



# Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

## Community Update



DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA,  
KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

February 2023

### 2023 HOUSE MAJORITY BILLS

#### **HB948 RELATING TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH**

Establishes a two-year child and adolescent crisis mobile outreach team pilot program on Oahu to expand existing crisis response services. Appropriates funds.

#### **HB949 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a solar energy storage system loan program to provide asset limited, income constrained, employed households with low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy storage systems. Establishes and appropriates funds for a renewable energy system installation loan program to provide low- and moderate-income families with low-interest loans to purchase and install residential photovoltaic and energy storage systems, including battery storage systems.

#### **HB950 RELATING TO ASSISTED COMMUNITY TREATMENT ORDERS**

Extends the time period that a family court may order continued assisted community treatment. Reduces the time period that a family court needs to determine whether assisted community treatment should continue.

#### **HB951 RELATING TO HOUSING**

Deposits funds into the rental housing revolving fund to be used to provide grants or loans to mixed-income rental projects or units qualifying individuals and families.

#### **HB952 RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources to address the impacts of climate change in the State.

#### **HB953 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Requires DLNR to develop and publish a website that includes the application processes for a permit, license, or reservation needed to conduct recreational and commercial activities in the State that are regulated by or under the jurisdiction of the department. Requires DLNR to convert existing application processes into a digital format to be used on the website. Appropriates funds for the establishment of the website.

#### **HB954 RELATING TO TAXATION**

Changes the amount of the state earned income tax credit to an unspecified percentage of the federal earned income tax credit allowed based on an individual's federal income tax return.

#### **Two 2023 Majority Package resolutions include:**

**HR9 ESTABLISHING THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RED HILL TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, WATER CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION, AND ALL RELATED IMPACTS.**

**HR10 ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP TO OVERSEE THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS' EXECUTION OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO ACT 279, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022, TO ADDRESS THE BENEFICIARY WAITING LIST.**

## **HAWAI‘I COST OF LIVING - GREEN AFFORDABILITY PLAN**

Hawai‘i grapples with the highest cost of living in the country—nearly two times the national average. As inflation rates and cost-of-living expenses continue to rise, Governor Josh Green is proposing the **Green Affordability Plan (GAP)** to provide relief and a significant increase in tax credits to the lowest income households.

### **GREEN AFFORDABILITY PLAN**

This appendix consists of additional resources to highlight and organize the implications that would result from Governor Green’s proposed GAP Bill.

<i>Tax Law</i>	<i>Law Change</i>	<i>Impact</i>
<b>Green Affordability Plan Tax Law Changes</b>		
<i>Food Excise Tax Credit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double the amount of credit</li> <li>• Increase the income threshold for eligible households to \$40k for single filers and \$60k for joint filers</li> </ul>	Will benefit 33.9% of State’s taxpayers, particularly low-income single filers, and expand access to the credit.
<i>Credit for Low Income Renters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase income threshold from \$30k to \$40k for single filers and \$80k for joint filers</li> <li>• Increase maximum credit that may be claimed from \$50 to \$350 per exemption</li> </ul>	Today, this credit is underutilized given its small size and stringent income limitations. This change targets the ALICE population and reduces housing costs for low to middle income households.
<i>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase EITC from 20% to 30% of Federal EITC</li> </ul>	The EITC is one of the most effective policy alleviation credits offered by the U.S. government. This change will make Hawai‘i one of the most generous states in EITC credits, benefitting working low-income families.
<i>Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the amount of qualified expenses to 50% for income up to \$150k.</li> <li>• This credit decreases by 5% for every additional \$15k of income of up to \$225k.</li> <li>• Increase the allowable expenses to from \$2.4k \$10k for one child and from \$4.8k to \$20k for two or more children.</li> </ul>	Childcare is one of the primary cost burdens facing ALICE families and Hawai‘i has some of the highest childcare costs in the U.S. This change dramatically increases the benefit to working class families and allows mothers the flexibility to enter the workforce following higher-than-male job attrition rates during the pandemic.
<i>Teacher Classroom Supply Tax Credit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide nonrefundable tax credit up to \$500 per year for school supplies purchased by K–12 teachers</li> <li>• Credit is 80% of allowable expenses</li> </ul>	The Teacher Classroom Supply Tax Credit does not currently exist. This addition would reduce the burden that teachers assume to deliver teaching conditions to their students.
<b>Bill Individual Income Tax Changes</b>		
<i>Individual Income Tax</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Index the tax brackets, standard deduction, and personal exemption to inflation</li> <li>2. Increase the standard deduction to \$5k for single filers and \$10k for joint filers</li> <li>3. Double the personal exemption to \$2,288</li> </ol>	The proposed changes would stop low- and middle-income households from getting pushed up into higher tax brackets due to inflation, lower the taxable income for low to middle income households and provide tax relief by lowering the taxable income primarily for families and taxpayers with dependents.