

# 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 now over, and that means we are heading into graduation season. With the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions, schools are once again holding in-person graduations. If you know someone who is graduating this year, get out there and cheer them on. 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](mailto:repjohanson@capitol.hawaii.gov). Please take care!

Mahalo,



## END OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 Legislative Session has drawn to a close, and Representative Johanson is excited to announce that the following bills have been sent to the Governor for his signature:

- **HB2510.** This measure increases Hawaii's minimum wage from \$10.10 an hour to \$12.00 per hour, beginning on October 1, 2022. The minimum wage will eventually increase to \$18.00 per hour by 2028. Additionally, as prior Chair of the Labor Committee and now Chair of Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee, Representative Johanson has always been a strong advocate for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Representative Johanson first introduced the EITC in 2017, and under HB2510, the EITC will become permanent. The state EITC will aid over 103,000 working class families across the state.
- **SB2676.** Under this measure, our Kupuna who are aged 72 years of age or older, but younger than 80 years of age, will be able to renew their driver's license for 4 years instead of 2 years. This law is set to go into effect on January 1, 2023.
- **HB1974.** Small businesses are the backbone of Hawaii's economy and Representative Johanson believes that the State could do a better job of supporting our small businesses in order to position themselves to compete for state contracts. This legislation introduced by Representative Johanson will assist women-owned, veteran-owned and Native-Hawaiian owned businesses to compete for state contracts by creating a Small Businesses Initiative pilot within the State Procurement Office to facilitate outreach and assistance to these businesses.
- **SB3289.** Many of Hawaii's private sector workers do not have access to a workplace retirement savings plan, and 60% of households which are headed by residents 65 years and older lack sufficient savings. The lack of sufficient savings places not only a hardship on those reaching retirement age, but also on the active workforce by an increasing tax burden. The Hawaii Retirement Act is designed to help workers save for retirement by establishing a payroll deduction plan for private sector workers, whose employers do not offer a retirement plan.
- **SB2600.** After the Red Hill Fuel spill of 2021, Representative Johanson helped to pass this measure which prohibits the State Department of Health from issuing new permits for large capacity storage tanks located mauka of the underground injection control line, which divides the drinking and non-drinking water resources on Oahu. This measure also prohibits the operation and renewal of permits for large capacity underground storage tank systems located mauka of the underground injection control line, as as the Red Hill Underground Fuel Tank Facility.

## TURBOTAX SETTLEMENT

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) secured a settlement against TurboTax in the amount of \$450,000, for deceiving consumers using TurboTax's Free Edition, into paying for tax services which should have been free.

Restitution shall be provided to users of TurboTax for tax years 2016 through 2018. The funds will be deposited with the State by June 4, 2022. After a determination is made of the covered consumers, the consumers will be notified and a website and toll-free number will be established.

It is expected that approximately 14,000 Hawaii residents will receive a settlement of \$30 for each year they used TurboTax between 2016 and 2018.



## FRAUD PREVENTION

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) would like the public to know about 2 fraud education resources that AARP has available. AARP has scheduled fraud prevention events for the month of May as follows:

- 05/13—Hawaii's Top Crimes and How to Spot Them
- 05/20—Movie Night—Identity Theft
- 05/27—Technology Class: Protecting Your Digital Identity.]

You may register for any of the events by going to: [www.aarp.org/nearyou/](http://www.aarp.org/nearyou/).

AARP has also developed the AARP [Veterans Fraud Center](#) featuring the brand new [Watchdog Alert Handbook—Veterans Edition](#), which provides the latest information on criminal scammers who target the military community and tips to spot other consumer fraud.

For more information, contact AARP at (808) 545-6003, or visit [AARP](#).

## IN OUR COMMUNITY



Rep Johanson along with Rep Kitagawa and Rep Tarnas listening to testimony in a committee hearing.



Rep Johanson speaking at the last Floor Session for the 2022 Legislative Session.