



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

Aloha friends and neighbors!

The 2020 legislative session came to an end July 10. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our usual session schedule, we were able to finish strong and address some of the major concerns for Hawaii residents during a time of uncertainty. The session's primary theme became distributing Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds and adjusting the state's budget to respond to the decrease in state revenue due to a pause in tourism.

Two bills were passed through the legislature in order to supplement the economic shortfall and support families and businesses. SB 75 and SB 126 ensure that CARES Act money will help provide assistance to renters and homeowners, small businesses and schools. It will also help purchase and distribute necessary equipment to hospitals, childcare facilities, elderly care facilities, businesses, non-profits, and schools for personal health protection as well as food assistance for families in need. Funding helps to improve health screenings at the airport to continue to ensure the safety of our communities. Funds will also go to support additional weekly unemployment benefits to eligible recipients, and other programs as determined by the Governor.

The state's finances will continue to be considered in the coming months and will be of primary importance in the upcoming legislative session next year. This has been a very difficult time for our community, but I am confident that we can work together to make up for what was lost and diversify our economy so that we will be stronger than before. Government programs will continue to work hard to meet the needs of Hawaii residents through unemployment insurance, small business assistance, and investment in schools and infrastructure.

In total, 78 bills were passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor to consider signing into law this session. The following are notable bills that were passed by the legislature this session and sent to the Governor for his consideration.

HB2148 extended Hawaii Family Leave plans to include grandchildren allowing grandparents to take leave to assist with their grandchildren's care.

HB2425 expands the definition of domestic abuse to include coercive control. Coercive control is defined as a pattern of threatening, humiliating, or intimidating actions. This behavior seeks to take

away the individual's liberty or freedom and strip away their sense of self, forcing them to become dependent on their abuser. This bill will allow for greater protection of those seeking help from dangerous circumstances.

HB117 was passed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, freezing pay increases for members of the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative branches, including all elected members of the legislature. This will allow budget spending to prioritize areas affected by the pandemic.

I am proud to be an introducer and co-signer on HB 2054 and HB 2060, two bills which protect both employees in their workplace and protects victims of domestic abuse from retaliation when reporting abuse and harassment.

To read about these bills and more you can visit the Hawaii State Legislature website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns about happenings in our community. If you have any questions as to why I voted a certain way on a bill, please do not hesitate to contact my office and ask for clarification. You can reach me at (808) 586-9490 or at repmatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov or visit repmatsumoto.com