



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



SCAN ME



Aloha Neighbor,

October has been a month full of inspiration and community pride — from celebrating **Filipino American History Month** and joining city leaders to raise the Philippine flag, to seeing our community shine at the **Mililani Homecoming Parade**.

This month's newsletter highlights how Hawai'i is moving toward a more sustainable and connected future — from exploring **agrivoltaics in Mililani**, to learning from Boulder Valley's regional kitchen model, to **supporting locally sourced school meals** that nourish our keiki and strengthen our agricultural economy.

I've also had the privilege of visiting schools across our district and witnessing incredible programs — like **Ewa Ho'akea**, where students learn Hawaiian culture from mauka to makai — that remind us what's possible when we invest in hands-on learning and the next generation.

Finally, I want to hear what matters most to you. Please take a few minutes to complete our **Pre-Legislative Survey** — your ideas help shape the work I do at the Capitol.

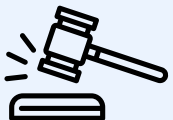
In service,

Trish ❤️

Rep. Trish La Chica



OCTOBER 2025 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD DIGEST



Interim Updates



Community Updates



Local School Meals



Pre-Legislative Survey

Interim Updates

Nourishing Hawai‘i’s Future: Lessons from Boulder Valley

Earlier this month, I joined a Hawai‘i delegation led by **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz** and the **Department of Education** on a visit to Boulder Valley, Colorado, to learn from their nationally recognized Culinary Center and regional food system. The district’s model connects local farms to school cafeterias, offering fresh, scratch-cooked meals. These insights will help advance the Nourishing Hawai‘i’s Future initiative to **build regional kitchens** that strengthen food security, create local jobs, and provide healthy, locally grown meals for our keiki.



Tasting the Future of Hawai‘i’s School Meals

I joined the Nourishing Hawai‘i’s Future Working Group, CIP-CIA, and HIDOE for the first School Meal Menu Tasting, sampling locally inspired dishes like this delicious kampachi poke bowl!

With input from Mililani students based on surveys collected last year, these tastings will help create 50 recipes using locally grown ingredients—shaping the future of healthy, homegrown school meals in Hawai‘i.



PBS Insights: Federal Impacts on Education

On October 2, I joined Deputy Superintendent Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, Paula Adams from the Hawai‘i Afterschool Alliance, and Logan Okita from HSTA on PBS Insights to discuss **how federal funding cuts** — from education to Medicaid and SNAP — could **affect Hawai‘i’s families**.

These programs ensure kids have the support, food, and stability they need to thrive in school.

Watch the full episode:

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/managing-federal-education-cuts-insights-on-pbs-hawaii/>



Cultural Connections at Ewa Ho‘akea!

We had the chance to witness the incredible work of the Ewa Ho‘akea program, a HIDOE initiative that teaches Hawaiian culture from mauka to makai through **hands-on learning** that connects students to their heritage and environment. We even had the opportunity to ride the Wa‘a Ka‘ihekauila! Mahalo to the crew and cultural practitioners for sharing their knowledge and aloha, and for inspiring our community to carry forward these traditions of mālama i ke kai and mālama ‘āina.

Community Updates

Exploring Agrivoltaics in Mililani

Mahalo to the more than two dozen community members and school leaders who joined our Agrivoltaics Research Site tour at Clearway's Mililani Solar Farm! We explored how **community solar can support growing fruits and vegetables locally**—all while generating clean energy. Attendees took home fresh cilantro and sampled mamaki iced tea grown on-site. Big mahalo to the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center (HARC) for an engaging tour showcasing how we can diversify crops and support locally grown foods for our school meals.



Celebrating Excellence in Education!

It was an honor to join Governor Josh Green and First Lady Jaime Kanani Green in recognizing **Christopher Justo, the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex Area 2025 Teacher of the Year**. Mr. Justo has inspired countless students through hands-on agricultural learning, from building a thriving hydroponics greenhouse to leading forest restoration projects. Congratulations to Mr. Justo—and to Elise Finnigan of Kea'au High School, this year's Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year!

Family Fun at the Mililani Homecoming Parade!

Our family had a blast participating again in this year's Mililani Homecoming Parade and getting into the festive spirit as Dogman! It was so much fun seeing the community come together with creative costumes, decorated floats, and being greeted by so many families.

Mahalo to all the students, families, and neighbors who joined in the celebration. Events like this remind us how special our community is!



Learning in Action at Kanoelani Elementary School

Each year, I conduct regular visits to all our area schools serving our district. First on our list was Kanoelani Elementary School to see the progress being made on our state investments and learn about the ways we can improve our school facilities, academic programs, and support our teachers and school staff.

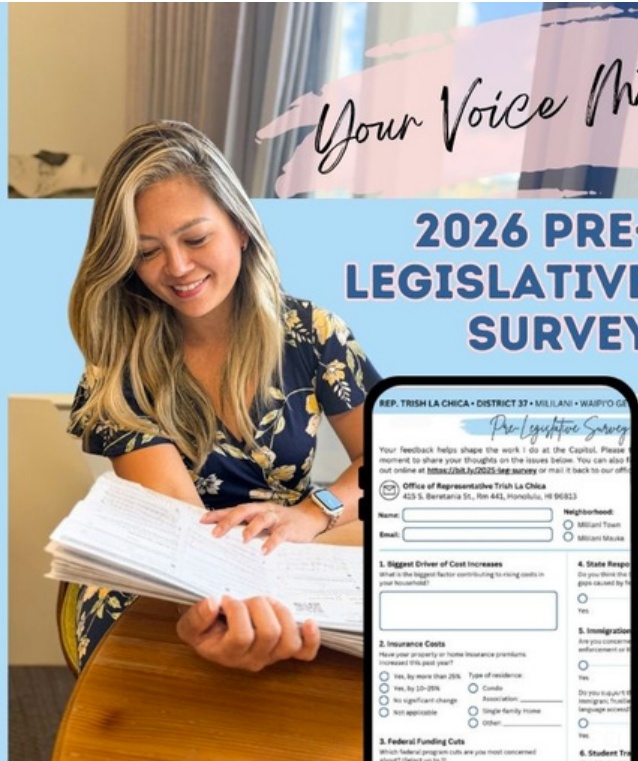
A big mahalo to Principal Neil Blomberg and the entire Kanoelani 'ohana for welcoming us and for their outstanding work in supporting student success, including excellent attendance .

Your Voice Matters!

2026 PRE-LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

Visit reptrishlachica.com or scan to take the Online Survey:





We Want to Hear From You!

Don't miss your chance to respond to our 2026 Pre-Legislative Survey to help inform my work at the Capitol this upcoming Legislative Session.

We've already started drafting bills for the 2026 Legislative Session and we want to hear what's important to you. Please take a few minutes to participate by scanning the QR code or visiting reptrishlachica.com to complete the survey.

Celebrating Filipino American History Month 🇵🇭



October marks Filipino American History Month!

- Oct. 25 | 4–8 PM: Join us for our Festival finale on with live performances, marketplace, and our headliner Ruby Ibarra’s Tiny Desk–winning band and now, Grammy-nominated artist!
- visit FiliRooted.com for tickets. It’s free!

Raising the Philippine Flag. Rep. La Chica joined Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Consul General Arman Talbo, and other city leaders to raise the Philippine flag, honoring Philippine heritage and the significant contributions of Hawaiʻi’s Filipino community.

Kamayan Filipino Lunch at Capitol Modern
We had the pleasure of savoring the amazing meal put together by Chef Nui Kealoha and Chef Jules Rodriguez for a special Kamayan lunch at Capitol Modern. We enjoyed a delicious meal eaten *kamayan style* (by hand), featuring Pampanga-inspired dishes such as sisig, kare-kare, grilled fish, burong mangga, halo-halo and more!





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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