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



SCAN ME



## Aloha Neighbors,

I hope you're having a wonderful summer and finding time to enjoy family, friends, and everything our community has to offer.

**This month marks an exciting milestone as SB3001, my legislation establishing some of Hawai'i's strongest safeguards for artificial intelligence, was signed into law as Act 248.** As AI becomes an increasingly important part of our daily lives, this new law helps protect our keiki while encouraging the responsible use of this rapidly evolving technology.

It's also been a busy summer beyond the Capitol. From celebrating graduations and community events to visiting innovative programs in California and Washington that could help shape future policy here in Hawai'i, I'm always looking for new ideas that can strengthen our schools, economy, and communities.

Inside you'll find updates on these visits, 2026 legislative highlights, district projects, and the work we're continuing to do to build a safer, stronger Central O'ahu.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

With Aloha,

*Trish* ❤️



## JULY 2026 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD DIGEST



Legislative Updates



SB3001 is now law!



Community Updates



District Updates

## 2026 Hawai'i's Legislative Session Highlights

The 2026 Legislative Session brought meaningful progress on housing, affordability, public safety, education, and climate resilience.

Here are a few of the major bills enacted to strengthen Hawai'i's communities.

- **ACT 238 (HB1785) School Bus Contract Flexibility**
  - Authorizes the Department of Education to secure replacement school bus services, assess penalties for prolonged service failures, and use the School Bus Fare Revolving Fund to maintain reliable student transportation.
- **ACT 233 (HB1890) Annual Salary Step Increases for Educators**
  - Provides annual salary step increases for public school and charter school teachers, subject to collective bargaining agreements and legislative funding.
- **ACT 011 (SB2471) Powers of Artificial Persons**
  - Limits corporate spending in elections by clarifying that state-created entities may not use funds to influence ballot measures or campaigns.
- **ACT 024 (SB3125) Income Tax & Tax Credit Reforms**
  - Adjusts income tax brackets and rates, increases contributions from higher-income earners, and phases out several tax credits over time to stabilize long-term state revenue while preserving relief for working families.
- **ACT 021 (HB2310) Emergency DHS Appropriation**
  - Provides emergency funding for food assistance and healthcare-related premium support during federal disruptions.
- **ACT 028 (HB1518) SNAP Pre-Release Access**
  - Requires DHS to create a pre-release SNAP application process for inmates and expands eligibility for individuals with drug-related convictions.
- **ACT 235 (HB2338) Hawai'i Community College Promise Program**
  - Expands financial aid coverage to reduce student out-of-pocket costs and allow additional support for living expenses.
- **ACT 250 (SB2866) Kūpuna Housing Rent Supplement**
  - Makes the State Rent Supplement Program for Kūpuna permanent, supporting housing stability for seniors on fixed incomes.
- **ACT 199 (SB2340) Community Care Foster Family Homes**
  - Protects access to care homes for individuals with disabilities and strengthens DOH training and technical assistance.
- **ACT 214 (HB2270) Downpayment Loan Assistance Program**
  - Expands access to homeownership assistance by increasing flexibility in downpayment loans and reducing barriers for borrowers.
- **ACT 245 (HB1853) Hanai Memory Network Program**
  - Establishes a dementia care support network within the Executive Office on Aging to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers, and provides funding for implementation.
- **ACT 146 (HB2498) Care Home Resilience Pilot Program**
  - Funds a pilot program to improve structural and operational resilience of care homes in Central and Leeward O'ahu.
- **ACT 260 (HB2023) Intelligent Speed Assistance Systems**
  - Establishes a statewide DOT program allowing courts to require speed-limiting devices for repeat traffic offenders and creates penalties for tampering.

## Legislative Updates



### SB3001 Signed into Law as Act 248!

I'm proud to share that SB3001 has officially been signed into law as Act 248, establishing some of Hawai'i's strongest safeguards for artificial intelligence.

As AI becomes an increasingly important part of everyday life, this new law requires AI companions to clearly identify themselves, strengthens protections for minors, establishes safeguards during mental health crises, and promotes responsible, transparent use of AI technology.

Mahalo to Governor Green, Attorney General Anne Lopez, my legislative colleagues, and the many advocates who helped make Hawai'i a national leader in responsible AI policy.



### HB1888 Signed into Law as Act 234!

I'm excited to share that HB 1888 has officially been signed into law as Act 234. Also known as Natalie's Law, this measure strengthens protections for educational workers and sports officials across Hawai'i.

This new law increases penalties for harassment and disruptions at schools and school events while expanding access to restraining orders to help keep educators and officials safe.

Mahalo to Governor Green, DOE, my legislative colleagues, and everyone who supported Natalie's Law and this important step toward creating safer learning environments for Hawai'i's students, educators, and officials.

# Community Updates



**Show Aloha Sign Waving**

Mahalo for joining our Show Aloha sign-waving event on June 8<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Transforming Communities with Aloha and GOALS Hawai'i.

Due to recent tragic events in the community, we appreciated everyone coming together to support public safety, spread kindness, and share aloha.

We're grateful to everyone who showed up with their signs — your presence and support help strengthen our community!

## CELEBRATING GRADUATION SEASON



**Graduation**

We were blessed to attend all the Graduations and May Day celebrations for the 2025–2026 school year across our Mililani and Pearl City community.

Mahalo to our students, families, educators, and school staff for allowing us to celebrate these meaningful milestones with you. Each event was a reminder of the hard work, culture, and aloha that make our schools so special.

We look forward to continuing to support and celebrate our students all year long 🌸

## LEGISLATIVE LEARNING CONFERENCES



**Learning from the BARR Model**

Chair Woodson and I visited San Jacinto High School in CA to learn about the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model to see how teachers improve student success through stronger relationships, early intervention, and a more supportive, student-centered approach to education.



**Exploring the Blue Economy**

I joined state lawmakers from across the country in Washington to learn how investments in maritime innovation, sustainable aquaculture, clean ports, and ocean technology are creating jobs and protecting marine resources - and to explore opportunities we can bring home to Hawai'i.

## TAKING ACTION

### **Mililani Cemetery Road Repair Efforts**

For the past two years, our office has worked to address the need for repairs along Mililani Cemetery Road. Thanks to continued coordination among the various landowners, the road has now been restored to a safer condition.

Mahalo to Kamehameha Schools for helping bring everyone together, and to the residents who brought this issue to our attention.





**Hawaiʻi Public Libraries Summer Reading Challenge**

June and July focus on encouraging reading across the state through the Summer Reading Challenge. This year’s theme, ‘Onolicious Summer Reading Menu, featuring a mix of programs and activities for all ages. Last year, nearly 25,000 participants joined, and this year the goal is to reach even more readers across Hawaiʻi.

- How to join:
- Register to participate (or use Beanstack)
  - Share what you’re reading on social media
  - Encourage friends and family to join in and track their reading
- Log your reading in June and July to earn rewards and enter for a chance at round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines, with bonus entries available through the Beanstack Word of the Week.
- Sign up: [librarieshawaii.org/summerreading/](https://librarieshawaii.org/summerreading/)

## MTA BRIDGE CLOSURE

Mililani Town Association advises that the Kamehameha Highway pedestrian bridge overpass will be closed from 6/1/26 to 7/31/26 for scheduled repairs

Please plan ahead and use alternate routes during this time. Mahalo for your patience and understanding! 🌺



## 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](mailto:replachica@capitol.hawaii.gov)
- ☎ 808-586-6150
- 🌐 [reptrishlachica.com](https://reptrishlachica.com)



It’s important to stay prepared during hurricane season in Hawaiʻi, and taking a few proactive steps now can help protect both lives and property. Here are a few simple ways to prepare for hurricanes:

- Secure outdoor loose items around your home
- Clear gutters, drains, and debris to help prevent flooding
- Trim trees and branches near homes and power lines
- An emergency kit stocked with food, water, and meds
- Keep flashlights, batteries, and charging devices ready

For more information and official preparedness guidance, please visit the Hawaiʻi Emergency Management Agency at <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema>

## PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS ENROLLMENT OPEN

 Preschool Open Doors (POD) is now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year! This program helps eligible families afford preschool for children born between August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2024.

This program operates on a First-Come, First-Served application period for the 2026-2027 School Year is open now until May 31st, 2027!

## PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS NOW OPEN!



- Contact for more info:
- ☎ (808) 791-2130
  - ☎ Toll-Free: 1-800-746-5620
  - 🌐 [www.patchhawaii.org](https://www.patchhawaii.org)