



**Representative
Lauren
Matsumoto
Serving You in District 45**

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

The 2019 Legislative Session began on January 16, 2019 and will run until May 2, 2019. During this time, many important issues will come before the legislature, and to do our jobs effectively, we need to hear from you! Learn how to get involved by submitting testimony on legislation you care about by visiting RepMatsumoto.com, and while you're there, you may sign up for our e-newsletter to learn about legislation I've introduced and to show your support!

Mahalo to many of you for your ideas and suggestions for legislation for the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session by responding to the survey our office sent out. Mahalo for taking time out of your day to share your thoughts with me. If you have any suggestions or concerns that are important to you, please feel free to share them with me so that we can work together for the betterment of our community! If you have not received a survey and live in District 45, please contact my office at (808) 586-9490 for assistance.

With the new year, comes new laws that passed in the Regular Session of 2018, and many laws also went into effect this earlier in the summer as well. For a full list of laws that have passed that you can view online, please visit the Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau's (LRB) website at lrbhawaii.org or give them a call at 587-0690. You may also reach the LRB via email at lrb@capitol.hawaii.gov should you need any assistance researching the new laws.

Last year, the legislature appropriated funds to the Department of Human Services for the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative. This is one of the major issues we've been working on resolving as a state. Another example of a bill that was signed into law that will take effect on January 1, 2019 is the establishment of a civil penalty for knowingly misrepresenting an animal as a service animal; this act conforms Hawaii law with the definition of "service animal" under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Hawaii State Legislature website (Capitol.Hawaii.Gov) was recently updated for the 2019 Session - if you're looking for information from the previous Session, visit the "Archives" page. To get there, scroll to the bottom left side of the main page, then click on "Archives". You can find information dating back to the 1999 Session.

Now is also a great time to register to

automatically receive information from the Hawaii State Legislature or update your preferences if you already have an account. As I mentioned in the previous issue, you can create personalized measure tracking lists, submit testimony online, and receive hearing notice notifications by email once you have an account at Capitol.Hawaii.Gov, and if you needed any assistance feel free to give my office a call!

Happy Holidays to you all! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about any happenings in our community. Call me at (808) 586-9490, email RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, or visit RepMatsumoto.com.