

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

District 31 • Moanalua, Foster Village, Aiea, Lower Pearlridge, Fort Shafter, Red Hill, Aliamanu •

Aloha Neighbors,

The 2022 Legislative Session is in full swing, and numerous bills are being heard. Should you have any questions, concerns, or require assistance on an issue, please don't hesitate to contact me at my office by phone at 586-9470, or email repjohanson@capitol.hawaii.gov. Please take care!

Mahalo,



CHILDCARE STABILIZATION GRANTS



The Department of Human Services (DHS) will administer nearly \$80 million in stabilization grants to support child care providers and help to stabilize and increase the capacity of the child care sector. Applicants for this grant are **licensed**:

- Family Child Care Home Providers
- Center-based Providers
- A+ Program Providers

DHS is accepting applications for the stabilization grant through **February 15, 2022**. If you are a DHS licensed, registered child care provider or A+ program provider and have not received an invitation, please contact the Child Care Stabilization Center at childcaregrants@dhs.hawaii.gov or call (808) 470-3683, Monday –Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM

Emergency Broadband Benefit recipients who are fully enrolled in the program as of December 31, 2021, will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit of \$50 until March 1, 2022.

Most Emergency Broadband Benefit households will not have to take any action to continue receiving the new \$30 monthly benefit after March 1, 2022. If your out-of-pocket costs will increase due to the reduced monthly benefit amount, your service provider will contact you to let you know if you need to take any action to continue receiving the Affordable Connectivity Program benefit.

After the transition period ends on March 1, 2022, the monthly discount for all legacy Emergency Broadband Benefit participants will be reduced to \$30. *Contact your provider if you are concerned about a possible increase in your monthly service bill or are interested in changing to a different service plan.*

For more information on the transition, you may contact ACPinfo@fcc.gov or go to [FCC.gov](https://www.fcc.gov).

MEDIATION OF CONDOMINIUM DISPUTES



For condominium owners in dispute with their condominium association, the Real Estate Branch (REB) of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) offers subsidized mediation with private mediation providers as a means of solving condo owner disputes since the early 1990s.

Because the Hawaii condominium law is based on the philosophy of self-governance by the owners with little jurisdiction given to the government for resolving disputes, mediation is the first line of defense in resolving disputes among owners, including board members.

Mediation is the least costly way of private dispute resolution, particularly with a subsidy from REB. The parties to the mediation can often reach a resolution in a matter of hours, as compared to days, weeks or months' long litigation and litigation's related costs. It also allows the participants a greater role in the resolution by allowing the parties to craft their own solutions to the dispute, as well as allowing the parties to fully invest in the resolution process and the settlement agreement. Both parties will pay a nominal cost with the remainder subsidized by the Condominium Education Trust Fund.

While not every dispute will settle, with an evaluative mediation, the parties will have the benefit of a neutral perspective of their case for future consideration of the dispute, which did not exit prior to mediation. For more information about the mediation process, including the option of voluntary binding arbitration, please contact a mediation provider of your choice from this list [here](#).

For more information got to [REB](#) website and select "Mediation of Condominium Disputes."

FIREWORKS LEGISLATION ADVANCES

On Friday, February 4, 2022, the following bills relating to fireworks were heard in the House Committee for Consumer Protection and Commerce and passed for further consideration:

- [HB1695, Relating to Fireworks](#) - Increases the fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000 maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations
- [HB1696, Relating to Fireworks](#) - Increases the fireworks display permit fee from \$110 to \$300
- [HB1969, Relating to Fireworks](#) - Mandates each county to offer a monetary reward to individuals who report the illegal use of fireworks and to pay the reward under certain conditions.
- [HB2273, Relating to Fireworks](#) - Specifies that certain violations of the Fireworks Control Law shall be considered a violation of the noise control rules.
- [HB2275, Relating to Fireworks](#) - Establishes an expeditious adjudication system for the processing of fireworks infractions..

These bills now move to the House Finance Committee for hearing. If you would like to voice your opinions when the bills are set for hearing before the Finance Committee, you may submit testimony through the Legislature's website at: capitol.hawaii.gov.