



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

that will help us get there.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about happenings in our community. Call my office at (808) 586-9490, email me at [RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov), or visit [RepMatsumoto.com](http://RepMatsumoto.com).

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

This legislative session, I focused on several issues that are important to our community. I introduced legislation that covered critical matters such as cost of living, homelessness, health and safety, and government transparency. Government transparency is important not just for my job as a legislator but also for all of the people we represent. Without transparency and accountability, how can we place trust in our government? Since we are all impacted by the decisions that government makes, these decisions should not be made in secret but should have a level of accountability that will improve the decision-making process of lawmakers.

One bill I introduced to increase government transparency was House Bill 1593. This bill has passed all of its house committees and has now crossed over to be heard in the senate. This bill would create a financial database for all state agencies to use, and letting lawmakers know where we can tighten up with the State budget instead of having to increase taxes to have to pay for a government service. Having a uniform database for the finances of all state agencies would allow for accountability between agencies and transparency across the state government entities.

Right now, each agency such as the Department of Health or the Department of Transportation uses different databases to keep track of their projects and spending. We need a uniform financial database system to allow state agencies to collaborate and share information.

This bill would closely align with the governor's initiative to modernize the Enterprise Resource Planning System. This system has made significant strides in improving its human resource and payroll system since its implementation. Creating a uniform financial database system would go hand in hand with this initiative and complement these efforts as agencies across the state work together to improve the lives of each resident of our state.

By using a uniform system, departments, legislators, and the public will be able to access information more quickly, work more efficiently and ultimately save the taxpayer's money. A uniform system will also remove barriers from interagency accountability. This system will allow legislators to make data driven decisions which is important, especially when it comes to fiscal matters. We can't keep resorting to increasing taxation. Instead, we need to evaluate new ways to get more for our money, and a financial database system is the tool