



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



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SCAN ME



Dear Neighbors,

The 2026 legislative session concluded during a time of rising costs, federal uncertainty, and continued recovery from severe weather events across our state.

This year the Legislature passed 268 bills out of more than 2,459 bills introduced by the House and Senate. Among the measures awaiting Governor's signature are bills I strongly championed: SB3001, establishing some of the nation's first **protections for minors interacting with AI chatbots** and HB1785, helping DOE respond faster to **prolonged school bus service disruptions**.

I'm also grateful to have helped secure **\$48 million in investments for District 37 and Central O'ahu**, including improvements for our public schools, roadway safety projects, UH West O'ahu, and the Mililani Public Library, along with funding for organizations supporting literacy, mental health, healthcare access, and youth programs in our community.

Mahalo once again for your trust and for the wonderful opportunity to continue serving our Mililani, Waipi'o Gentry, and Koa Ridge community.

With warmest aloha,

Trish ❤️

Trish La Chica
 Representative, House District 37
 Assistant Majority Floor Leader
 Vice Chair, Committee on Education



Celebrating Our Keiki: From May Day to Graduation Day!

One of my favorite times of the year is attending May Day celebrations and graduations across our district and seeing the incredible talent, hard work, and spirit of our students. **Congratulations to all of our graduates and students moving on to the next chapter** - your future is bright, and our community is proud of you!



Leeward Community College
 Commencement Ceremony



Kanoelani Elementary
 Spring Showcase
 Colors of Kanoelani



Isabella Acosta and Mia Ha-Rozewski, Pearl City HS
 Valedictorians



Mililani Uka May Day



Mililani Waena Songfest
 Aloha Kekahi I Kekahi
 Love One Another

MAY/JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER • WHAT'S INSIDE:



Capital Improvement Projects



Bills and Resolutions: What Passed



Legislative Grant-in-Aid



Community Updates

Capital Improvement Projects

Investments for Our District

I am so grateful to have worked with my colleagues at the Legislature to secure **\$48 million in capital improvements** for District 37 and Central Oahu:

\$ 1.25M **Mililani Public Library**
Much needed improvements for the Mililani Public Library.

\$ 4M **Waiawa Correctional Facility Wastewater Improvements**
Replaces failing sewage infrastructure.

\$18.6M **Kamehameha Highway – Mililani to Pearl City,**
including repaving from Ka Uka Blvd. to Waipahu St.

\$ 9.5M **UH West O’ahu Modernization**
Campus-wide upgrades and repairs for UH West O’ahu.

\$ 12.8M



\$ 1.85M

Public School Improvements:

- Planning & Design for **Koa Ridge Elementary School**
- Resurfacing the **Kanoelani Elementary’s parking lot.**
- Upgrades to **Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex school kitchens** to expand local school meals production and service.
- A new **kindergarten playground** at Mililani Waena Elementary
- New **covered play courts** at Mililani High School
- **Kamehameha Highway – Kipapa Gulch Bridge Fencing**

Legislative Grant-in-Aid

Each year, the Legislature’s Grant-In-Aid (GIA) process helps support community organizations delivering important public services. This year, we successfully advocated for **\$1.55M in funding for our community organizations** serving Central Oahu families:

IMPACT CHANGE – BUILDING BLOCKS HAWAII (\$150K)	Supports early literacy and kindergarten readiness programs for low-income preschool-aged children and families in Central O’ahu
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES WITH ALOHA (\$50K)	Provides mentorship, after-school enrichment, tutoring, and leadership programs that create safe, positive spaces for youth in Central O’ahu.
COHEN CLINIC AT ENDEAVORS MILILANI (\$150K)	Expands access to mental health counseling and support services for veterans, active-duty military members, and their families.
HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION (\$500K)	Funds critical repairs and facility improvements at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipi’o.
WAHIAWA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (\$700K)	Supports pediatric clinic renovations and food as medicine programs to improve long-term health outcomes for Central O’ahu children and families.

Expanding Public Pre-K Access

Two new public pre-kindergarten classrooms are being added at Lehua Elementary and Mililani Mauka Elementary through the State’s Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) program, which provides free public pre-K for qualifying families.

- Cost: Free for qualifying families
- Age: Children must be 3 or 4 years old by July 31
- Priority Enrollment: Given to families at or below 300% of the federal poverty level and other qualifying categories

Learn more: EarlyLearning.hawaii.gov



Bills

I’m excited to share **two measures** we’ve been championing all session have **passed final reading** and are now headed to **Governor Green’s desk for signature!**

SB3001

The Artificial Intelligence Disclosure and Safety Act requires AI chatbot platforms like ChatGPT and Meta AI to disclose when users are interacting with AI – with added protections for minors and protocols that route users expressing suicidal ideation toward crisis resources.

HB1785

School Bus Contracting lets the Department of Education hire a replacement contractor and assess penalties when a school bus operator misses five or more consecutive instructional days on a route – preventing further disruptions that leave students without reliable transportation options.

Community Updates

DISTRICT 37 EARTH DAY CONTEST WINNER



Congratulations to our Earth Day Art Contest Winner, Naomi Koga, 8th grade, Mililani Middle School!

Our office collected submissions from K-12 students who shared their vision for a greener O’ahu. Naomi’s art is currently on display at the Hawaii State Capitol.



Speed Trailer at Kipapa Park, Kuahelani Ave.

After a speeding vehicle struck pedestrian crossing signs near Kipapa Elementary during recess on May 12, our office quickly worked with HPD to install a speed trailer while replacement signs are being coordinated. Mahalo to HPD for their quick response and partnership in helping keep our students and families safe.

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:

✉ replachica@capitol.hawaii.gov
☎ 808-586-6302



Resolutions

A handful of our resolutions also crossed the finish line this session – each adopted in their final form.

SCR7 – EMTALA EMERGENCY CARE

Affirms that Hawaii hospitals must provide emergency care to pregnant patients – including abortion when medically necessary – under federal law.

SCR162 – KAIAPUNI EDUCATION ACCESS

Calls on DOE to plan a K-12 Hawaiian language immersion school in Kapolei, closing a gap for ‘Ewa, Wai’anae, and Waialua families.

SCR87 – AEDS IN STATE BUILDINGS

Urges the State to examine requiring AEDs in all state-owned buildings and expand training programs.

SCR130 – FARMER-TO-INSTITUTION COORDINATION

Urges DOE and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to align a farmer supply strategy with the AINA Kitchen Network local farm to school meals rollout.