

Trish LACHICA

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



SCAN ME



Aloha Neighbor,

I hope you're enjoying your summer and staying well. This month, Governor Green finalized his list of vetoes and signed 313 bills into law. While I was disappointed to see the veto of HB958, a bill to strengthen e-bike regulations, due to constitutional and clean energy concerns raised by the administration, I know this remains a top priority for our community, and it's one I'll keep fighting for next session.

On a brighter note, I'm thrilled to share that **HB1231**, one of my bills, was signed into law! Now Act 212, this law establishes the **largest dedicated funding source for the Safe Routes to School program**, and in our district, we're advocating for much-needed improvements near **Mililani High School** along Mehe'ula Parkway and **Kipapa Elementary School** by Kuahelani Avenue, where increased speeding has become a growing community concern.

Check out more updates below - including my visit to D.C., community events, and a chance to weigh in on the proposed gondola project in the North Shore.

In Service,

Trish

Representative Trish La Chica



JULY 2025 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD DIGEST



Legislative Updates

Bill Signings



Community Updates



Road & Parking Updates

Legislative Updates

2025 Hawai'i's Legislative Session Highlights

This year's session (Jan 15 – May 2) was marked by meaningful progress in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, education, and public safety. Here's a snapshot of significant laws enacted:

- **ACT 243 (HB1483) Stricter Fireworks Regulations**
 - Increases penalties and speeds prosecution of illegal fireworks offenses to boost public safety.
- **ACT 96 (SB1396) Green Tourism Fee**
 - Increases the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) from 9.25% to 10% for hotels and resorts, and extends this to cruise fares, making Hawaii the first state to link this new revenue directed toward climate change mitigation, natural resource protection, and sustainable tourism projects.
- **ACT 139 (SB1300) Expanded Free School Meals**
 - Extends free meals to qualifying DOE students in FY2025–26, and expands access to families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level the following year.
- **ACT 310 (SB933) Nonprofits Funding**
 - Provides \$50 million in state funding to help Hawai'i nonprofits continue delivering essential services like health care, child care, housing, and homelessness support in light of major federal funding cuts.
- **ACT 296 (SB1044) Hurricane Relief Fund Reinstatement**
 - Reopens the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund to back up the private market during insurance shortfalls, creates a condo loan program to help associations address deferred maintenance, and strengthens state oversight and reinsurance tools to stabilize Hawaii's property insurance market.
- **ACT 301 (HB1001) Maui Wildfire Settlement Trust Fund**
 - Creates the Maui Wildfires Settlement Trust Fund and commits \$807.5 million over four years to provide timely compensation to victims of the 2023 Maui wildfires as part of a \$4 billion multi-party settlement.
- **ACT 302 (HB1064) Fire Safety & Fire Marshall Reform**
 - Creates the Office of the State Fire Marshal to lead wildfire prevention and response statewide, enforce fire safety standards, coordinate across agencies and implementing key recommendations from the Maui fire investigation.

2025 BILLS SPOTLIGHT



Building a Better Path to Success!

Gov. Josh Green Signs Law for Safe Routes to School

I'm thrilled to share that my bill, **HB1231, now Act 212** was signed into law on June 25, 2025! This landmark measure create the **largest dedicated funding source for the Safe Routes to School program**, supporting critical infrastructure like raised crosswalks and flashing beacons to help students walk, bike or roll to school safety. Advocates are calling it the "Biggest Legislative win for transportation equity in 2025" and I'm grateful to all who submitted testimony!





New Laws for Our Keiki!


On July 7, 2025, Governor Josh Green signed Act 297 (HB613) into law, **making the Safe Spaces for Youth program permanent**. This program provides shelter, meals, healthcare, education, and job training for homeless youth across all counties in Hawai'i. The Legislature appropriated nearly \$2.7 million over two years to support the program - a major step toward breaking the cycle of homelessness and uplifting our most vulnerable young people.

Community Updates

COMMUNITY FORUM INVITATION

 Wednesday, July 30, 2025


 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

 Leilehua High School Cafeteria

Your voice matters—please join us!

A large-scale development proposal - **the Kamananui gondola project** - seeks to build a sky gondola spanning a portion of Mount Ka’ala. **You’re invited to a public forum** hosted by the Neighborhood Commission Office and Neighborhood Boards 25, 26, 27, and 35 to learn more. The proposed route, between Kaukonahu’a Road and Mount Ka’ala, has sparked serious concerns due to the lack of community consultation and the absence of an environmental assessment.

PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS OPEN ENROLLMENT

 Preschool Open Doors (POD) is now accepting applications for the 2025–2026 school year! This program helps eligible families afford preschool for their 3- and 4-year-olds (and 2-year olds beginning January 2026!). Give your keiki a strong start—apply today!

PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS

First-Come, First-Served application period for the 2025-2026 School Year is open now!



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
Phone: 808-791-2130
Toll Free: 1-800-746-5620
www.patchhawaii.org

Deadline: January 31, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

MILILANI MAUKA PHASE 24 ROAD REHABILITATION

Phase 1

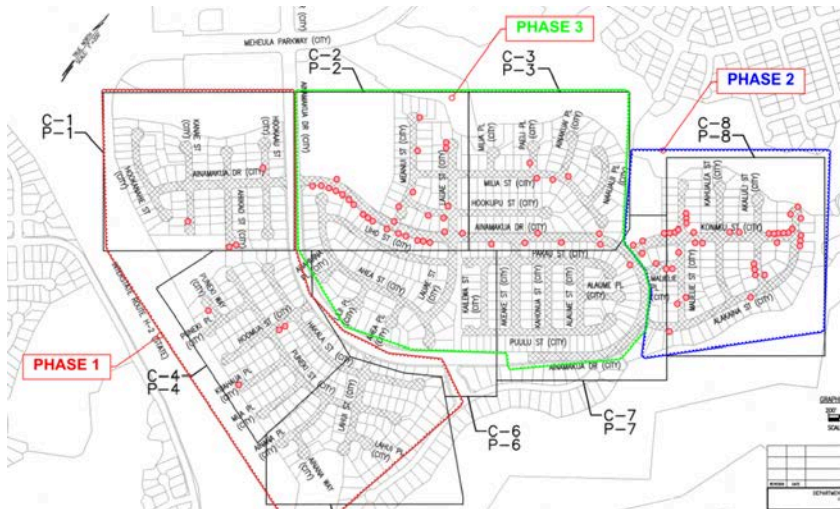
Late November 2025 - Mid January 2026

Phase 2

Late January 2026 - Late February 2026

Phase 3

Late February 2026 - Mid May 2026



 Starting July 2025, a 16-month road rehabilitation project will begin in Mililani Mauka to enhance local streets. Work will take place **Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM** (excluding holidays), with lane closures, detours, and **no parking in designated areas – violators will be towed**. Please follow posted signs, detour routes, and instructions from Special Duty Police Officers. Mahalo for your patience as we work toward safer, smoother roads for our community! Learn more: bit.ly/D37maukaroads

Taking Action

We continue to assist with constituent requests. Here are a few highlights from the past month:

- Addressed illegal dumping and encampments in and around Kipapa Gulch
- Assisted with H-2 Metal Plate removal and repaving
- Addressed Feral Chicken populations
- Addressed grass overgrowth along Kamehameha Hwy
- Requesting assistance with getting a guardrail and ramp installed at a town home
- Addressed trespassing incidents and homeless encampments



Big ideas, bright smiles, and plenty of heart - grateful for the visit from students in the **Kalihi Palama Settlement summer program!** I loved hearing their hopes for the school year and their dedication to making a difference in their community.



What a farm-tastic weekend at the **Hawai'i State Farm Fair!** I helped run the admissions gate and loved seeing families celebrate our local ag community!



I was honored to join fellow young lawmakers from across the country in Washington D.C. for the 2025 Future Summit, as part of my role as a 2025–26 Energy & Environment Fellow with the Future Caucus Innovation Fellowship. This national, nonpartisan program brings together 63 emerging lawmakers from 34 states to work across party lines on bold, practical solutions - like building climate resilience and modernizing our energy systems.



99% of wildfires in Hawai'i are human-caused and largely preventable through proactive measures . When combined with drought conditions, the risk to both lives and land increases significantly . Here are some simple steps we can all take to reduce wildfire risk and protect our community:

- 🏡 Mow and weed around your property regularly
- 🍁 Remove leaf litter & debris from rain gutters, storm drains & fence lines
- 🌳 Prune tree branches to at least 6 feet above the ground
- 🔥 Remove flammable materials from under buildings

To learn more visit hwmo.org/ready-set-go



Meet Stella



Stella Adeyemi
OFFICE INTERN

Aloha! I'm majoring in Public Health with an interest in Health Policy and Medicine, and I'm also a Junior Outside Hitter for UH Mānoa who enjoys spending free time with friends and going to the beach 🌺

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WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Our office takes great pride in working on various issues important to our community. If you need assistance, please contact our office:

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