



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

Aloha friends and neighbors!

The Legislature started meeting again on Monday, June 22 to finish out all 60 days of the 2020 Legislative session. Although we're in the midst of finishing some hearings and considering others for conference committee, we will be working on measures to address the economy as well as other important issues like sunset dates. We're live-streaming all committee hearings and floor sessions on Olelo Community media since the Capitol is still closed to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Please visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov), [olelo.org](http://olelo.org), or email my office at [RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov) if you have any questions about bills or hearings during the rest of the 2020 session.

During the last few months I have been coordinating with members of the community to donate fabric masks for essential workers. The community was so generous that we have more masks to give out! Now that more businesses are opening back up, I would like to continue to provide free masks for those going back to work so we can keep the curve flat! Please email my office if your business needs masks at [repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov). We will do our best to fulfill all requests until supplies run out.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is on the top of our minds, don't forget that this is also hurricane season. Each year from June to November it is important for all of us to have a plan set in place to keep ourselves and our families safe. While we do not know how many storms will affect Hawaii, we should be fully prepared in case one strikes!

To learn more about how to create a disaster preparedness plan, both the City and County of Honolulu and the Hawaii State websites have information that will prove helpful. The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management website at [www.honolulu.gov/dem](http://www.honolulu.gov/dem) and the State of Hawaii Department of Emergency Management website at [dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/](http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/) are both convenient resources to find sample preparation plans, review evacuation maps, and receive emergency notifications!

Once a hurricane warning is issued we have less than 36 hours to finish preparations or, if instructed by authorities, evacuate the area. A day and a half can go by quickly, so it is vital to have what you need and a plan set in place before the warning is issued. Start storing items such as food and water today!

To prepare your home, please consult the

"Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards" – a free publication that can be accessed on line at <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/homeowners-handbook-to-prepare-for-natural-hazards/> The Red Cross suggests having the following items:

- Water and non-perishable food for 14 days
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medication (14 day supply)
- Multi-Purpose tool
- Personal hygiene items
- Extra clothing
- Copies of personal documents
- Cell phone with chargers
- Emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Maps of the area
- Tools/Supplies for securing your home
- Extra set of car and house keys
- Insect repellent and sunscreen

Make sure to have a plan for your pets as well! Find pet-friendly housing on your evacuation route. If you stay home, ensure your pets are indoors and unable to escape. Prepare an emergency kit for them including food and water bowls, vet records/contacts, food and water, litter/box/waste bags, medications, leashes, and collars.

Don't forget about fun things too! Books, board games, or a battery-powered laptop or DVD player will help you pass the time indoors. Go to [www.redcross.org/get-help](http://www.redcross.org/get-help) for helpful guides and other information to help you prepare for emergencies. Don't let a storm turn into a disaster. Be informed, plan, and prepare so that you and your family will be safe this hurricane season!

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 [repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov).