearts that make our community a special place to live. Please stay in touch with me through our website (RepKitagawa.com), our social media pages (@RepKitagawa on Facebook and Instagram), email (repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov), or phone (808-586-8540).

Mahalo,

Lisa

YOU'RE INVITED
↓

2024

WINDWARD GOING GREEN RECYCLING

JUNE 15 9-11 AM CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM PARKING LOT

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, SCANNERS
- ONE TV PER CAR
- HI-5 BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
- BATTERIES - ONLY AUTO & LEAD ACID BATTERIES
- GENTLY USED CLOTHING ONLY
- USED EYE GLASSES AND HEARING AIDS
- PROM DRESSES, ACCESSORIES
- CANNED GOODS FOR HAWAII FOOD BANK
- PET FOOD, TOWELS, BLANKETS

SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVES MATAYOSHI & KITAGAWA AND:



ANNUAL CASTLE COMPLEX SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Support Castle Complex students and teachers with a monetary donation to the Castle Alumni/Community Association or by donating much needed school supplies!



Representative
Lisa Kitagawa

Location: Windward Mall Center Court
Dates: Saturday, July 13 • 10am - 9pm
 Sunday, July 14 • 10am - 6pm
Contact: Representative Kitagawa
repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov
 or (808) 586-8540



Representative
Scot Z. Matayoshi

Sponsored by:










DONATE ONLINE



Select "school supplies" (tax-deductible)

Welcomed Donations:
Pencils, erasers, crayons, markers, composition books, folders, backpacks, slippers, etc.

\$55,858,843 SECURED FOR OUR COMMUNITY

After School All-Stars for after-school programs (including at King Intermediate)	\$100,000
Castle High School for agriculture farm expansion & farm education	\$6,000,000
Castle High School for theater seating, lighting replacement and other improvements to the Ronald E. Bright Performing Arts Center	\$660,000
Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation for agricultural education (including at Castle Complex Schools)	\$275,000
Hawai'i State Hospital for bed expansion and improvements to Guensberg & Bishop buildings; repairs to chilled water line; upgrade to fire alarm system; additional positions; upgraded safety & security measures	\$16,810,665
He'eia Elementary School for covered walkways to connect buildings D to P1, P2, & P3	\$1,000,000
He'eia Kea Harbor for installation of plastic lumber fenders around existing bulkhead	\$2,500,000
Hina Mauka (Kāne'ohe Rehabilitation Center) for repairs to roof and installation of solar panels	\$500,000
Kahalu'u Elementary School for covered walkways for buildings A, B, & D	\$600,000
Kahuku High & Intermediate School for electrical system renovations and telecom system upgrades	\$2,000,000
Kahuku Medical Center for renovations and improvements to Kahuku Medical Center building & campus	\$12,032,500
KEY Project for expansion of social services and increased access to basic needs pantry	\$200,000
King Intermediate School for gym improvements, including addressing termites in floor, broken bleachers, & broken basketball hoops	\$510,000
King Intermediate School for landscaping improvements to address tree overgrowth next to neighboring properties	\$560,000
Ko'olau Foundation for master planning, design, & landscaping work for the Ha'iku Valley Cultural Preserve	\$150,000
Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island) for sewer line replacement and upgrades	\$5,000,000
Small Schools Funding for additional funding to support Ka'a'awa and Waiāhole Elementary Schools	\$6,000,000
Waiāhole Elementary School for ADA accessibility improvements	\$300,000
Waikalua Loko I'a for expansion and continued research at the fishpond	\$200,000
Windward Community College for the expansion of mental-health related programs & programming to provide incarcerated students with an education	\$460,678

SUPPORTING EDUCATION



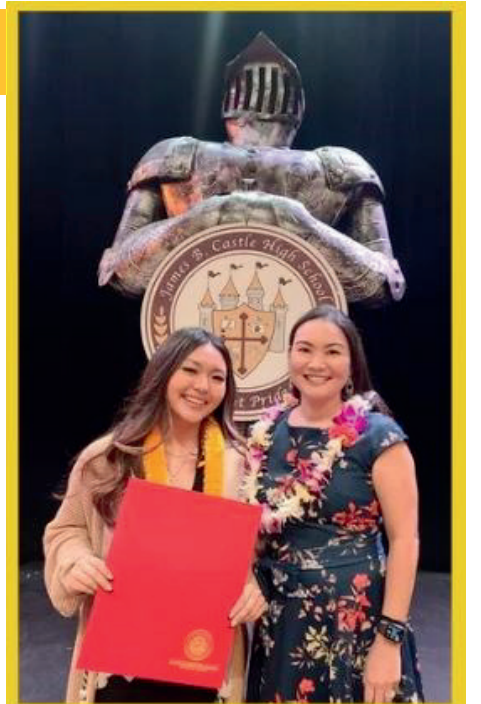
Congratulations, Class of 2024!



Representative Lisa Kitagawa Scholarship

As a former higher education administrator and someone who attended college through the generous scholarships given by others, I have always wanted to give back and help other Castle High School students further their education.

This year, I was able to award **Koryn Amuro** with the 6th annual Representative Lisa Kitagawa Scholarship. Koryn is an outstanding student who has been an active part of Castle High School's student council for four years. She was also cheer captain and a member of the varsity soccer team. Koryn has also served our community in many ways, including volunteering with Castle Complex Elementary Schools, serving as a mentor to younger students. Best wishes to Koryn as she pursues her degree in Business Administration/Management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas!



Outstanding 6th Grade Student Awards 2024

The Outstanding 6th Grade Student Award was created by Reps. Kitagawa and Matayoshi to recognize students who demonstrate leadership potential, good citizenship, and academic achievement at each of the elementary schools in our districts. The awardees were selected by the sixth grade teachers and school, and have received a personalized certificate from the State Legislature, as well as a personalized, engraved trophy. Congratulations to this year's awardees!

- Kylee Ollila and Carmen VanYperen** from 'Āhuimanu Elementary
- Zaiden Asosaoletu and Kailani Akasaki** from Ben Parker Elementary
- Amiyah Nuesca Duque and Rabici "Jax" Vuikadavu** from He'eia Elementary
- Lillyana Pangan** from Ka'a'awa Elementary
- Skaai Ifenuk and Kilihau Kalalau** from Kahalu'u Elementary
- Taylyn Uyehara and Axtyn Yam** from Kāne'ohe Elementary
- Palekana Lono and Kylie Miyatake** from Kapunahala Elementary
- Gabe Landiza** from Pū'ōhala School
- Lawakua Ho'okano** from Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Pū'ōhala
- Jacob Seguin** from Waiāhole Elementary



IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

Addressing Maui Wildfire Challenges and Fire Prevention

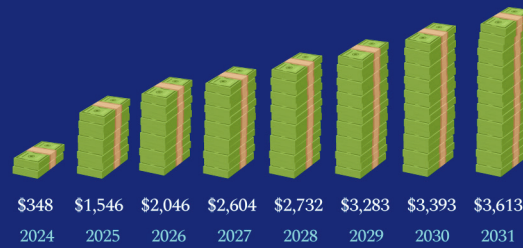
On August 8, 2023, Lahaina experienced the most devastating and deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history. The Legislature made a commitment to not only support Maui, but also ensure that we do everything possible to prevent this type of event from happening again. We fulfilled that commitment this Session by passing two bills (*SB3068 and SB582*), which provided approximately **\$1 billion** to address the immediate and long-term needs of Lahaina, as well as funding to provide wildfire prevention measures across the entire State. This funding provides for food, housing, mental health and health care, infrastructure needs, recovery management, debris removal, and hazard mitigation. It also provides funding for the victim's relief fund, as well as for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to address fire mitigation efforts, including clearing overgrown brush, purchasing equipment, and increasing staff and resources.



Finance Committee Maui Visit

HB2404 CD1: How much will the average Hawai'i family of four save?

The average family of four with a median income of \$88,000 will save nearly \$20,000 through 2031. The tax cut will show up directly in your take-home pay!



Reducing the Cost of Living

Since getting into office in 2018, I have been working to reduce the cost of living for our working families. This year, the Legislature approved a historic level of tax relief (*HB2404*), which will result in savings for taxpayers by more than **\$5 billion** over 5 years. This bill doubles the standard deduction amounts between taxable years 2024 - 2031 and amends the income tax brackets to widen the applicability of lower tax rates for taxable years 2025 - 2029. These tax changes will help families save thousands of dollars each year.

Supporting Our Small & Remote Schools

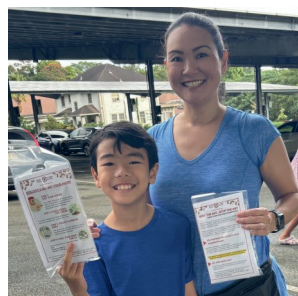
Another priority of mine has been to support the small schools in our community. Waiāhole and Ka'a'awa Elementary Schools offer special and unique learning opportunities for their students despite their small size. This year, I was able to advocate for **\$6 million** in the State budget in weighted student formula to support our small and rural schools across the State. Thank you to Principals Obra and Luke-Payne and their school communities for all that they do to support our students.



Attending Ka'a'awa Elem.'s Leadership Day

Addressing Our Community's Little Fire Ant (LFA) Infestations

One of my top priorities this session was to address the many LFA infestations we have in our community. I am happy to share that I was able to advocate for **\$2.5 million** in funding to address LFAs across the State. This funding was included in a comprehensive biosecurity bill (*HB2619*), which appropriated over **\$20 million** to address the many invasive species concerns we have across the State, including coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui frogs, and funding for a public awareness campaign.



LFA Canvassing in Kāne'ohe

ROADWORK UPDATES

Roundabout at the Intersection of Kahekili and Kamehameha Hwy

This project is ongoing and has an anticipated completion date of Spring 2025. Any questions or complaints may be directed to *MIRA* at [808-476-0490](tel:808-476-0490) or the Department of Transportation (DOT) at [808-831-6714](tel:808-831-6714), [808-485-6200](tel:808-485-6200) (after hours), or complainthighwayoahu@hawaii.gov

Kamehameha Hwy. in Ka'a'awa

The DOT will execute a plan for community-based, long-range planning. We will update you as community meeting dates are finalized. Erosion mitigation near Ka'a'awa Elem. School will begin by the end of 2024.

Please note: all projects are weather permitting.

Wilson Tunnel Ceiling Repairs

Permanent ceiling rods will be placed in the tunnel beginning in fall 2024. DOT will provide updates as the date gets closer.

Kamehameha Hwy. Repaving Between Pali Hwy & Ko'olau View Drive

Anticipated completion of paving and striping is the end of 2024.

Kamehameha Hwy. Road Repairs, Kāne'ohe Town:

Thank you to Councilmember Esther Kia'āina and the City & County of Honolulu for their plans to repave portions of Kam. Hwy. between Haiku Road and Likelike Hwy. Repaving is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025. Interim repairs will be done in 2024.

At the Legislature & In the Community



- 1) In a Finance Committee Budget Hearing
- 2) Reading to He'eia Elementary School students
- 3) Receiving a community award from the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
- 4) With Windward Legislators, LG Luke, & Finance Chair Yamashita
- 5) Volunteering at the Kāne'ohe Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

More photos at: bit.ly/repkitagawaflickr

2024 Legislative Session Summary

This year, the Legislature passed 262 bills that addressed many pressing issues and needs of our State. Below are some key bills and critical funding that passed. To learn more, please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Funding Our Critical Programs and Services (Highlights from HB1800)

\$1,500,000	Da Bux Program—doubles SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh produce
\$11,657,400	Behavioral health crisis center & supportive housing services (affordable housing with support services to address homelessness & those in need)
\$20,990,000	Summer learning hubs for Department of Education (DOE) schools
\$5,000,000	DOE night security and active threat training for staff
\$1,500,000	State rent supplement program
\$1,320,000	Support for homeless programs service providers
\$3,000,000	Mobile treatment clinics for homeless & those in need
\$19,800,000	Adult mental health and psychiatric in-patient services
\$4,212,751	Emergency medical services statewide
\$1,265,000	Illegal fireworks task force—to support law enforcement in reducing illegal fireworks
\$47,227,765	DLNR—parks, forestry management & development, including fire resiliency, ecosystem protection & restoration, natural area reserves & watershed protection
\$3,900,000	Maintenance & roadside safety for O’ahu highways
\$1,000,000	Wildfire mapping & vulnerability assessments
\$3,700,000	Hawai’i Promise Program to support higher education at community colleges

Supporting Healthcare & Addressing Homelessness

- Provides temporary permits to out-of-state licensed registered nurses, assisting with our nurse/healthcare shortage. (SB63)
- Establishes a crisis intervention and diversion services program for persons experiencing mental health and substance abuse crises from the criminal justice system to the health care system. (SB3139)
- Exempts the general excise tax (GET) from health care goods and services by medical and dental practitioners to patients who receive Medicaid, Medicare, or TRICARE benefits beginning 1/1/2026. (SB1035)
- **\$2,450,000** to support the Public High School Health Care Workforce Certificate Program, which transforms public high school classrooms for health care training and supports the Glidepath Program for certified nurse aides. (HB1827)

Keeping Our Communities Safe

- Amends the State's Fireworks Control Law to hold licensees/permittees more accountable and provides safeguards to reduce the illegal sale of fireworks. (HB2193)
- Requires owners to control a dangerous dog and creates a process for the impoundment of a dangerous dog. (HB2058)
- **\$172,000** to create a State Fire Marshal position (Hawai’i is the only state without a State Fire Marshal) to coordinate fire protection efforts with the counties. (SB2085)
- Creates a Search and Rescue Working Group to make recommendations on how to deter illegal hikers and collect reimbursement fees for individuals who are rescued on an illegal hiking trail that has signage that the trail is closed. (HCR124)

Investing in Keiki, Schools & Education

- **\$20 million** to support the DOE's food service operations (in addition to **\$18 million** in the budget). (SB3091)
- **\$3,544,683** to support the expansion of the Kaiapuni program (Hawaiian language immersion) with 10 classroom teachers and 3 curriculum specialists. (HB2074)
- **\$900,000** to provide mental health and wellness services to youth in our state. (HB2042)
- **\$2,103,500** for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program, which will provide funds to families in need over the summer when school meals may not be available. (HB2430)

Caring for Our Vulnerable Populations

- Creates a comprehensive long-term care plan to ensure the availability of institutional and community-based services for our aging population. (HB2224)
- Increases the state supplemental payment ceiling for various adult residential care homes, so caretakers can receive payment equal to the cost of services/care. (HB2216)
- Creates and appropriates **\$250,000** to the Silver Alert Program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. (SB2305)

Sustaining Our Environment & Agriculture

- **\$50,000** for each county as a grant, subject to a county match, for a feral chicken control program (HB2619, SB2401)
- Provides funding for the University of Hawai’i to develop an overlay with the Hawai’i Cesspool Prioritization Tool to identify specific priority areas in which the county sewer system may be expanded. (HB2743)
- Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters. (SB2575)
- **\$1,000,000** to the University of Hawai’i to develop a wildfire forecast system using artificial intelligence to enhance public safety, preparedness, and risk mitigation. (SB2284)

