

# OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA

## DISTRICT 14 – WAILUA TO HAENA | NEWSLETTER | MID-SESSION 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope you and your family are in good health and managing your way through this pandemic. There are, fortunately, signs of hope as more residents are vaccinated and additional federal funds bring relief to families and businesses most impacted by the coronavirus.



I'm happy to announce that many of the bills I introduced and worked on in January are moving forward.

- \* Giving the State Parks Division the flexibility to increase and adjust entrance and parking fees for visitors to help maintain and enhance our natural resources (HB1276 HD1)
- \* Extending the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program to continue building housing for those with low- and moderate-incomes (HB80 HD2)
- \* Providing additional funding to the Dwelling Unit Revolving fund and Rental Housing Revolving fund for more affordable housing (HB606 HD1)
- \* Creating a mediation diversion program once the state eviction moratorium is lifted to prevent mass evictions (HB1376 HD1)

Bills that Kaua`i constituents asked for, including regulating electric scooters, defining 911 dispatchers as emergency workers, and supporting funding for Kapa`a Homesteads water well and tank improvements, are also moving forward.

I'm so honored to represent you at the State Capitol and will work hard to ensure that we get through the difficult days ahead and build back better. Please contact my office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Mahalo piha,

*Nadine K. Nakamura*



**Chairing a Housing Committee hearing with Rep. Troy Hashimoto (Maui) and Rep. Greggor Iligan (Puna, Hawaii)**



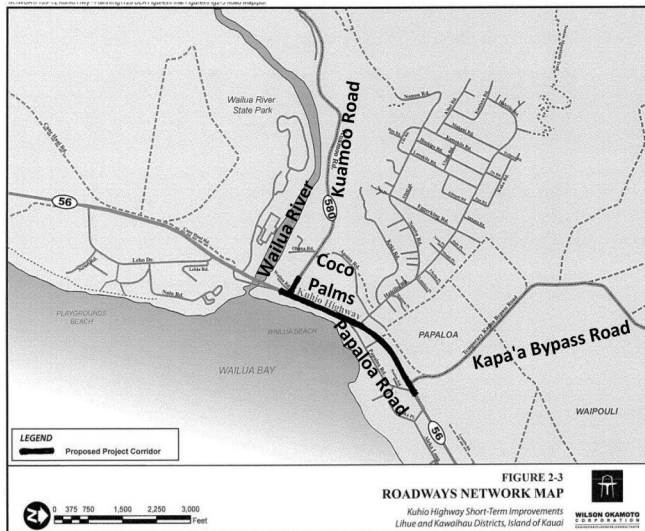
**Conferring with Economic Development Chair Sean Quinlan on the Floor of the House**



**Insert Language**

## District 14 Road Improvement Updates

### New Lane Construction for Kapa'a Bypass



Construction on the Kuhio Highway Short-Term Improvements began on Monday, March 1, 2021. The Kuhio Highway Short-Term Improvements Project is designed to improve traffic congestion on Kuhio Highway through Kapa'a-Wailua corridor by adding an additional southbound lane between Kuamoo Road (near Wailua River) and the Temporary Kapa'a Bypass Road (across Coconut Marketplace).

Estimated construction cost for the project is \$17 million. The anticipated completion date of construction is Spring 2023.

### Kapa'a Stream Bridge & Mailihuna Roundabout



Improvements to the safety and reliability of the Kapa'a Stream Bridge addressing bridge width, load capacity, bridge railing and transitions, and bridge approaches.

Improvements to the highway intersection at Mailihuna Road, including roadway widening, lighting, drainage, and adding a roundabout will be completed by \_\_\_. (Awaiting Managers Response)

### Ke Ala Hele Makalae in the Top Five!

USA Today just announced the winners in the Readers Choice Awards for the top recreational trails in the United States. Ke Ala Hele Makale is in the top 5!

Mahalo for all who voted. This is a tremendous national recognition. Kudos to Kauai County, KauaiPath.org, the support at legislature, and our bicycling advocates.



Erwin and Jayda Sakoda on the Kapa'a multi-use path

### Be Prepared for Tax Season: What You Should Know for Filing Taxes for 2020

**Stimulus Payments:** If you received the two stimulus checks issued by the federal government in 2020, don't worry. You will not be taxed on either of them.

**Jobless Benefits:** Unfortunately jobless benefits, which include unemployment insurance, PUA, and PEUC, are taxed on both the federal and state level, and are considered as ordinary income.

## District 14 Capital Improvement Projects Updates

### Hanalei Elementary Playground



Thanks to the dedication of the Hanalei Elementary School PTA, DOE staff, and a generous contribution from Hawaii 3R's, construction for Hanalei Elementary Playground is complete.

### Anaina Hou Playground



Funding for the final phase of construction for Anaina Hou Playground was secured from community donations and a State grant-in-aid in July 2019. The playground is currently open with restrictions while final improvements on flood mitigation are awaiting funding approval.

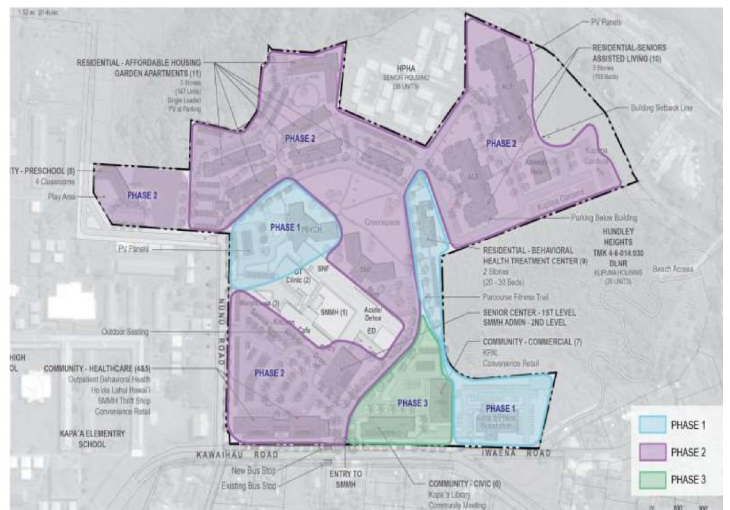
### Kapa'a Elementary Library



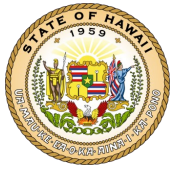
Construction of the Kapa'a Elementary Library's interior and purchase of furniture and equipment is scheduled to start in June. The project will be completed by August 2022.

### Mahelona Master Plan

Funding for refinements to the Mahelona Memorial Hospital master plan and work has been approved. Completion of an environmental impact statement will begin in the summer.



**CT Scanners at Mahelona Hospital**  
Mahelona Hospital is in the process of purchasing and installing two computer tomography (CT) scanners. Installation of the CT scanners are expected to be completed by December 2022.



**REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA**

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL  
415 S. BERETANIA ST. Rm 442  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

How to Contact Us

**Email:** [repnakamura@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repnakamura@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Phone:** (808) 586-8435



## COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

***When will I get the vaccine?***

As vaccine supplies increase over time, every Hawaii resident age 16 and above will eventually have access to the vaccine, as early as summer 2021. You are currently eligible to receive a vaccine if you are a frontline essential worker or kupuna aged 75+.

***Is the vaccine safe?***

The science to develop mRNA vaccines has been studied for decades. No scientific shortcuts were taken. The safety and efficacy standards for vaccines seeking Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) are higher than for other vaccine candidates going through the vaccine testing and approval process.

***How much does it cost?***

The vaccines are being provided for free, but there may be an administrative fee to cover the cost of setting up vaccination clinics and giving the shots. Check with your insurance provider as most providers (including Medicare and Medicaid) will cover those fees, and bring your insurance card to your vaccine appointment.

***Is it mandatory to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?***

No. It is optional to receive the vaccine, even for healthcare workers.

***What should I do after I'm vaccinated?***

Most COVID-19 vaccines require 2 shots in order for them to work, so make sure to schedule your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible. Take it easy for the first few days after receiving a shot as minor side effects are possible.

