Trish LA CHICA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 37

MILILANI • WAIPI'O GENTRY • KOA RIDGE

SCAN ME

Aloha Neighbor,

November has been a month filled with community connection, learning, and inspiration. From engaging with our youngest learners to hearing directly from **Hawai'i's youth climate leaders**, I continue to be reminded of how bright our future is when we listen to the voices of the next generation.

Across schools, community events, and island-wide conversations, I'm reminded how much stronger our community becomes when we prioritize **safe, supportive spaces for our keiki.**

This issue also highlights the people and programs strengthening Central O'ahu and beyond — critical services for our military families and our FiliRooted Festival finale, which brought together thousands to **honor Filipino culture, creativity,** and **pride**.

As we gear up for the upcoming legislative session, I'm grateful for your continued engagement. Mahalo to all who responded to our 2026 Pre-Legislative Survey — your insights help guide the work ahead, and I look forward to carrying our shared priorities into the Capitol.

In service,

Trish 💙

Rep. Trish La Chica

Vice Chair, Committee on Education

NOVEMBER 2025 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD DIGEST

- Education Committee Updates
- Community Updates
- School Site Visits
- Emergency Assistance

Education Committee Updates

Honolulu Community College & Leeward Community College Waiʻanae Moku Visits

As a member of the Higher Education (HED) Committee I attended site visits at Honolulu Community College and Leeward Community College Waiʻanae Moku as part of the committee's preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session. These visits allow us to observe programs firsthand, review campus needs, and strengthen support for Hawaiʻi's higher education community.

Learning from Excellence: Leeward Schools Lead the Way

At **ʻEwa Makai Middle**, students demonstrated impressive career pathway projects, from drone flight to fixed-wing aircraft.

And at **Kapolei High**, their strong career academies showed how real-world learning is shaping future engineers, hospitality leaders, and more.

Youth Leading Hawaiʻi's Climate Future

On November 1, I attended the Climate Future Forum and had the opportunity to participate in a discussion with students serving on the Transportation Committee - including Dannika Pila a graduate from MHS!

Their message was powerful: Hawaiʻi's youth are urging us to move faster on **clean transportation**, **climate justice**, and a f**uture where every generation can thrive**. We discussed what's working, what's not, and how lawmakers and students can partner to accelerate real climate solutions.

Community Updates

District School Visits: Supporting Our Keiki in Mililani

This month, I visited **Kipapa and Mililani Uka Elementary Schools** for pre-session site visits to meet with school leadership and identify areas where we can provide support. Both Principal Kardash and Vice Principal Domingo were very welcoming, giving us classroom tours, status updates on our state investments and time with the keiki during recess. We also observed areas needing support, including **broken playground equipment** and **speeding concerns** that affect student and family safety - issues that we will continue to prioritize for our school community.

Tiny Tales, Big Lessons: Exploring Early Learning in Mililani and Wahiawā

I visited Building Blocks Hawaiʻi's Pre-K Learning Centers in Mililani and Wahiawā to spend time with the cutest 3–4 year olds! I observed how BBH centers **social-emotional learning, the science of reading,** and **strong parent engagement**, and I loved reading The Rabbit Listened to both groups. BBH is making a big impact by giving our keiki a strong foundation for preschool.

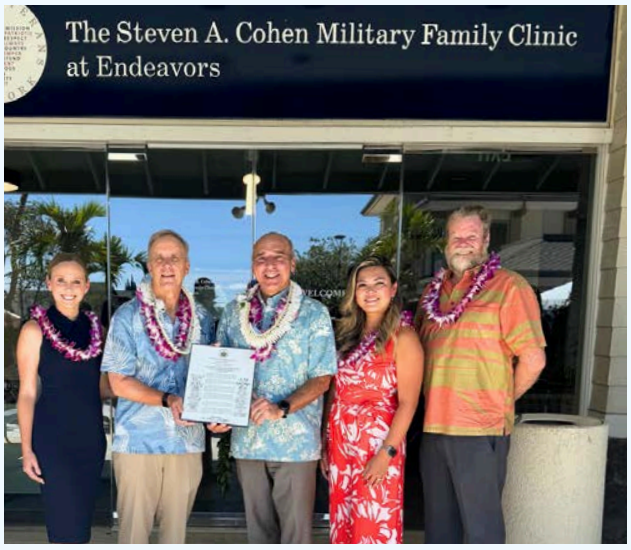
Learn more: https://impactchangehawaii.com/building-blocks-hawaii/

Honoring Service: Celebrating 5 Years of Mental Health Care for Military Families

On October 29, we celebrated 5 years of the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic in Mililani. Since opening its doors, this clinic has delivered over 25,000 clinical sessions, connecting thousands of families to care, compassion, and hope - a true lifeline for our veterans, service members, and their families.

During our visit, we had the honor of presenting them with a certificate alongside Representative Matsumoto and Senator McKelvey. The clinic provides mental health care, case management and support services.

Learn more: https://endeavors.org/cohen-clinic-mililani/



Filipino American History Month

FiliRooted: A Month of Culture, Community, and Celebration

From the bottom of my heart, mahalo to everyone who made the inaugural FiliRooted Festival possible. October became a powerful celebration of Filipino heritage in Hawaiʻi — a month filled with culture, community, and pride.

We opened with Bamboo to Brass at Capitol Modern with a **blessing, fashion show, artist panel**, and **exhibit unveiling**. The Filipino community also joined us for the **Philippine Flag-Raising Ceremony**, the **Pamana Kids Workshop**, and our **Halo-Halo Kamayan** gathering. Our finale, Sakada to Cypher: Island Gongster Edition, brought together music, dance, and local vendors — capped off by an unforgettable performance by **Ruby Ibarra,** drawing more than **1,000 attendees celebrating Filipino artistry and identity**. Maraming salamat to all who made this possible! 💙

Need Assistance?

If you or your family are facing financial hardship, we're here to help. Please visit **https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/** to learn about resources and support available to you. You are not alone, and assistance is just a click away.

RESOURCES FOR HAWAIʻI RESIDENTS

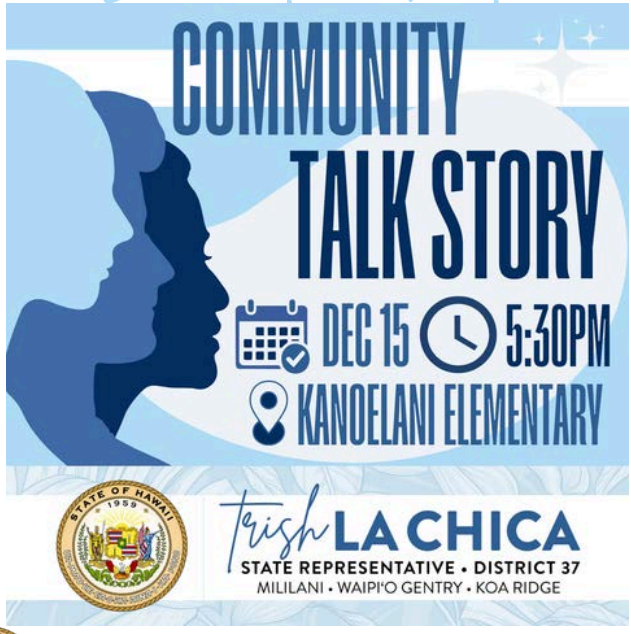
Food, Housing, and Bills Relief for Residents Impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown

State Response to November 1 SNAP Benefits Suspension:

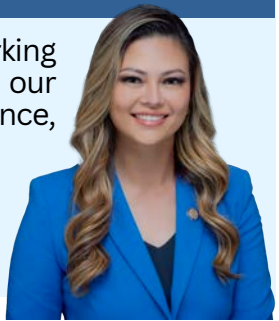
- Hawaiʻi Emergency Food Benefit provides a one-time credit to current SNAP beneficiaries on their EBT card to help cover the loss of November SNAP benefits.
- Hawaiʻi Relief Program provides low-income families with children assistance with rent/mortgage and utilities for up to 4 months.
- State provides Hawaiʻi Foodbank $2,000,000 to increase food distribution across the State.

All information is available at https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/

Save the Date



WE ARE ALSO 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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