



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

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

One of my favorite things about being a State House Representative is investing in the next generation through activities such as internships. Over the past several years I've had dozens of interns from our local high schools, universities, as well as other countries like Armenia, China, and Turkey. I value learning from young leaders and enjoy teaching what I know about public service, leadership, and the legislative process.

As a co-convener for the Hawaii State Women's Legislative Caucus, I have been working for the last few years with my colleagues at creating a formalized internship program. I'm excited to announce that after much hard work, the Women's Legislative Caucus is officially launching an internship pilot program for the 2020 session! The WLC has been working with Place-Based After-School Literacy Support and the Department of Education to craft curriculum and a learning plan for prospective interns.

The WLC High School Legislative Intern Program is a unique opportunity for female junior and senior Department of Education students to have hands-on learning within the legislative process. Interns will be matched with a host office and their staff to learn how to conduct research, track and analyze legislation, and write bill briefs. Student interns can also be eligible to apply for a community service credit.

Students will work at least four hours a week with their host legislator at the Capitol, in the legislator's district, or virtually. They'll also work with the other program interns to discuss policy, American principles of democracy, and leadership skills directly from legislators and other community experts. Some of the themes that the young women will focus on during this program include:

- How do we understand key concepts of gender, power, authority, democracy, the common good and individual rights?
- What are the most important public policy issues facing women in your community?
- What do young women need to understand and know how to do to take political action?

I'm very excited to launch this program alongside other members of the Women's Legislative Caucus! If you'd like to apply or find out more information about the program, please email my office at RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov or give me a call at (808) 586-9490. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about happenings in our community.