



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

**Aloha Friends and Neighbors!**

We are continuing our journey in this year's legislative session, and I wanted to share a few updates with you as we have passed the midpoint of the session and are headed into the final few weeks. First of all, thank you all who showed up to the Waialua Virtual town halls! Constituent engagement is such an important part of our jobs as legislators, and I'm so grateful to be part of a community that communicates effectively and consistently. On that same note, thank you to all who have participated so far in the mid session survey I sent out! These surveys are extremely important as they help to show the opinions of the constituents for certain hot topics that have arisen during this legislative session. If you haven't yet submitted a survey, please visit my website at [www.repmatsumoto.com](http://www.repmatsumoto.com) and you'll find a link to take the survey! The final day to fill out a survey is on April 16th. I will be posting the results of the survey after that date on my social media and website!

I also wanted to give a quick update on the recovery efforts in Haleiwa and the other areas affected by the horrible flooding this past March. My office collaborated with Representative Quinlan's office and the other legislators to draft a resolution of the affected areas to help address the shortcomings which led to the flooding, and to set in place safeguards moving forward. If you do have any suggestions for improvement, please feel free to email our office at [repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov). During our cleanup effort, my office had the opportunity to partner with various organizations and individuals that immediately jumped in to help the community. We joined the efforts of River of Life Mission in preparing and distributing lunches for those helping with the cleanup, and visited many of the hardest hit sites with Lori Lendio McKeown. We also coordinated aid and recovery efforts with Nate and Heidi Burgoyne from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Waialua, as well as many volunteers from North Shore Christian Fellowship.

After a year of meetings about the future of Kawaihapai (Dillingham) Airfield, we have had several encouraging steps towards potential solutions. Last month, we gathered at the airfield with elected officials from every level of government, the Department of Transportation, the US Army, businesses owners and community stakeholders. Each shared important issues and wisdom in finding a path for-

ward. We are continuing to move forward in discussing creative solutions to secure the future of Kawaihapai Airfield. It is so inspiring to see what is possible when individuals from various groups and backgrounds come together towards one common goal.

We have also received word from the City & County that their new Rent and Utilities Relief Program started on April 5, 2021. Through this program, qualified people on Oahu can pay for their rent and household utility bills for electricity, sewer, water, and gas. This can cover up to 12 months of bills, depending on each individual's financial situation. It is important to note that Landlords can also apply for this program on behalf of renters, if the renters' permission is received. For a list of qualifications and required documents, please visit [oneoahu.org/renthelp](http://oneoahu.org/renthelp).

April is the National Month of Hope, and I thought it would be appropriate to spend some time reflecting on this, especially during this ongoing pandemic. After what may seem like an endless time of despair, there are signs of positivity pointing to a brighter future. Our daily infection numbers are going down, as are hospitalizations and deaths, and the vaccines are being distributed to more portions of the community every day. National Month of Hope is meant to have us pause for a moment and consider the little joys and positive aspects of our otherwise stressful lives, and to help us become aware of our potential to spread hope to those around us through our actions and words.

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](mailto:RepMatsumoto@capitol.Hawaii.gov), or visit [RepMatsumoto.com](http://RepMatsumoto.com)