



Office of Representative Adrian Tam

April 2021

Aloha Neighbors and Friends,



More than a year since Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic, shuttering businesses and life as we know it, Hawai'i and the mainland U.S. may be seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Hawai'i's community has come together in myriad ways to support one another, and do what we can to protect our families, co-workers, neighbors, kūpuna, and keiki. We have managed to maintain the lowest rates of per capita cases and deaths in the country, and have continued to steadily roll out the vaccine as additional doses are received.

However, please be mindful that as travel is opens up, visitor numbers increase, and businesses and public life opens up again, that the precautions we have been practicing need to be kept up for a bit longer. Please continue to mask up, socially distance, get vaccinated, and avoid large gatherings.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS - THE BUDGET BILL

As everyone is likely aware, the Covid-19 pandemic in Hawai'i led to a stark decline in economic activity, resulting in lower state tax revenues that fund public services and programs. The main challenge this year has thus been how to address this, while avoiding increasing the tax burden on Hawai'i's working families.

Some relief was provided by the \$1.9 trillion relief package, a.k.a. the "American Rescue Plan" passed by the federal government, which provided more than \$2 billion to Hawai'i to help bridge the shortfall.

Here at the Capitol, March 22 was the deadline to file the House version of the State Budget Bill (HB200).

ALLOCATIONS INCLUDE:

- \$2.38 million to the Dept of the Attorney General for sex assault treatment purchase of service contracts
- \$88.73 million in general funds and \$11.22 million in American Rescue Plan funds for school based budgeting to restore funding for classrooms.
- \$10.8 million for fiscal year 2022 and \$14.3 million for fiscal year 2023 in American Rescue Plan funds for homeless services
- \$1.7 million for fiscal year 2022 and \$702,729 in American Rescue Plan funds for family planning services
- \$3.1 million for HIV prevention and care services
- \$2.08 million for fiscal year 2022 and \$704.85 million for fiscal year 2023 in American Rescue Plan funds for the repayment of the unemployment insurance loan principal and interest.
- \$2 million in additional boating special funds for harbor facilities repair and maintenance
- \$62.78 million in American Rescue Plan funds to restore reductions to the University of Hawai'i budget
- \$1 million in American Rescue Plan to offset lost revenue at the Waikīkī Aquarium
- \$1.8 million in general funds and 1.3 million in American Rescue Plan for the expansion of the Hawai'i Promise Program

The budget bill will continue to evolve and be amended as we work with Senate counterparts to hammer out the details. I will do my best to fight for programs and policies that I believe can help relieve the financial burden that residents in District 22 have experienced in the past year.



Did you know?

The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is the designated lead agency in the coordination of a statewide system of aging and caregiver support services in the State of Hawai'i, as authorized by federal and state laws. EOA's mission is to optimize the health, safety and independence of Hawai'i's older adults and people with disabilities.



The federal Older Americans Act establishes an Aging Network and provides federal funding for elderly support services, nutrition services, preventive health services, elder rights protection, and family caregiver support services. Chapter 349, HRS, establishes EOA as the focal point for all matters relating to older adults' needs and the coordination and development of caregiver support services within the State of Hawai'i. EOA is attached agency to the Department of Health.

EOA administers the Kupuna Care (KC) program and the Kupuna Care Givers program (KCGP) which provides long-term services and supports to older adults, 60 years and older to remain at home and avoid institutional care. Services are delivered by providers or through a "participant-directed service model" that is older adults (participants) direct their own services and address their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount.)

KUPUNA CARE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Assisted transportation
- Care coordination or case management
- Chore services
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- Personal care
- Respite Care
- Transportation

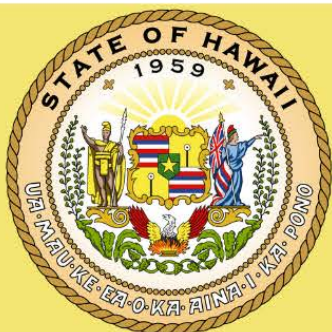
KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM:

The goal of the Kupuna Caregivers Program is to help working caregivers obtain care for their loved one so that the caregiver can maintain their employment. Eligible caregivers must work at least 30 hours a week and caring for a kupuna age 60 or older who is eligible for KC services. There is a maximum of \$210 per week to cover the costs of services.

For more information, contact Caroline Cadirao, Director, Executive Office on Aging by telephone at (808) 586-0100 or e-mail at caroline.cadirao@doh.hawaii.gov
Visit the Aging and Disability Resource Center at www.hawaiiadrc.org



Concurrent resolutions (resolutions to be adopted by both chambers) can be a great way to further an issue after a bill has died. While they don't have the force and effect of law they can, for example, set up a task force, ask for a study, or make a statement about an issue. House committee vice-chairs are responsibly for taking the vote on bills during hearings, and commonly run hearings on resolutions. As we approach "Sine Die" (April 29th), which marks the last day of the 31st Session, things will be moving very quickly to meet filing deadlines.



Contact Us

(808) 586-8520

reptam@capitol.hawaii.gov

415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 317
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



@repadriantam

