



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MATTHEW S. LOPRESTI

'Ewa, 'Ewa Beach, 'Ewa Gentry, 'Ewa Villages, Hoakalei, Ocean Pointe



DISTRICT 41 UPDATE - AUGUST 2022

Aloha,

I want to share some of the important work our office is continuing to push even though the Hawaii State Legislature is in the Interim.

As the school year for many of our keiki begins, we have come to face some serious concerns regarding the classrooms at Keone'ula Elementary School where the Department of Education (DOE) found high levels of carbon dioxide. High levels of carbon dioxide is very serious because it means there is poor airflow in the classrooms and this would allow for COVID to spread easily given there is no longer any mask mandates. I have written Superintendent Hayashi to make this the highest priority considering that when keiki attend schools and are exposed to COVID, this will directly affect them and their families. I am hopeful that DOE will use any resources necessary to make our classrooms safe our keiki.

Also, Governor Ige recently announced the release of funds for some of the Capital Improvement Projects that I submitted in the beginning of the year. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Governor and his Administration for his continuous support of Ewa Beach.

- **Campbell High School**— Athletic Complex Improvements— To finance design and construction for master planned facilities, including the athletic stadium.

CIP Released- \$7,000,000

- **'Ilima Intermediate School**—New Classroom Building—To finance design for new classroom building.

CIP Released- \$500,000

I have received many complaints from constituents regarding the illegal dumping of trash on many of our local highways, especially on Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave where a handful of violators did not take the appropriate steps to dump their trash at the Ewa Beach Refuse. This is illegal and unacceptable. I have reached out to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to clean and clear the trash pile that has become a hazard for drivers on this important roadway. If DOT is not able to act quickly, I will personally organize a community clean-up to remove this trash pile as soon as possible.

These are just a number of things that I wanted to share with you and I will provide more updates in the near future. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, you can reach me directly at relopresti@capitol.hawaii.gov or call my office at (808) 586-6080.

Mahalo,

Representative Matthew S. LoPresti
District 41

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 4, 2022

Mr. Keith Hayashi
Superintendent
Hawaii Department of Education
1390 Miller St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Superintendent Hayashi:

I am writing to express my serious concerns of the recently reported high carbon dioxide levels in multiple Hawaii schools, including Keone'ula Elementary School, which is in my District of Ewa Beach.

The high carbon dioxide levels are a symptom of poor air circulation, which puts our teachers, staff, and vulnerable keiki at heightened risk to COVID, especially since masks are no longer mandated in classrooms and high numbers of our keiki are unvaccinated. Although masking is suggested, the Department of Education (DOE) should have taken necessary measures to ensure the classroom environment is safe for learning before the school year began.

As our keiki go back to school, it is vital that the DOE takes the necessary steps to remediate the high levels of carbon dioxide in the classroom environment and address the poor air circulation issue, not only for health reasons but student learning as well. DOE must ensure that public information is readily available, and a hotline be created for the affected schools for parents and staff who have questions and to provide daily updates on the actions taken by your department to bring the carbon dioxide to safe levels.

The DOE must make this issue of the highest priority considering that when our keiki attend schools and are exposed to COVID, this will directly affect their families, especially those who live in multigenerational homes putting our kupuna at risk. This is critical knowing that many of my constituents live in multigenerational homes, and we must do all that we can to protect our keiki and kupuna.

I am confident that through your leadership that the DOE will take immediate action and use any resources necessary to make our classrooms safe.

Mahalo,

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.
State Representative, District 41
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Please visit my website ([Legislative Members \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislative-members)) to see my last townhall meeting discussing water conservation with Board of Water Supply, traffic measures with Department of Transportation, Capital Improvement Projects for Ewa Beach, and much more.

Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti



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STAY CONNECTED WITH

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