



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

**Aloha friends and neighbors!**

As we're heading into another month of Stay at Home to keep the curve flat and to slow the spread of COVID-19, I want to share several updates about the things that my office and I have been working on including #malamamasks, Kawaihapai (Dillingham) Airfield, my brand new Hawaii Government Activity Book, Midsession Survey Results, and a special Mother's Day message.

First, in this Mother's Day issue, I want to honor my mother, Sharon Cheape, who has been one of my biggest inspirations throughout my life and career. In fact, during this difficult time her fearlessness and dedication to running the family egg farm is what inspired me to start the #malamamasks drive to protect essential workers like her who are vital throughout our communities. I wouldn't be the woman I am today if not for my mom. Take time this Mother's Day to honor the mothers in your life!

Our #malamamasks project has been so successful that I've partnered with my husband's family's business, Hawaii Mercantile, and some sewing professionals to produce 5,000 additional masks to the 2,000 that have already been sewn by community members. Because of the generosity and support of our community members, we've already provided thousands of masks to essential workers, including the entire Honolulu Fire Department!

Another exciting development for our community is the recently announced deadline extension for Kawaihapai (Dillingham) Airfield. On April 15, the Hawaii Department of Transportation announced that they would be extending the lease termination date to June 30, 2021 because of the COVID-19 crisis. This extension gives operators, me and my fellow legislators, and other advocates important time to pursue long-term solutions. I look forward to pursuing legislative action to preserve general aviation during the 2021 legislative session.

As families are working and learning from home during this time, parents are more aware than ever of the need to keep our kids occupied while also providing them with valuable learning experiences. My office, through months of hard work as well as the contributions of an incredibly talented cartoonist, has developed a brand new Hawaii Government Activity Book. It's filled with fun activities for kids to learn about the branches of government, the legislative process, and so much more. The difficulty level is targeted for kids around the 3rd Grade,

but kids of all ages can benefit from the content inside! You can download a copy from my website at RepMatsumoto.com or email RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov to request a digital copy.

I also want to extend a huge mahalo to everyone who responded to my 2020 Midsession Survey. Thank you for making your voice heard even though the Legislature is currently recessed. You should be receiving another mailer soon with more detailed survey results, but I wanted to share some early data that the community provided about certain issues:

82% responded "Yes" when asked whether the State should prohibit foreign nationals and businesses from buying residential properties older than five years old. (SB 3110)

70% responded "Yes" when asked whether the minimum wage should be increased to \$13 per hour by January 1, 2023. (HB 2541)

72% responded "No" when asked whether the State should change the penalty for possession of less than two grams of illegal drugs (cocaine, heroin, meth, etc.) from a felony to a misdemeanor. (SB 2793)

82% responded "No" when asked whether 16 and 17 year olds should be allowed to vote in local and State elections. (SB 4)

Representative governments like ours work best when its citizens make their voices heard about some of the most pressing issues in our community. Your feedback helps inform the way I vote and make decisions in the Legislature. Thank you again for your feedback and please be on the lookout for more complete survey analysis in an upcoming mailer and on my website at RepMatsumoto.com.

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.