



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

**Aloha friends and neighbors!**

At the Capitol, we are moving into committee hearings during the 2021 Legislative Session. Now is a great time to brush up on the lawmaking process. Take the time to become familiar with legislative knowledge by visiting the Capitol website at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) or the Public Access Room at [lrb.hawaii.gov/par/](http://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/). Both are great resources to understand the legislative process all the way from just an idea to being signed into law. There are also great resources to learn how to write and submit testimony, follow bills throughout the session, and more.

But even with all the great resources available, it can still be difficult to keep track of everything happening during the whirlwind session. Here's a quick run-down to help you keep track of the issues you're passionate about this legislative session:

Become familiar with the Capitol website. Capitol.hawaii.gov is the best resource to find and read bills, receive hearing notices, and contact legislators.

Sign up for hearing notices, especially for committees that are hearing your important issues.

Create a custom report in measure tracking. If you know the specific bills you want to track, you can generate your own report to follow them throughout the session.

Write, submit, and testify! Legislators want to hear what's important to you, especially if a bill we're considering personally affects you.

Visit the Public Access Room. The PAR website [lrb.hawaii.gov/par/](http://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/) is a free resource for everyone on the 4th floor of the capitol. It is the best resource for the public during session. They are open Monday through Friday and have helpful staff ready to answer your questions, find legislation, and help you write and submit testimony.

This year I have introduced several bills that focus on lowering the high cost of living, increasing government transparency, diversifying Hawai'i's economy and saving Dillingham Airfield. A few of the bills I have introduced this year include:

HB567 - This bill would require the workplace to establish a telework or alternative work schedule policy. As part of the Women's Legislative Caucus bill package, this bill will tackle the inequity experienced by working mothers.

HB842 - Creates the Environmental Impact Statement Hub Website for information about Environmental Impact Statements. The user-friendly website will include information about hearings, public comment periods, and allows comments to be submitted online.

Creates transparency and ease-of-use in the EIS process.

HB844 - Procurement. Requires past performance be considered in future bid selection of contractors for sole source contracts and any competitive sealed bid or proposal contracts that exceed the small purchase threshold.

HB1157 - This bill would authorize the department of business, economic development, and tourism (DBEDT) to maintain airfields. It would then also transfer the lease of Kawaihapai Airfield from the department of transportation to DBEDT.

HB1158 - Requires the Department of Transportation to allow its original lease with the U.S. Department of the Army to expire on its agreed upon termination date, no sooner.

HB1159 - Establishes a high school career and technology program focused on aviation and aviation mechanics.

HB1160 - Protects tenants of Kawaihapai Airfield and prohibits the eviction of any tenant until the expiration of the current airfield lease, so long as the tenant remains in good standing.

HB1370 - Establishes an independent authority to be called the Kawaihapai Airfield Authority. This will allow continued use of Kawaihapai airfield for private and commercial use by the state's residents and tourists.

HB1372 - Allows any county to operate or maintain an airport or airfield.

To see the full list of legislation I introduced this session, please visit the legislative website I listed above.

Making any of these ideas a reality will take your help! Submit testimony and engage in the legislative process. And if you have any suggestions, please feel free to share them with me so that we can work together for the long-term health and vitality of our community.

And as always, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns about happenings in our community. You can reach me at (808) 586-9490 or at [repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov).