



# Caring for each other

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2022

## SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI

DISTRICT 12 - ALA MOANA, KAKAAKO, MCCULLY, MOILIILI, SHERIDAN, WAIKIKI



### Aloha Neighbors!

This year's budget surplus helped to support small businesses, keiki, kupuna, and our residents. It also increased affordable housing and rental programs to benefit both actual and potential homeless, increased the minimum wage to \$18 by 2028, made permanent a refundable income tax credit, and even provided eligible residents an up-to-\$300 tax rebate.



Legislation also supported law enforcement, bolstered rehabilitation and drug treatment programs, helped end homelessness, and made progress on reducing excessive noise. Tens of millions will also go to our district schools, Waikiki Beach restoration, street improvements in Central Kakaako and the safe crosswalk and dog park at Kolowalu Park. Looking ahead, we also funded sea level rise planning for our coastal district (see this and more on the district map inside).



YOUR State team, working for OUR district (L-R) Rep. Adrian Tam (Waikiki-Ala Moana), Sen. Sharon Moriwaki (Ala Moana, Kakaako, McCully-Moilili, Waikiki), Rep. Scott Saiiki (Ala Moana, Kakaako, McCully)

Your input is very important to me. Please help by filling out our Fall 2022 online survey. You can also email me through our weekly e-newsletter that you can get at [senatormoriwaki.com](mailto:senatormoriwaki.com). It shares happenings both statewide and in our district. Or just email or call me.

Caring for each other,

Please take our new survey at [senatormoriwaki.com](http://senatormoriwaki.com)



Put this QR code in your phone camera to go directly

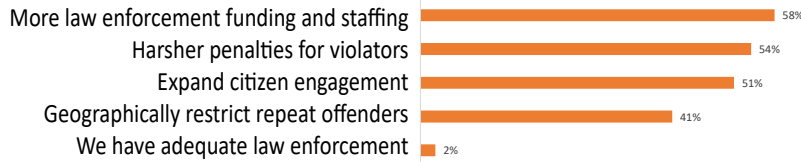


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# YOUR INPUT MATTERS: 2021 ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS - YOUR PRIORITIES, OUR ACTIONS

Since taking office Sen Moriwaki sends out the annual survey to gather input on issues of greatest concern—your priorities—to take action on legislation and programs. What follows are your priorities and our actions.

## PRIORITY - ATTACKING CRIME



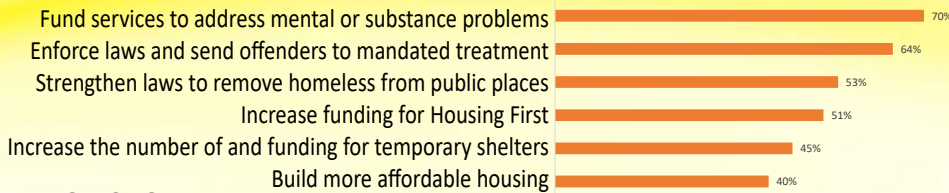
### OUR ACTIONS

- Created Statewide Law Enforcement Dept of focus on public safety
- Opposed court's automatic release of non-violent offenders
- Increased funding for enforcement at Ala Wai and other small boat harbors
- Worked with HPD and McCully businesses to create security watch
- Supported HPD in community policing in Waikiki, McCully and Kakaako
- Working with City to impose geographic restrictions ('Safe & Sound')



To address growing burglaries and breaks-in of churches & businesses Sharon called together law enforcement, the state and city directors of homelessness, and community members to discuss ways to bring the offenders to justice.

## PRIORITY - ENDING HOMELESSNESS



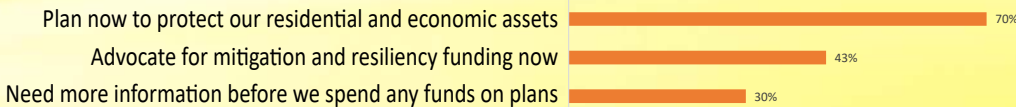
### OUR ACTIONS

- Established permanent and independent State Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions
- Established program for inmate re-entry so they don't find their way to homeless camp
- Funded Ohana Zones for temporary and permanent shelters and wrap-around services
- Funded homeless triage center to provide one-stop center for homeless services and housing
- Earmarked \$1 billion for low income and Hawaiian Homes housing
- Increased incentives for housing assistance to low-income households to prevent homelessness
- Funded \$300 million for infrastructure development to build more rental housing
- Established "Safe Spaces for Youth" program for homeless youth



Senator Moriwaki invited state, city and non-profit leaders and experts to join in ending homelessness. The End Homelessness Group spent many hours resulting in creating major state legislation and state & city funding committed to ending homelessness. Group continues to work on ending homelessness

## PRIORITY - SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY



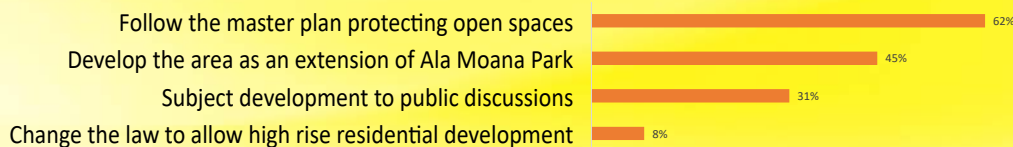
### OUR ACTIONS

- Funded \$400,000 to develop a sea level rise resiliency plan for Waikiki
- Authorizes funds for the Waikiki Special Improvement district to be used for environmental improvements and community benefits not only economic development
- Funded \$1.85 million for Waikiki Beach improvements



Sharon convened a group to work on the sea level rise resiliency plan for Waikiki which included residents, the Waikiki Improvement Assn., the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and the University of Hawaii.

## PRIORITY - PRESERVE KAKA'AKO MAKAI



### OUR ACTIONS

- Voted against bill to allow 400' residential towers on Makai land; legislation blocked for two consecutive years, with Attorney General opinion advising bill is unconstitutional "special legislation"
- Introduced resolution calling for alternatives to dense, residential high-rises on Makai land
- Continue to work with the Hawaii Community Development Authority to urge landowners to work with community



Senator Moriwaki joined residents to protest high-density residential development in Kakaako Makai.

# SENATE DISTRICT 12 WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU



### MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- \$22.7 million for building the athletic complex and other improvements
- \$1.4 million for painting of buildings
- \$1.5 million for building renovation to comply with ADA



### KAHUMANU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$300,000 for cafeteria improvements



### WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- \$8 million for 21st Century Band Room
- \$500,000 for heat abatement

### LUNALILO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$3.5 million for covered multipurpose space and campus security improvements
- \$277,000 for Building B restroom renovations



### KAIMUKI HIGH SCHOOL

- \$7 million for building girls' athletic locker room
- \$1.4 million for telecommunication and electrical infrastructure

### UH-SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- \$2.3 million for educational and security renovations



### PROMOTING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Restored Kakaako crosswalk and security measures at heavily-used pedestrian crossing on Waimanu Street at Kolowalu Park.



### SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARIES

After \$1.75 million in renovations was completed, we celebrated the McCully-Moiliili Library reopening in June.



### PATROLLING OUR DISTRICT

From Kakaako to Waikiki to McCully, Sharon walks with residents and community policing officers, reporting problem areas to be fixed.



### ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR

Supporting the DLNR's plans for the harbor's future – improving the Gateway to Waikiki.



### KEEPING WAIKIKI SAFE AND CLEAN

Senator Moriwiki recognized the hard work and dedication of the Waikiki Business Improvement District's Ambassadors.

### ALA WAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$4.294 million for covered playcourt
- \$240,000 for campus electrical system upgrades



### CARING FOR OUR PARKS

Volunteers across our neighborhoods care for our parks as above cleaning of Waikiki's Centennial Park.



### JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$1.12 million for campus-wide telecom upgrades
- \$500,000 for perimeter fencing
- \$100,000 for heat mitigation

### WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

- \$65,000 for wellness services to keiki and kupuna
- \$150,000 for facility improvements



# LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITY



## Caring for Kupuna

As co-convenor of the Kupuna Caucus, Sharon supported measures that safeguard our seniors who are living in care homes by expanding the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The legislature also prioritized aging in place by appropriating over \$10 million to the Kupuna Care and Caregivers programs to help those in need and those who care for them. The budget also includes \$1.5 million for Aging and Disability Resources Centers that provides programs and services to Kupuna. Other successes for the Kupuna Caucus include extending the renewal period from two years to four years for drivers licenses who are 72 years of age or older but younger than 80 and establish a statewide retirement savings program for small, private employers.

## ALWAYS WORKING FOR YOU!



**HELPFUL STAFF (L-R)**  
Venus Delos Santos, Community Liaison  
Charles Izumoto, Office Manager  
Kaley Vatalaro, Legislative Assistant

**COMMITTEES:**  
Government Operations (Chair), Health, Housing, Ways and Means, Special Committee on COVID-19, Special Committee on Procurement (Chair)

**KEEP CONNECTED WITH US:**  
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## Building Affordable Housing

As a member of the housing committee, Senator Moriwaki worked with Chair Stanley Chang, and House Chair and Vice-Chair Nadine Nakamura and Troy Hashimoto on measures that increase the utilization of Housing Choice Vouchers, the “Yes In My Backyard” bill creating a statewide working group on affordable housing, and allowing the State to more efficiently allocate private activity bonds for housing-related projects.



## Reforming Government

We passed bills that are now law to improve government. Act 165 requires ethics training for all government officials, Act 283 prohibits fundraisers during the legislative session, Act 181 increases penalties for false campaign finance information, and funding for a white collar crime/anti-corruption unit in the office of the attorney general. Other bills improve government efficiency through technology.



Act 167 added a State **CHIEF DATA OFFICER AND A DATA TASK FORCE** to develop, implement, and manage statewide data policies, procedures, and standards to facilitate data sharing across state agencies



At the Entrepreneurs Sandbox in Kakaako, Governor Ige signed a package of four bills that promote **BROADBAND AND DIGITAL LITERACY**



State Senator

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## BUILDING COMMUNITY: WAIKIKI • ALA MOANA • KAKAAKO • MCCULLY-MOILILI

### INSIDE:

- Survey results - Priorities & Actions
- Legislative highlights
- Community improvements



**Improving our schools** - Sharon regularly visits schools in our community to discuss ways she can help them. (above) With Principal Wendy Kau of Lunalilo Elementary discussing school security.



**Working with law enforcement** - Events like HPD Community Policing's "Coffee-With-A-Cop" provide venues where residents can discuss crime issues with them.

### Around the community with Sharon



**Caring for our furry friends** - Our condo dog dwellers need a safe place to exercise and meet others. That's why the legislature funded an off-leash dog park at Kakaako's Kolowalu Park.



**Highlighting our community** - Visiting the Hawaii Shingon Mission which hosts the only bon dance in our District. Bishop Tsuru (left) and Rev. Hashimoto (right) met with Senator Moriwaki.



**Caring for our neighborhoods** - Waikiki resident Mary Deenan saw a problem—a trash can in front of the ABC Store was gone that used to collect litter. Senator Moriwaki worked with Mary, ABC Store's Curtis Higashiyama and the City Facilities Management Dept. to replace it. See a problem? Let's work to solve it.



**Preserving the environment** - Sharon supports Re-use Hawaii working to create Hawaii's sustainable future by recovering used material and transforming it into affordable resources for our community.



**Supporting the greening of our workforce** - KUPU Hawaii in Kakaako is training at-risk youth in careers to protect our fragile ecosystem also at risk from invasive species. KUPU is training and empowering our youth toward rewarding jobs and careers.