

OFFICE OF MATT KĀNEALI'I-KLEINFELDER

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

IMPROVING PUNA ROADS

▶ **Capital Budget for FY22-23**

\$2,500,000 toward 'Ōla'a Rd. improvements, resurfacing, and widening. Aligns with the community need for an alternate emergency access route for Upper Puna.

\$1,100,000 toward Puna Emergency Access Road in Hawaiian Acres. Spot resurfacing and drainage improvements.

\$11,000,000 for Puna Connectivity Access Routes. Implementing road connectivity improvement projects as identified by the Ad Hoc Committee on Puna Connectivity established in 2015. Will create alternate routes for area residents in Volcano, Puna Mauka, Puna Waena and Puna Kai.

▶ **Improvements for Roadways in Hawaiian Acres.** Designating an improvement district for permanent improvements on roadways (*Res. 105-21*).

▶ **Pushing for Hwy. 11 Improvements** by urging the administration to develop and implement a long-term plan with the State DOT to improve the Hwy. 11 corridor in Kea'au (*Res. 505-20*).

PUBLIC SAFETY

▶ **Urged a Funding Increase for More Police Presence in Puna** to account for our district's population growth (*Res. 65-19*).

▶ **Designated January as Sex Trafficking Awareness Month** in the County of Hawai'i (*Res. 296-22*).

TRANSPORTATION

▶ **Proposed decreasing the County fuel tax** from 23-cents to 13-cents per gallon as tax relief for residents amidst the rise in gas prices (*Res. 363-22*).

▶ **Suspended public transportation fares until December 31, 2025** to increase ridership and alleviate traffic concerns (*Bill 190 - 2022*).

▶ **Promoted clean energy use in Mass Transit** by urging the administration to acquire hydrogen-powered buses (*Res. 205-19*).

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ **Proposed a charter amendment adding a rep from Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands to serve on the Water Board**, establishing protections of Native Hawaiian water rights, and requiring Native Hawaiian law training for members of the Water Board and certain personnel in the Dept. of Water Supply (*Bill 180 - 2022*).
- ▶ **Proposed a 0.25% Transient Accommodation Tax for residents** compared to the 3% nonresident TAT (*Comm. 449-16*).
- ▶ **\$25,000 for "Expanding Devil Weed Eradication Program** to the Puna District" project to the University of Hawai'i (*Res. 309-22*).
- ▶ **\$2,750 to Create a Black Sands Beach community garden** provided to Malama O Puna (*Res. 426-22*).
- ▶ **\$1,200 for the Little Fire Ant Program** provided to Malama O Puna (*Res. 113-21*).
- ▶ **Pushed for a plan to mitigate surface water in Puna** by urging the Mayor and Dept. of Public Works to enter into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (*Res. 506-20*).
- ▶ **\$2,500 for the Operation Miconia project** provided to Malama O Puna (*Res. 72-19*).

EDUCATION

- ▶ **Advocated for a financial literacy in our youth** by urging the state legislature to include a financial literacy curriculum as a graduation requirement for every student (*Res. 190-21*).
- ▶ **\$3,860 to purchase computers and equipment for Kua O Ka Lā School** provided to Ho'oulu Lāhui (*Res. 146-21*).
- ▶ **\$20,000 for the "We've Got Your Back" keiki backpack program** provided to the Food Basket (*Res. 437-20*).
- ▶ **\$3,200 for the Pāhoa High and Intermediate School Hō'ike 2020** provided to the Pāhoa School Support Foundation (*Res. 527-20*).
- ▶ **\$3,000 to assist with expenses for Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u's graduation** provided to 'Aha Pūnana Leo (*Res. 139-19*).
- ▶ **\$5,000 to Mountain View PTSA for 'Ohana Day Event** (*Res. 392-19*).

INFRASTRUCTURE

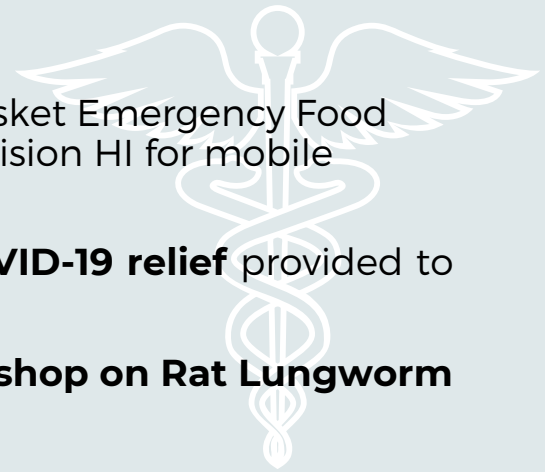
- ▶ **\$300,000 toward a study for Kikala-Keokea Community Facility and Park** (*Bill 127 - Capital Budget FY22-23*).
- ▶ **\$2,000 to install covered dugouts in Kurtistown Park** provided to Parks & Recreation (*Res. 183-19*).

HOUSING

- ▶ **Urging a study to address the lack of available and affordable housing insurance for Lava Zones 1 and 2 residents** (*Res. 75-21*).

HEALTH

- ▶ **\$1,077,958 federal COVID funds** toward Food Basket Emergency Food Program, Na Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini, and Project Vision HI for mobile health and hygiene services (*Bill 2 - 2021*).
- ▶ **\$8,000 for emergency food distribution as COVID-19 relief** provided to Malama O Puna (*Res. 597-20*).
- ▶ **\$1,750 for the 6th International Scientific Workshop on Rat Lungworm Disease** provided to Malama O Puna (*Res. 393-19*).



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

- ▶ In Person: Hilo Council Chambers, 25 Aupuni St., 1st Floor Rm. 1401 or at the Pāhoa Council Office (15-2879 Pāhoa Village Rd.)
- ▶ Oral Testimony via Zoom: email councilremotetestimony@hawaiicounty.gov or call (808)961-8255
- ▶ Written Testimony: mail to 25 Aupuni St., Ste. 1402, Hilo, HI 96720
- ▶ Email Testimony to counciltestimony@hawaiicounty.gov
- ▶ Fascimile to (808)961-8912

All written testimony needs to be submitted by 12pm the day before the measure is being heard to ensure that it is received by the Council on time. If you would like to deliver oral testimony, please register by 12pm the day prior to the meeting where the item is scheduled to be heard.

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