



GARNER SHIMIZU

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STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 32

January 2026 Newsletter

Aloha Friends,

As the new year begins, so does a new legislative session at the Hawai'i State Capitol. January marks the start of a season of listening, discussion, and decision-making that will shape our communities in the months ahead. It is also a time when your voice matters more than ever.

Please join me on Wednesday, January 21, for our Opening Day at 10:00 AM. Our office, Room 305, will be serving light refreshments following the ceremony, and I would love to see you there.

The legislative process works best when it is grounded in the real experiences of the people we serve. As bills are introduced and move through hearings and committee discussions, I encourage you to stay engaged, ask questions, and share your perspectives. Whether it's an issue affecting your neighborhood, your family, your workplace, or our keiki, your input helps ensure that the laws we consider reflect the needs and values of our community.

There are many ways to participate. Submitting testimony, attending hearings (in person or online), reaching out to my office, or simply staying informed as measures progress will help to ensure that your voice is heard. My team and I are here to help you navigate the process and make sure your concerns are heard.

Thank you for your continued trust and involvement. I look forward to working together as we begin this new session and continue striving to build a stronger, more connected Hawai'i.

Blessed to serve you,

Representative Garner Shimizu

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STAY CONNECTED!

I'd love to hear from you! Please share questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. You can reach me at **(808) 586-9470** or **RepShimizu@capitol.hawaii.gov**. For regular and time-sensitive updates about legislation and issues that impact our community visit **RepShimizu.com** and sign up for my e-newsletters.



In the Community



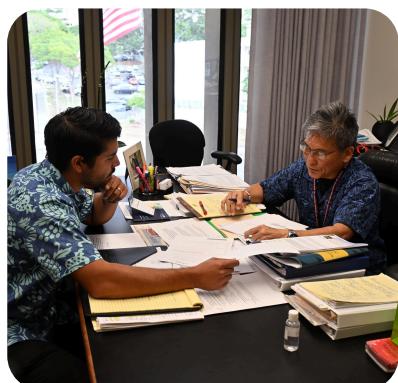
Wreaths Across America Kickoff

A brief but meaningful ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol marked the kickoff of Wreaths Across America, an annual observance dedicated to honoring our veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. The gathering brought together legislators, community members, and military supporters to reflect on the sacrifices made in service to our nation. Representative Shimizu was honored to attend the ceremony and join colleagues in recognizing the courage, dedication, and legacy of those who have worn the uniform. The event served as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to remember their service, honor their sacrifices, and ensure future generations understand the importance of gratitude and remembrance.



Aiea Christmas Parade

Holiday cheer filled the streets of 'Aiea as families, neighbors, and community organizations came together for the annual 'Aiea Christmas Parade. The parade was a wonderful reminder of the strong sense of community that makes our district so special during the holiday season. Representative Shimizu was grateful to take part in the celebration, spending time along the route connecting with residents, local organizations, and the many volunteers who help bring this beloved tradition to life each year. Mahalo nui to the parade organizers, participants, and volunteers whose hard work and dedication made this cherished holiday event possible for our community.



A Discussion on Houselessness

Representative Shimizu recently met with Anthony Miranda, Legislative Liaison for the City & County of Honolulu Mayor's Office, as part of ongoing discussions to strengthen legislation addressing houselessness. This meeting is one of many conversations Rep. Shimizu has been holding with stakeholders and subject-matter experts to gather input, refine policy approaches, and ensure the bill reflects practical, compassionate, and effective solutions. These continued engagements underscore his commitment to thoughtful policymaking and collaboration on one of Hawai'i's most pressing challenges.



Restrictive Housing Working Group Meeting

Representative Shimizu continues to engage in important policy discussions affecting Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents through his participation in the Restrictive Housing Legislative Working Group. The group is tasked with examining current policies and practices and developing recommendations to strengthen protections, improve conditions, and inform future legislation related to restrictive housing. Through this work, Representative Shimizu remains focused on careful oversight, thoughtful review, and collaborative policymaking. These discussions are centered on ensuring that issues of justice, mental health, and human dignity are addressed responsibly, with an emphasis on long-term solutions that balance safety, accountability, and humane treatment.



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In the Community

Military Youth Advisory Council Meeting



Students at Radford High School recently came together for a Military Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) meeting, where they shared updates on their ongoing activities, initiatives, and accomplishments. The meeting provided an opportunity for students to highlight their leadership efforts and discuss issues important to military-connected youth and their school community.

Representative Shimizu attended the session to listen directly to students, engage in meaningful conversation, and show support for youth leadership and civic involvement. The discussion reinforced the importance of ensuring young voices are included in conversations about community, service, and the future, and highlighted the valuable perspective students bring to public dialogue.

Celebrating the Holiday Season



During the holiday season in December, Representative Shimizu attended the holiday parties put on separately by the Moanalua Valley Community Association and the Moanalua Gardens Community Association. At the Moanalua Valley Community Association holiday party, Representative Shimizu was honored to be reelected to the Association's Board and looks forward to continuing to serve the community.

Additional Events

American Judicare Society Annual Meeting

Judiciary leaders, advocates, and attorney partners recently gathered for the Annual AJS Meeting to reflect on the past year and discuss priorities moving forward. Representative Shimizu attended the meeting to listen, engage in discussion, and connect with this important work being done to support individuals and families across our community. Mahalo to AJS for their continued commitment to service and collaboration.

National History Day

Representative Shimizu attended Radford High School's National History Day Community Showcase Night, where students proudly shared their research projects and engaged in thoughtful conversations about history and its relevance today. The event highlighted the hard work, creativity, and critical thinking of Radford students, and provided an opportunity to hear directly from youth as they explored historical topics through research and presentation. Rep. Shimizu appreciated the chance to support student learning and celebrate their academic achievements.

HECO Town Hall

Residents from Pearl City and 'Aiea gathered at Pearl Ridge Elementary School for a Hawaiian Electric town hall focused on the new generator replacement project at the Waiau Power Plant and energy resilience in the community. Representative Shimizu attended the meeting to listen to constituent concerns, engage with Hawaiian Electric representatives, and support open dialogue on infrastructure improvements affecting the 96782 and 96701 areas.



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2026 Legislative Session

The 2026 Legislative Session officially convenes on Wednesday, January 21, marking the start of several months of hearings, debates, and decisions that shape Hawai'i's laws and budget.

This is also the time when community voices matter most. Residents are encouraged to follow bills, attend hearings, and submit written or oral testimony as legislation moves through the process.

All legislative information, including bills, hearing notices, and testimony submission is available at the Hawai'i State Legislature's website: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

Getting Started on the Capitol Website

The Legislature has recently launched an updated search tool to make public access easier. Here are a few quick tips to help you navigate:

- Search Bills or Topics:
 - Use the main search bar to enter keywords, bill numbers (e.g., HB123 or SB456), or committee names.
- Track a Bill:
 - Clicking on a bill shows its full history, hearing dates, documents, and a visual timeline of where it is in the legislative process.
- Submit Testimony:
 - Select a hearing notice and follow the links to submit written testimony or register to testify remotely.
- Refine Your Search:
 - Use filters to narrow results by session year, chamber, bill status, or content type (Measures, Hearings, Legislators, Documents, or HRS).
- Find Your Legislator:
 - Use the "Find Your Legislator" feature to look up elected officials by home address.

The website, <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>, also includes a help button with step-by-step guidance. They can also be contacted at 808-587-0478 should you need any assistance.

Representative Shimizu encourages residents to stay informed and take part in the legislative process. Your input helps shape stronger, more responsive policy for our communities.



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Resources

- **Red Hill Updates:** <https://redhillregistry.org/>
- **Aloha Stadium Redevelopment:** <https://nased.hawaii.gov/>
- **OCCC Relocation:** <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/>
- Grant In Aid Applications are being accepted through 4:30 PM Jan. 23. For more information, visit <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/GIA.aspx>.
- The Office of Early Childhood Development has launched a new website, www.firstfivehawaii.org, to serve as an online tool to find free programs for child care, housing, nutrition, parenting support, and more.
- The 2025-2026 Preschool Open Doors application period for 3 and 4-year olds will close at 4:30 pm on Jan. 30. Visit <https://childcaresubsidy.dhs.hawaii.gov> for more information.

Upcoming Events

