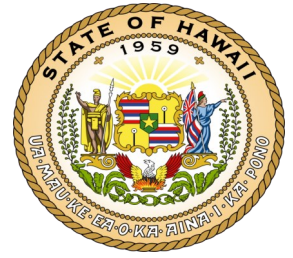




2020 Legislative Mid-Session Newsletter



District 14: Hanalei, Kilauea, Princeville, Anahola, Kapa'a, Wailua
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 314
(808) 586-8435
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. I want to give a shout out to all who have called my office, submitted testimony for and against bills, and visited with me at the State Capitol. Over 3,000 bills are introduced each year, yet only 200-300 will eventually pass in May. It's a long process and your voices help to shape the outcome of bills before us.

This year, I'm serving as Vice Chair of the Human Services and Homelessness Committee and I'm a member on both the Finance and Health Committees. I'm also honored to be named a Majority Whip, a leadership position in the Majority Caucus.

Included in this newsletter is a short list of bills I introduced this Session. Aside from these bills, my priorities continue to be funding transportation projects to address traffic congestion in our district, addressing housing and homelessness, protecting our natural resources, strengthening our economy, and supporting the education of our youth.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at (808) 586-8435 or repnakamura@capitol.hawaii.gov. If you're at the legislature, please stop by Room 314. We're here to support you!

Mahalo nui loa,

Nadine

Meeting Lulu, who provides comfort to youth who are victims of sexual abuse and is trained to sniff electronic devices from the homes of perpetrators.



Speaking at the YWCA of Hawai'i Legislative Women's Caucus annual breakfast about upcoming legislation.



Joining the Kaua'i Farm Bureau at the Agricultural Awareness Day at the State Capitol, that showcased Kaua'i's locally-grown produce and flowers!



Congratulating and honoring Kilauea Wildlife Refuge's Mike Mitchell at his retirement celebration.

INVESTING IN HAWAI‘I’S FUTURE

2020 Majority Package

In a historic show of unity, the Hawaii State Legislature, Governor David Ige, and local business and community leaders have come together around a comprehensive set of bills centered around affordability and creating a Hawaii where everyone has the ability to make a living and thrive. These bills moving through the legislature address the top three cost drivers workers and families are facing—wages and tax burdens, affordable housing, and access to affordable early childcare and learning opportunities. If you are interested in tracking the progress of these bills, please visit the Capitol website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. I hope you will join me in supporting these measures that help make a better Hawai‘i.

1

Lowering the Cost of Living

The high cost of living in Hawai‘i is one of the biggest obstacles to local families who want to build their lives and careers here. HB2541 will provide **over \$70 million in annual tax relief** by making the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refundable and permanent and increases the food/excise tax credit by 36% to \$150. This legislation will save the average working class family of four approximately \$500 per year in taxes.



Visiting the Kaua‘i Habitat for Humanity self-help housing project in Ele‘ele with members of the House Finance Committee.

2

Providing Access to Early Learning

HB2543 sets forth the goal of providing all 3 & 4-year-olds access to early childcare and learning opportunities by 2030. This bill will address the lack of access and affordability of our pre-schools in state, especially those from low-income households. To achieve this, an agency will be established with the sole responsibility of ensuring access to early learning opportunities to unserved children.

3

Addressing the Housing Shortage

The housing shortage in our State has been increasing for decades. HB2542 calls for the construction of affordable housing across the islands. This legislation will have the State and private sector partner to offer leasehold housing units to qualified buyers with a **\$275 million appropriation** for the infrastructure and development of affordable housing.

4

Transforming our Schools

Many schools in our State are falling into disrepair and are inadequate to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for our keiki. HB2544 will create a new agency exclusively focused on the development, planning, and construction of all public-school improvement projects. The School Facilities Agency will also engage with the public to give students and their families the opportunity to share their concerns and priorities.

5

Raising Stagnant Wages

HB2541 of the Majority Package will also call for an increase of the minimum wage to **\$13.00 per hour** by 2024. This legislation will increase the minimum wage to **\$11.00** in 2021, **\$12.00** in 2022, **\$12.50** in 2023, and finally **\$13.00** in 2024. This is a much needed first step towards ensuring that Hawai‘i residents are paid a livable wage.



The Friends of Kalalau Trail, led by Mark Hubbard, do incredible maintenance work on the Hanakāpī'ai/Kalalau trail. Mahalo to all the volunteers who operate through rain or shine to assist in keeping the trail safe and beautiful for all of us!

Census 2020

How Hawaii residents can prepare for the upcoming Census

The Census determines how many House of Representative Seats and how much federal funding is allocated to each state. Together we can ensure that our state receives the resources it needs.

March 12th-20th

Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census.

April 1st

Census Day is observed nationwide. By this day, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

May-July

Census officials will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

WHAT TO DO:

To respond online or learn more about the 2020 Census, visit: 2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond

2020 Session Bills

The legislature is in full swing and I'm happy to report that many of the bills I introduced are moving forward:

- Classifying our 911 dispatchers as first responders, since their work goes beyond their current clerical designation.
- Giving adults who are on Medicaid, including the disabled and elderly, access to preventive dental care. Currently only emergency dental care is covered by Medicaid.
- Giving low and moderate-income students who attend a four-year University of Hawai'i campus the ability to have a free tuition if they pursue degrees in worker shortage areas: Teachers, Social Workers, Health Care, and Engineering. Students who graduate are required to work in the State of Hawai'i for three years, otherwise the grant converts to a loan.
- Creating a Self-Help Homeownership Revolving Fund to promote affordable self-help housing, whereby residents are required to work every week to build their own homes. Affordable three-bedroom, 1.5 bath homes built by Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity have mortgages of \$240,000, which I consider truly affordable.
- Giving the State and County three additional years to spend 2018 Flood relief funds.
- Giving the Police Chief the authority to delegate parking citations to county employees, such as a meter maid or park ranger.

Kūhiō Highway Improvements

I'm excited about two new highway transportation projects:

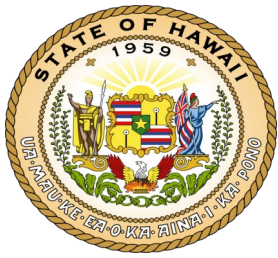
- The Kapa'a Stream bridge replacement and new roundabout at Kūhiō Highway and Mailihuna Road, which is now underway; and
- An additional southbound lane on Kūhiō Highway, between the southern terminus of the Kapa'a bypass road and the Wailua River fronting Coco Palms. Construction will begin this summer.

The Kaua'i delegation is working hard to secure funds this session for the widening of Kūhiō Highway from Wailua River to Hanama'ulu by either adding a southbound lane on the existing highway or along the cane haul road.

We also continue to work with the State Department of Transportation to pursue contraflow on Sundays and holidays, since we all know how bad traffic backs up through town on these days.

Congratulating Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) honorees Bob Kunioka (30 years of service) and Dorothy Kunioka (25 years of service).





Representative Nadine K. Nakamura
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District 14 Capital Improvement Projects

Projects And Funds Recently Released By Gov. Ige

Kūhiō Highway.....\$4,857,000

To finance planning and design to add a Southbound lane from Wailua Bridge to Kāpule Highway in Hanamaulu.

Kapa‘a Elem. School Library.....\$2,500,000

To finance the design and construction of the interior of the new library building.

Kapa‘a High School.....\$500,000

To finance the design and construction of an outdoor pavilion and wash stations for the new Agricultural

Novel Coronavirus

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new respiratory virus discovered in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, in Hubei Province.

It is spread through:

- Coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface that has the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- **Subject to new information since it is a newly discovered virus**

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty Breathing
- Severe Illness

Call the DOH Reporting Line if you think you are infected at (808) 586-4586

Protect yourself by:

- Avoiding contact with sick people
- Washing hands with soap and water often
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- If you feel sick, get medical attention and avoid contact with others

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/ncov or health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019

Medication Disposal

With the passage of Act 183, Longs Drugs in Kapa‘a and Lihue now accepts unused drugs via collection receptacles. This act helps address the diversion and misuse of unwanted or unneeded prescription medications and keeps these items out of landfills, water supplies, and out of the hands of at-risk individuals.



I'm excited to have three graduates of Kapa‘a High School working with me this year. My Office Manager is Ben Viernes, Committee Clerk is Alanna Bauman, and Legislative Aide is Ty Shiramizu.