



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

Aloha friends and Neighbors!

In the last issue we congratulated our community's graduates who have overcome so much this year to finish their high school educations. Their perseverance during this difficult time should be an inspiration to us all. In addition to the high school graduates, I also want to congratulate the sixth graders from Waialua Elementary School! I especially want to honor the six students from Waialua Elementary School who were chosen by their teachers to receive this year's Character Awards. The students demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the six pillars of character: citizenship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and caring. I got to see these amazing students when I presented certificates from the Legislature to them at their drive through ceremony. It's great to see students from our community exhibiting these outstanding character traits even at an early age.

Another pillar of our community is celebrating a graduation of her own. Lori McKeown is celebrating her retirement after over 30 years of teaching in the Department of Education. Lori was born and raised in Waialua and herself attended Waialua Elementary School. She has held multiple positions outside of her role as teacher, including with the Technology for Teachers Program Coordinator and Office of Informational and Technology services. She is described by her colleagues as an educator who is passionate about her students and has continually gone above and beyond, starting multiple academies to teach students about journalism, entrepreneurship, photography, and coordinated many career shadow trips. Congratulations Lori for everything you've done for this community - you will be missed at Waialua Elementary!

I also want to update you on the important legislation we recently passed to address our State budget and economy. I'm happy to say that as of recess on May 21, 2020, we passed a budget that didn't raise taxes, cut public employee salaries, or take any further drastic measures. Instead, we passed several major pieces of legislation to address COVID-19 and lay the groundwork for a quick economic recovery. First, we funded shovel-ready capital improvement projects and a complete overhaul and modernization of the unemployment insurance system. Second, the legislature allocated money from Hawaii's \$1.25 billion Federal CARES Act cash infusion to go directly to counties, disaster

response, and other programs to help us respond to the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Third, the Judiciary's funding bill was passed containing an important provision to require reporting and accountability to the Legislature of all inmates released under the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision. Community safety must be our number one priority and since there have been no cases of COVID-19 in our jails, the Judiciary must take a hard look at whether inmate release is in our community's best interests. Fourth, we passed a bill freezing pay raises for legislators, the Governor and his cabinet, and other public employees. Finally, we also passed a supplemental budget like in other even-numbered years. Due to the hard work of the State Council on Revenues and the House Finance Committee, we were able to pass a balanced budget that funds necessary priorities without cutting salaries. Complete information about the legislation passed during the May reconvening can be found at capitol.hawaii.gov.

Thank you for everything you're doing to keep our community safe, flatten the curve, and prepare for a dynamic economic recovery. Whether it's the wonderful people I volunteered with at the Hawaii Food Bank, the essential workers who have kept our restaurants and grocery stores operational, or the dedicated stay-at-home residents who flattened the curve, you have each been doing your part to ensure Hawaii has some of the country's lowest COVID-19 infection and death rates. From my family to yours, a big mahalo for working together and showing the world just what the Aloha spirit can do. As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns about happenings in our community. You can reach me at (808) 586-9490 or at [at.repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov).