



Caring for each other

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2021

SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI

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



Aloha Neighbors!

I hope you're enjoying this crazy summer. While we thought we had seen the worst of the pandemic and were moving into Tier 5 to enjoy seeing each other, we were hit with the Delta variant! Now we are unsure when we can reopen completely. So let's all continue to be careful as we care for each other.

We've focused on how our visitor industries can change to sustain our beautiful environment, culture and people. Unchecked growth is out. Instead, destination management is in --providing quality

experiences for quality visitors, beginning with safety. And that begins in Waikiki where we have seen so many congregating. Waikiki District 6 Maj Mark Cricchio and his community policing team have activated four citizen patrols to "take back our streets."



After the COVID hiatus, Waikiki HPD officers Virardi, Yamamoto & Chang lead citizen patrols. Joining Rep. Tam, Council Chair Waters, Major Cricchio and neighbors on the weekly patrol.



Inspecting the site once covered with homeless tents, McCully-Moiliili Business Security Watch (BSW) Coordinator Dr. Nikki Inamine continues to work with HPD and the BSW team.

In McCully-Moiliili, businesses beleaguered by homeless and crime, asked for help. Speaker Scott Saiki and I convened a meeting to connect businesses with HPD District 7 Commander Brian Lynch, State Coordinator Scott Morishige and City Housing & Homeless Director Anton Krucky. The result is a Business Security Watch (BSW) team trained by HPD Cpl John Mau that has cleared the sidewalks and keeps an eye on crime and homeless. We hope other neighborhoods will join us as we work with HPD and others committed to being part of the solution to end crime and homelessness.

In Kakaako, we heard your opposition to high rise residential development along the precious shoreline between Ala Moana Blvd and the ocean. Thankfully, this "build to the highest and best use" legislation stalled in the House. We need Honolulu's last open

coastline not only for current residents but for future generations. Carissa Moore is a keiki of our shoreline as are so many others less famous. Let's support the preservation plans of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to save Kakaako's only shoreline from high rise residential development.

Looking forward to 2022, mahalo to all of you helping with upcoming legislation to address crime, homelessness, sea level rise, and noise. We, together, will make a difference!

We welcome your ideas and views so please fill out our short survey. Let's also keep connected through our weekly message of news, resources, and events of interest to our district. If you aren't on our distribution list, sign up on our website at the link below. You can also follow me on social media, email me at senmoriwaki@capitol.hawaii.gov or call my office at 586-6740.

Mahalo!

Sign up for email message updates at senatormoriwaki.com/contact



Addressing dozens of residents who came to the Capitol in March to oppose a bill to allow 400 foot residential towers in Kakaako Makai.

LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITY



Improving Government Operations

Senator Moriwaki chairs the Government Operations (GVO) Committee which considered 220 measures this past session and passed several bills on efficiency, transparency and reform, including SB1329 (Act 224) requiring procurement protests to be resolved quickly to reduce delays of construction projects; HB526 (Act 188) establishing a contractor performance database, and SB1015 (Act 219) allowing the Comptroller to require state agencies to use office space more efficiently. Senator Moriwaki continues the work on procurement during the interim by chairing the Senate Special Committee on Procurement.

Fighting Homelessness

The legislature appropriated \$14.3 million for continued homeless services. HB282 (Act 23) makes it easier to accept minors to emergency shelters. During this interim, Senator Moriwaki formed a community working group to draft legislation that would further address moving homeless off the streets to a better place.



Caring for Our Kupuna

Rep. Troy Hashimoto joined Senator Moriwaki to co-chair the Kupuna Caucus (KC) which continues to meet virtually on the 1st Friday of every month. This session, KC supported bills to enhance penalties for offenses against seniors (HB490 [Act 147]), provide dementia training for first responders (HB1283 [Act 155]), and mandate reporting of suspected financial exploitation of elders (HB940 [Act 54]). The KC is currently working on measures to introduce in the 2022 session. If you have any ideas for legislation, please contact our office.



Supporting Women's Justice

The Women's Legislative Caucus worked to pass bills to strengthen laws against domestic violence (HB566 [Act 238]) and allow divorce proceedings to continue in Hawaii if parties leave the state (SB828 [Act 69]).



Promoting Clean Transportation

Senator Moriwaki joined the Governor, fellow legislators and state officials for his signing into law bills requiring government employees on official business to rent electric vehicles (HB424 [Act 73]), establishing zero-emission goals for state vehicles (HB552 [Act 74]), and bolstering EV charging systems across the state (HB1142 [Act 75]).

KEEP CONNECTED WITH US

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COMMITTEES:

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

Strengthening Criminal Law

Senator Moriwaki authored SB791 (Act 218) which criminalizes boat abandonment as a petty misdemeanor. HB170 (Act 5) makes purse snatching a Class C Felony and HB887 (Act 68) strengthens sex trafficking laws.



Increasing Traffic Safety

Pedestrian and traffic safety is a major issue with neighbors across our district. The legislature passed bills funding a photo red light program (HB766 [Act 133]) and regulating electric foot scooters (HB72 [Act 174]).

Addressing Sea Level Rise and Conservation

HB243 (Act 178) requires the Office of Planning to work with state agencies to identify existing and planned facilities vulnerable to sea level rise and report on plans to mitigate the impact, HB1023 (Act 48) establishes a nonresident recreational fishing license and fee that will boost our fisheries, and SB772 (Act 50) authorizes special number plates to support environmental conservation.

Social Equity in Employment & Taxes

The exemption of individuals with disabilities from minimum wage requirements is repealed (SB1793 [Act 55]) and real estate investment trusts (REITs) must report assets and revenues annually to the tax department to avoid penalties (HB286 [Act 78]).

Supporting Condo Living

HB599 (Act 83) allows condominium associations to conduct remote meetings and electronic voting. SB329 (Act 98) allows condo boards to more properly dispose of items abandoned by former residents.



HELPFUL STAFF (L-R)

Venus Delos Santos, Community Liaison
Charles Izumoto, Office Manager
Kaley Vatalaro, Legislative Assistant





KAKAAKO "PRIVATE" STREETS

The court ruled that ownership of the streets in Kakaako claimed by the Kakaako Land Company are no longer "private". The City began maintenance of the streets in April.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FOR ALA MOANA BLVD

\$5 million released to supplement \$20 million in federal funding for the planned bridge crossing Ala Moana Blvd connecting Victoria Ward Park and Kewalo Basin Harbor.



ALA WAI PROMENADE

Plans for a \$100,000 upgrade and tree-lighting demonstration have stalled due to the pandemic but a joint committee with the Ala Moana-Kakaako and Waikiki Neighborhood Boards has been established to continue public dialogue on how to enhance, beautify, and activate the promenade.



ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR

- \$3 million appropriated to replace floating docks, finger piers and other related improvements
- \$2 million ceiling increase and appropriated in boating special funds for statewide harbor facilities repair and maintenance
- \$1.4 million for 30 new conservation and resource enforcement officers statewide



WAIKIKI CENTENNIAL PARK

Senator Moriwaki joined the community to work toward the completion of the park which opened in February for the enjoyment of residents.



WAIKIKI BEACH MASTER PLAN

- Sand replenishment at Royal Hawaiian Beach completed in May.
- \$500,000 released for Halekulani and Fort DeRussy improvements for beach preservation and protection from sea level rise.



REEF RESTORATION

\$1 million for repairs to the sea urchin hatchery used to raise urchins to control invasive algae including the reef area near the Natatorium. (Above) at the hatchery viewing a sea urchin tank.



CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- \$1 million appropriated for campus perimeter security fencing
- \$200,000 released for auditorium cooling
- \$120,000 released for stage lighting replacement
- \$200,000 released for exterior lighting



MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- \$4.7 million for FY '22 & \$18 million for FY '23 for design & construction of athletic complex that includes stadium lighting, bleachers, locker rooms, and other improvements



SENATE DISTRICT 12 WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU



KAAHUMANU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$300,000 released to replace cafeteria ceiling fans
- \$175,000 released to replace play structure and safety surface



WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- \$2 million in FY '22 & \$8 million in FY'23 for 21st Century Band Room
- \$720,000 released for recording studio
- \$500,000 for heat abatement



LUNALILO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$675,000 for covered walkways
- \$550,000 for heat abatement



MOILIILI COMMUNITY CENTER

- \$10,000 for secured storage and other related improvements



ALA WAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$1.5 million released for school-wide electrical and service equipment upgrades
- \$3.9 million released and \$300,000 additional funding for covered playcourt



KAIMUKI HIGH SCHOOL

- \$7 million appropriated and \$400,000 released for girls locker room
- \$1.2 million appropriated and \$80,000 released for girls softball field improvements
- \$2.6 million to upgrade the fire alarm system
- \$1 million released for auditorium restroom and renovations
- \$400,000 released to convert and upgrade student center and cafeteria



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- \$350,000 released for electrical improvements on aquaponic system
- \$300,000 released for basketball court resurfacing
- \$300,000 released for parking lot resurfacing
- \$250,000 released for electrical improvements to Building R
- \$100,000 for heat mitigation and ventilation improvements



WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

- \$600,000 released for wastewater discharge system

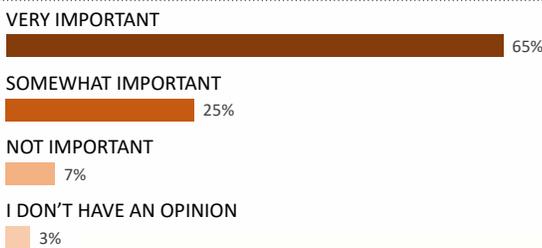
2021 SURVEY RESULTS - MAHALO FOR YOUR INPUT!



Since taking office, Senator Moriwaki invited the sharing of concerns in community surveys to better understand what is important to our district. This year we asked about bills that did not pass this legislative session. Here are the results.

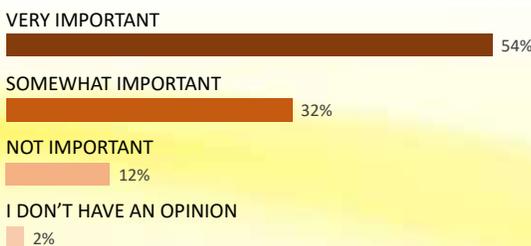
ISSUE	RESULT	WHAT WE'RE DOING
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SEA LEVEL RISE - Two bills (1) allowing the Waikiki Special Improvement District to fund environmental research, restoration, natural resource management and natural hazard mitigation (SB794) and (2) would protect Waikiki shoreline assets from erosion (SB796). How important are these bills for our district?



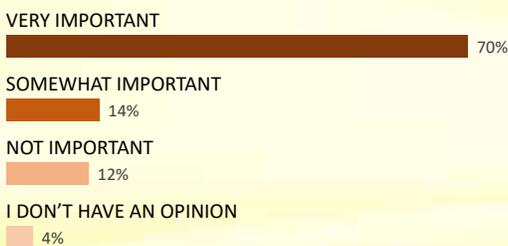
Convened a working group on Waikiki sea level rise and resiliency. At the table are the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Assn., Waikiki Neighborhood Board, Office of Planning and Sustainability, DLNR, and UH to address adaptation and mitigation strategies, and will be sharing with the district legislative team.

REDUCE NOISE - Two bills to reduce noise (1) increases fines for noisy mufflers on vehicles (SB792) and (2) restricts to certain times the use of noisy leaf blowers in residential areas (SB327). How important are these measures to your quality of life?



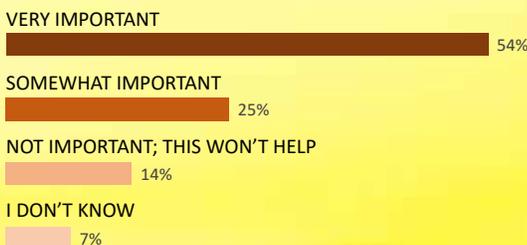
Working with Rep. Adrian Tam and members of the community district legislation team to find ways to silence noise pollution through enforcement, legislation, and other means.

HIGH RISE HOUSING ON KAKAAKO'S SHORELINE - Current law prohibits residential development along the shoreline makai of Ala Moana Blvd., and zoning rules don't allow building heights above 200 feet. SB1334 would have allowed the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to build residential towers up to 400 feet in the area. How important is it to you to prevent high rise towers –hotel or residential—from going up along Kakaako's shoreline?



After SB1334 stalled in the House, Senator Moriwaki reached out to the Attorney General who advised that the bill would have been unconstitutional "special legislation" because it proposes to lift the residential restriction only for a few parcels of State owned land. HCDA has been approached to conduct an educational and update briefing on the Kakaako-Makai plan.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - SB790 would have blocked offenders who commit three or more misdemeanors in Waikiki and other business districts from entering the district. How important is this bill to protecting our neighborhoods?



Working with Rep. Tam and the district legislation team on this and other bills to reduce and/or prevent crime.

Caring for Oahu Residents

- Our office continues to assist constituents in **RESOLVING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE** (UI) claim issues by working with the labor department. Over 400 UI claimants have contacted our office since Covid hit in March 2020. We continue to assist and work with the department.
- Since October 2020, Senator Moriwaki has been **CHAIRING THE OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION** (OahuMPO) Policy Board. OahuMPO coordinates Federal, State, and City transportation agencies to plan for a multi-modal, reliable, and safe transportation system for Oahu.
- We have been **SENDING OUT WEEKLY EMAIL MESSAGES** of interest to our district - whether it is about important news or resources that have a direct impact on you, or weekend waysides that our families can enjoy. We appreciate your comments: if you have questions you can reply directly and Senator Moriwaki or staff will respond. Sign up at senatormoriwaki.com/contact.

Please take our new survey at senatormoriwaki.com



Put this QR code in your phone camera to go directly





State Senator

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SUBDISTRICT UPDATES: WAIKIKI • ALA MOANA-KAKAAKO • MCCULLY-MOILILI

INSIDE:

- Legislative highlights
- Survey results
- Community improvements



Caring for our keiki - Joining Waikiki's Jefferson Elementary School and HPD for sign waving to encourage traffic and pedestrian safety.



Repairing roads - Joining Mayor Blangiardi, Rep. Saiki, Councilmember Fukunaga, City officials & workers to begin filling potholes on private streets only weeks after the court ruled they were not owned by the Kakaako Land Company.



Fighting crime - Waikiki meeting with Rep. Adrian Tam, Council Chair Tommy Waters and HPD Major Mark Cricchio to discuss policy and legislation on law enforcement.

Around the community with Sharon Moriwaki



Improving our Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor - DLNR boating administrator Ed Underwood & staff join harbor citizen patrollers, HPD & Senator Moriwaki that led to a working group to improve the harbor and plan for its rightful place as the "Jewel of Waikiki."



Listening to community concerns - McCully-Moilili Townhall on crime and homelessness with Speaker Saiki, State Homelessness Coordinator Morishige and City Housing and Homelessness Coordinator Krucky.



Caring for less fortunate - Serving food to guests at Kakaako Next Step shelter. The shelter is part of the Waikiki Health network of services.



Patrolling our Kakaako neighborhoods - One of the long-active Citizen Patrols, Kakaako United CP, led by Officer Tani Takushi and Officer Ed Ho is joined by recruits for the new Art Loft Citizen Patrol.