



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

Aloha friends and neighbors!

Every year I'm so proud of our community's graduates and know that they will go on to accomplish great things. But this year in the midst of a pandemic, our graduates have shown a remarkable resiliency and dedication to their learning. Students have leapt to participate in distance learning, organized virtual campus life graduation activities, and shown that even these difficult times can't dampen their high spirits. If you know a graduate, congratulate them for everything they've done these past few months to finish strong. Graduates, you make your community proud!

I also wanted to provide a quick legislative update as we're back for a short session to pass the budget and some other measures to address the COVID-19 crisis. There are several issues that the legislature has made its priority to ensure that Hawaii is equipped to tackle the pandemic and has a foundation for a quick recovery. First, the legislature is looking at allocating funds in the capital improvement budget (CIP) for shovel-ready construction projects as well

as other investments like a complete overhaul and modernization of the unemployment insurance system. Second, the legislature will be allocating millions of dollars from the \$1.25 billion cash infusion from the federal CARES Act. The allocation will go directly to counties, disaster response, and other programs to help the State respond to the pandemic. Third, we will be passing a supplemental budget like in previous even-number years. The supplemental budget will make adjustments to the operating budget based on updated revenue projections. Finally, as of right now, we are not looking at any pay cuts, especially for teachers and first responders. I've been vocal about working hard to ensure that we don't have any pay cuts for our hard working state employees and I'm happy to announce as of right now in our current budget plan, we don't have any plans to cut public employee pay. Instead, pay raises for government employees, including the legislature, Governor and his cabinet, and other public employees will be frozen. Although other appropriations and measures may pass out of this abbreviated session, this represents the bulk of the legislature's priorities to help our state combat the economic and public health crisis brought on by the pandemic.

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).