



*Trish* **LACHICA**  
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 37  
 MILILANI • WAIPI'O GENTRY • KOA RIDGE



**FOLLOW US!**  
 @reptrishlachica



Hawai'i State Capitol  
 415 S. Beretania Street, Room 441  
 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Office of Rep. La Chica**  
 808-586-6150  
[replachica@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:replachica@capitol.hawaii.gov)



*Trish* **LACHICA**  
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 37  
 MILILANI • WAIPI'O GENTRY • KOA RIDGE



SCAN ME



**MILILANI SHOW ALOHA PUBLIC SAFETY SIGN WAVING**

Mahalo to all our community and student volunteers who participated in our Show Aloha Public Safety Sign Waving on February 10th at the Mililani High School—it was a **huge success!** Your energy and commitment to public safety make a real impact. If you would like to help organize a Show Aloha Public Safety event in your neighborhood, please reach out to our office!



**Aloha Neighbor,**

The 2025 Legislative Session is in full swing, with **1,503 House Bills introduced** as we work to address our State's most pressing challenges. On February 11th, I had the privilege of Chairing the Education Committee to advance key legislation that will expand free school meals to **tackle food insecurity for our keiki** and **treat student transportation as critical infrastructure** to ensure every child has safe and reliable access to school.

In this newsletter, you'll find my **Community-Driven Legislative Bill Package** and the results of our Cost of Living Survey, where residents shared their biggest financial challenges. Your input continues to shape my work at the Capitol, and I remain focused on delivering real solutions that make Hawai'i more affordable for working families.

As always, if my office can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're always here to help!

With Aloha,  
*Trish*  
 Rep. Trish La Chica



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER • WHAT'S INSIDE:



Survey Results on  
 Hawai'i's Cost of Living

TLC's 2025  
 Legislative Bill Package

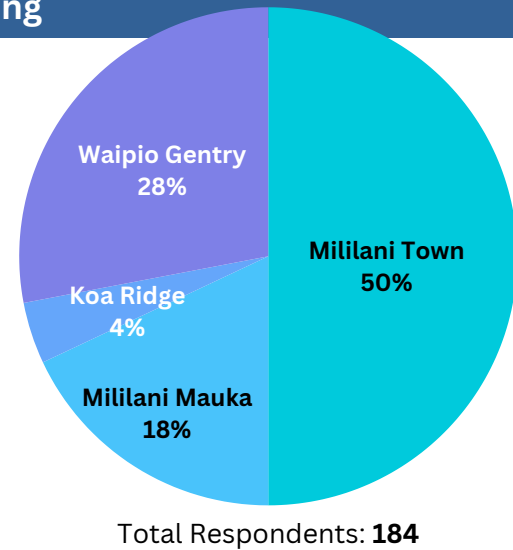




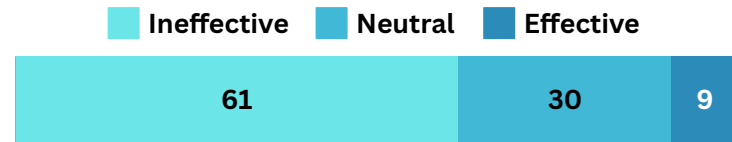
## Your Voice Matters: Survey Results on Hawai'i's Cost of Living

Last month, I sent out a district-wide survey on the biggest affordability challenges affecting our community. **184 residents responded**, and here are some key takeaways:

- 60% feel the State has been ineffective in tackling affordability issues.
- 1 in 5 are unsure if they can afford to stay in Hawai'i.
- Nearly half worry about safety, education, and future opportunities for our keiki.
- Housing, insurance, and healthcare ranked as the top affordability challenges.

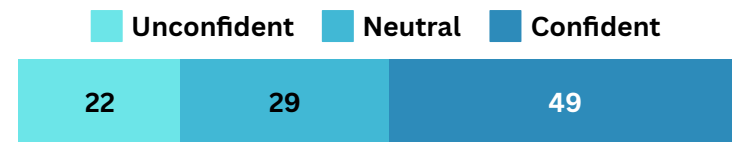


### 1. State Government's Efforts on Cost of Living



- When asked how effective Hawai'i's state government has been in addressing the cost of living, **a strong majority (60%) expressed dissatisfaction.**
- These results highlight a clear frustration among residents, reinforcing the urgent need for **bolder action** to tackle Hawai'i's high cost of living.

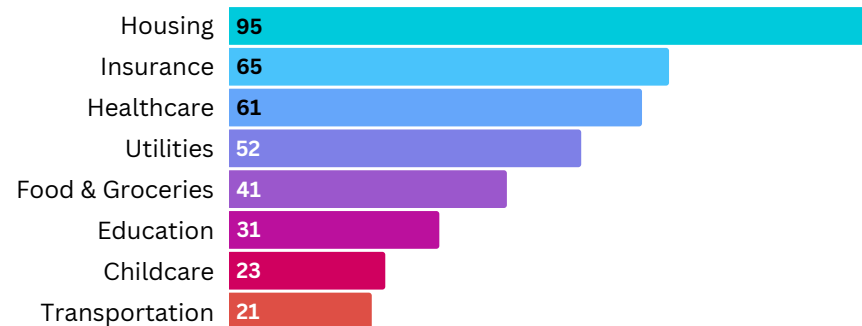
### 2. Commitment to Staying in Hawai'i



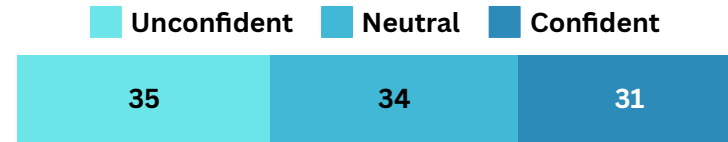
- When asked if respondents felt confident that they and their 'ohana can continue living in Hawai'i for the next five years given current affordability challenges, responses were mixed but **revealed some uncertainty (22%).**
- While nearly half (49%) remain hopeful about staying in Hawai'i, the fact that **one in five respondents doubts their ability to afford to stay** underscores the ongoing financial pressures on local families.

### 5. Top Affordability Challenges

Respondents were asked to rank their biggest affordability challenges, and the results make it clear: **housing remains the top financial burden for local families.** Here's how many people ranked each category as their **#1 affordability challenge**:

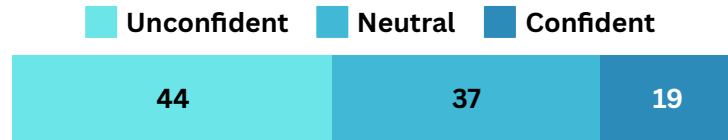


### 3. Navigating Cost of Living



- When asked how confident respondents felt about managing Hawai'i's high cost of living with available resources and support, responses show that **many families are struggling to keep up.**
- With over a third (35%) of respondents feeling unconfident, it's clear that current support systems aren't reaching everyone.

### 4. Safety for Keiki



- When asked about respondents' confidence in the safety, education, and future opportunities for Hawai'i's keiki, the results reveal **deep concerns about the path ahead for our children.**
- Nearly half of respondents (43%) are unconfident, **highlighting major worries about safety, education quality, and future prospects.**



I'm proud to share with you highlights of my community-driven 2025 bill package, reflecting our priorities. Several key measures are still actively making their way through the legislative process. **Mahalo to all who have been sending in testimony** - your voices are helping to drive these bills forward!

Learn how to submit testimony here: <https://bit.ly/TLC-submit-testimony>

Category	Bill Number	Description
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD	SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTS HB861	Designates student transportation as critical infrastructure, reforming school bus contracts with contingency plans and accountability measures.
	EXPANDING SCHOOL BUS OPTIONS HB862	Allows motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school transportation, expanding driver availability.
	FARM TO SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM HB328	Enables local farm-to-school meal programs and a weekly plant-based meal option by 2026.
	FREE SCHOOL LUNCH PILOT HB335	Launches a two-year pilot to provide free school lunch for all DOE students starting in 2025.
	SCHOOL FACILITIES DATABASE HB636	Creates a public database to track school facility repairs and ensure efficient use of taxpayer funds.
	TEACHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES FUND HB863	Allocates \$3M for teacher-requested classroom supplies, easing their financial burden.
	EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITIES HB329	Empowers the School Facilities Authority to accelerate pre-K facility development through partnerships.
	STUDENT WORKERS' COMPENSATION HB864	Ensures DOE summer interns are covered by workers' compensation.
	STUDENT MEDICATION ACCESS HB1499	Allows trained school staff to administer medication when health assistants are unavailable.
	DYSLEXIA SCREENING & SUPPORT HB637	Requires DOE to implement dyslexia screenings, interventions, and teacher training in structured literacy.
HOUSING AND TENANT PROTECTION	INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HB1474	Creates a three-year pilot providing up to \$5,000 in relief for homeowners facing rising insurance costs.
	CONDO HEALTH & SAFETY REPAIRS HB336	Requires condo associations to fix health and safety violations; unit owners can make repairs if associations fail.
	REUSABLE SCREENING REPORTS HB638	Prevents landlords from charging renters multiple fees for background checks when reusable reports are provided.
PUBLIC SAFETY	E-BIKE SAFETY REGULATIONS HB435	Updates e-bike laws classifying them by speed, raising the rider age to 16, requiring disclosures for buyers, and requiring clearer regulations.
	LITHIUM-ION BATTERY RECYCLING HB332	Expands Hawai'i's recycling program to include lithium-ion batteries, reducing fire and environmental risks.
	RED LIGHT CAMERAS IN SCHOOL ZONES HB1231	Prioritizes installing red light cameras in school zones and directs fines to the Safe Routes to School Program.
	GROUNDWATER PROTECTION HB1228	Prohibits new waste facilities near key aquifers, allowing exemptions only under strict environmental safeguards.
	AI CHATBOT DISCLOSURE HB639	Requires businesses to disclose when consumers are interacting with AI, preventing deception and data misuse.