

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON

HAWAI'I STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 9
KAHULUI, PU'UNĒNĒ, PORTION OF WAILUKU

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, I am inspired by the resilience and unity of our community in the aftermath of the Lahaina wildfires. I am honored to serve as your representative, and I am dedicated to locally driven solutions that prioritize your concerns.



MAUI HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY

The School of Democracy Distinction is awarded to schools that strengthen and deepen its opportunities for growth and civic learning. Maui High School (MHS) has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to fostering a culture that prepares all students for their future as knowledgeable and active citizens of democracy.

In addition to developing a rigorous curriculum of civic learning that is aligned to Hawai'i Core Social Studies Standards, MHS created authentic opportunities for civic learning as all educators share messages to students about power, representation, and equity and embraced students' voices, agency, and lived experiences so that every student will be prepared to use inquiry to take informed action.

The learning environment of MHS has displayed a proven record of providing innovative opportunities to produce outstanding citizens prepared to positively impact our community over the course of their lifetimes, and beyond.



Representative Woodson and Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke during Opening Day

KAHULUI LIBRARY REOPENS



| | |
|-----|------------|
| Sun | CLOSED |
| Mon | CLOSED |
| Tue | 12PM - 7PM |
| Wed | 9AM - 4PM |
| Thu | 9AM - 4PM |
| Fri | 11AM - 4PM |
| Sat | 9AM - 4PM |

The loss of the Lahaina Public Library prompted expedited service restoration in Kahului to continue serving the needs of the community as a resource center and gathering place. Patrons can browse and borrow, pick up holds, use wi-fi, computers, public printer, and copier.

You can reach the Kahului library at **808-873-3097** for specific availability inquiries.

Address: **90 School Street, Kahului, HI 96732**

Friends and Neighbors,

We greatly value your feedback! You can respond to our community survey by using any smartphone device to scan the QR code below and access the survey online, or cut out and mail this section to my office. The survey takes roughly 5 minutes to complete. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Scan the QR code:
Complete this
survey online

Fill in, as desired, cut out, & mail to:
Representative Justin Woodson
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 405
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



Name (Optional):

How concerned are you about the topics below?

1 = Not concerned about this topic in our community.
5 = Very concerned about this topic in our community.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Affordable Housing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Kūpuna Care | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Road Repair | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | School Improvements | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Increasing Minimum Wage | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Decreasing Taxes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Climate Change | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

What does Kahului, Pu'unēnē, and Wailuku need more of?

1 = We do not need more of this in our community.
5 = We very much need more of this in our community.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Environmental Services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Homeless Services | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Hospitals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Housing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Local Farms/Businesses | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Parks | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Schools | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Please feel free to attach thoughts, comments or concerns on additional paper.

2024 BIPARTISAN MAUI WILDFIRE PACKAGE

HB1835 HD1 **Relating to Distribution Management**
Establishes the distribution management advisory board to develop and advise on the state distribution management plan.

HB1837 HD1 **Relating to School Safety**
Requires the Department of Education to grant public access to emergency action plans and have school evacuation plans.

HB1839 **Relating to the Environment**
Appropriates funds for long term monitoring of air and water quality and supports environmental research efforts.

HCR4 **Northwest Wildfire Protection**
Request Hawai'i's congressional delegation to amend the wildland fire protection agreement allowing Hawai'i to join.

HCR3 **Emergency Zoning**
Urges each county to establish an emergency zoning code for post-disaster use.



HB1836 **Relating to Health**
Allows pharmacists to refill prescriptions and devices for a thirty-day supply during declared states of emergency.

HB1838 HD1 **Relating to Zoning**
Allows counties to enact zoning ordinances to phase out non-conforming single family vacation and rental units over time.

HB1840 HD1 **Relating to the Environment**
Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for water quality monitoring and pollution detection.

HB1842 **Relating to Fire Prevention**
Increases the maximum fine for violations of the fire protection laws including offense classification and criminal penalties.

HB1841 HD1 **Dept of Land and Natural Resources**
Appropriates funds towards equipment, positions, & wildfire emergency response.



KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

KŪPUNA CAUCUS



HB648 HD1 Relating to Kūpuna Housing

Temporarily expands the state rent supplement program to specifically target qualified individuals who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Would require the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to submit annual reports to the legislature. Attempts to establish a comprehensive, long-term system to ensure that low-income kūpuna are not forced into homelessness due to increased fixed costs over time.

HOUSING



HB1762 HD1 Relating to Housing

Requires any government agency that exercises its authority to develop low or moderate income housing projects that meet established development requirements. No county shall adopt any rule or ordinance that imposes stricter income requirements than those adopted or established by the state.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT



HB2243 Relating to Capital Improvement Project

Allocated \$150,000,000 from the director of finance appropriated for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for capital improvement projects. Funding to be utilized for construction of a middle school in central Maui to be expended by the Department of Education.



CIVIL AIR PATROL



HB2241 HD1 Relating to Civil Air Patrol

For more than seventy-five years, the Civil Air Patrol has assisted emergency management agencies as a non-profit organization. Their emergency responses efforts include search and rescue, damage assessments, aerial photography and transportation of supplies. State funding ceased for a period of five years, and this initiative seeks to appropriate funds to continue these emergency support initiatives. The response of the Civil Air Patrol was instrumental in responding to the wildfire relief efforts in Lahaina.

EDUCATION



HB1653 HD1 Relating to Education

Once teacher salaries are adjusted for the cost of living, Hawai'i teachers are the lowest paid in the country. HB1653 HD1 calls to provide annual salary step increases for public school teachers and educational officers who have completed a year of satisfactory service and comply with specified requirements. This initiative will help retain qualified educators and incentivize stability in education by decreasing turnover.



HB1775 HD1 Relating to Education

Allocates funding for the 2024-2025 school year to require the Department of Education (DOE) to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled in DOE schools.

Please Note: The status of these measures will continue to evolve as the session progresses. These bills, along with their updates and full language, may be found at www.capitol.hawaii.gov



Aloha friends and neighbors,

As we move forward, I am focused on addressing the pressing issues facing District 9. My legislative priorities include advocating for policies that promote economic prosperity and enhance access to quality education. I am working diligently to secure funding for capital improvement projects that will improve infrastructure and enhance the overall quality of life for our community. Your input is invaluable to me, which is why I encourage you to participate in the constituent survey included in this newsletter. Your feedback helps shape my work in the legislature, and I am always here to listen and address any questions or concerns you may have. Mahalo for your continued support and partnership in building a brighter future for all.

Mahalo nui loa,



Committees:



CHAIR
Education



MEMBER
Energy and
Environment



MEMBER
Agriculture



MEMBER
Higher Education
& Technology

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