

# DISTRICT 12

## 2025 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



***What We Heard.  
What We're Doing.***



**SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI**  
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Aloha!

District 12 is made up of many neighborhoods, many voices, and many interests. We ask residents each year to tell us what matters most to them to guide our work ahead.

This report reflects what survey respondents shared, the concerns that rose to the top, and the direction those voices are taking us as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Listening is only the first step. Turning what we hear into action is the responsibility that follows.

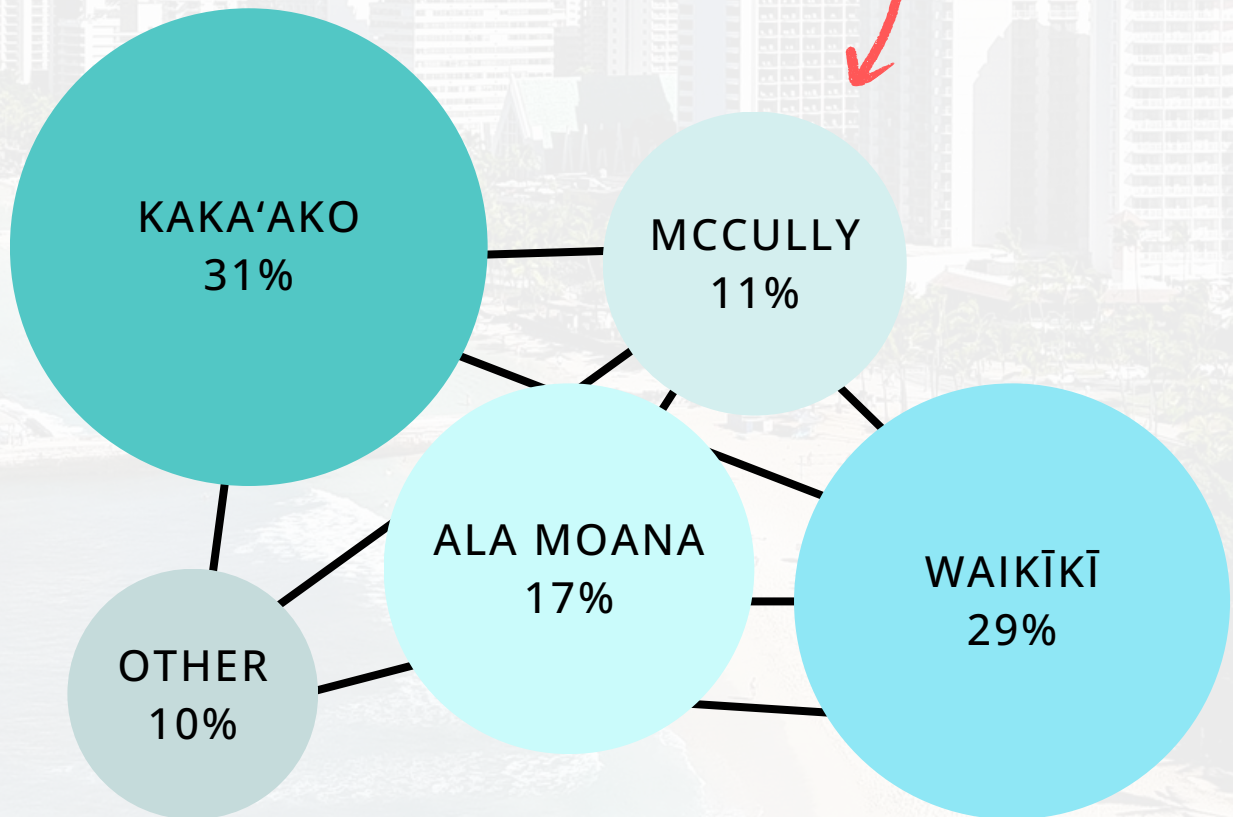
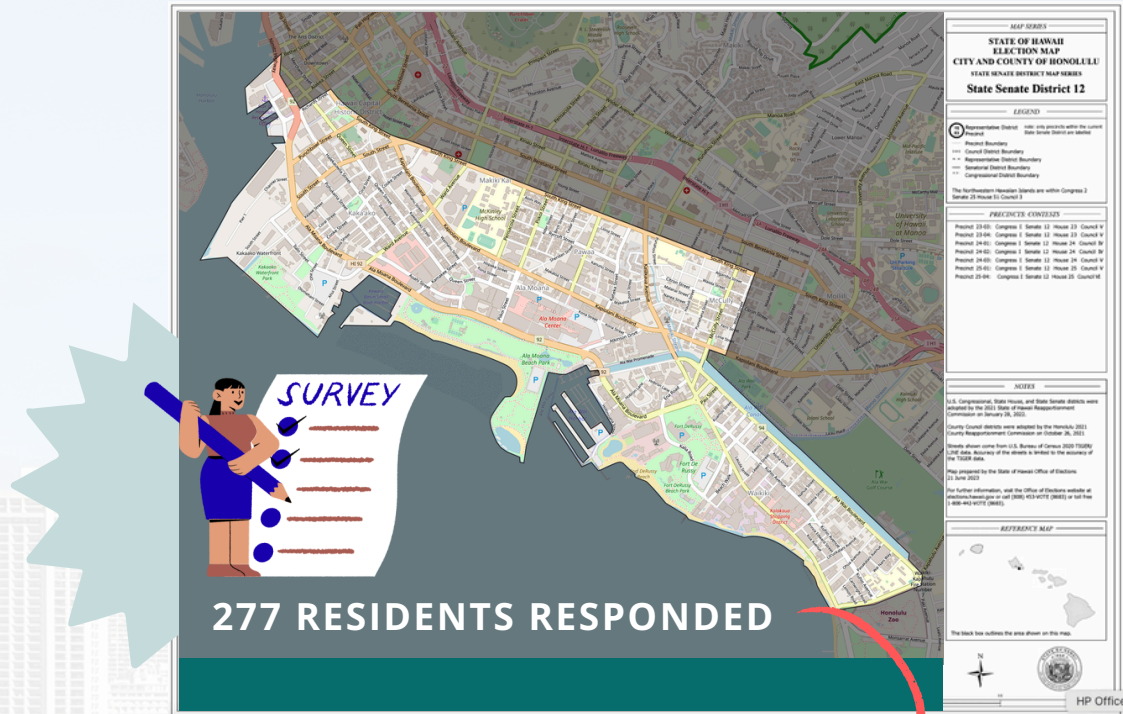
If you would like to receive updates via my bi-weekly newsletter, please email my office or click to [Subscribe](#). If you have additional ideas or concerns you would like to share, please contact me at (808)586-4760 or email me at [senmorwaki@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senmorwaki@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Caring for each other,

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, District 12  
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# SENATE DISTRICT 12 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



**Community Input Helps Shape Our Priorities  
For The Upcoming 2026 Legislative Session.**

# YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN:



## PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is important to daily life in District 12. Residents regularly raise concerns about safety in their neighborhoods, and I'm grateful to everyone who shared their experiences. Speaking up helps us identify real issues and address them directly.



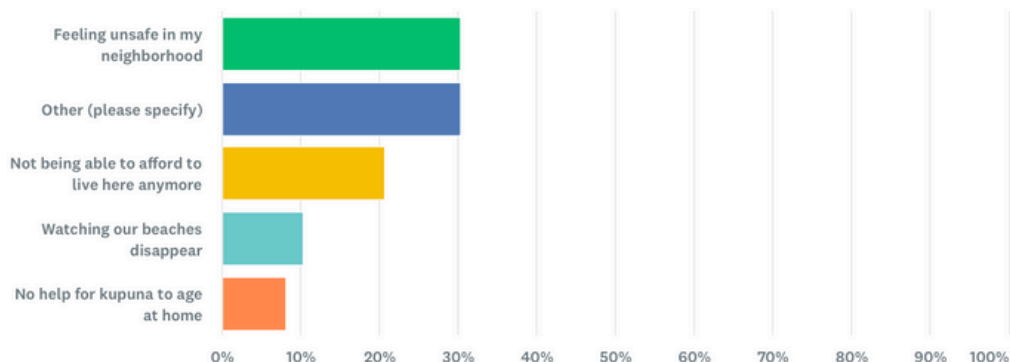
## WHAT YOU SAID:

Public safety, **defined as feeling unsafe in the neighborhood**, was the top concern for **30.4% of the respondents**.

Housing affordability was the next most cited concern (20%), followed by beach erosion (10%) and helping kupuna age at home (8%). Other cited noise, homelessness-related impacts, condominium insurance issues, the impact of federal policies, and traffic.

YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN: What keeps you up at night or motivates you to want to do something? Choose ONE.

Answered: 270 Skipped: 7





## WHAT WE'RE DOING:



**PUBLIC SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.** Our enforcement agencies, such as the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) community policing teams, work closely with neighborhood residents to address recurring problems as they regularly patrol the district.



We are also working to make permanent the habitual violent criminal offender law, which increases certain repeat violent misdemeanors to a Class C felony when committed three times within five years. This law, enacted as Act 213 (SLH 2024), is currently set to sunset in 2027 and a bill is being introduced to make the law permanent and to provide reports to the legislature of its effectiveness.



Last session the Legislature appropriated \$380 million dedicated to housing, including the rental housing revolving fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund



With the appropriation of \$5 million last session, we will continue to work on resilience and adaptation planning for Waikiki Beach restoration.

# TOP PRIORITY TO BE ADDRESSED:



## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness remains a visible challenge in District 12. Residents see its impacts daily. Your perspectives guide policy as we pursue practical, compassionate solutions.



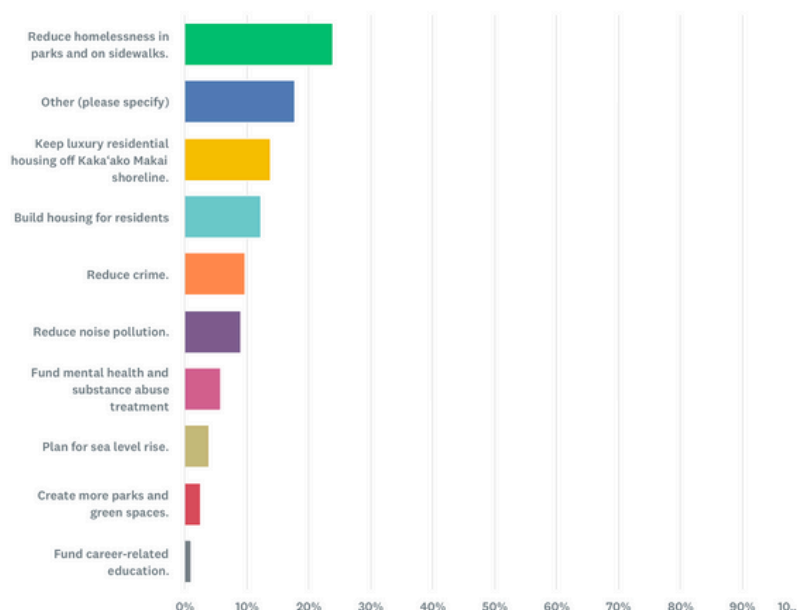
## WHAT YOU SAID:

Homelessness was the top priority to be addressed (25%). Other priorities included keeping luxury housing out of Kaka’ako Makai (13.8%) and building more housing for residents (12.3%).

Eighteen percent of respondents submitted written comments. Of those, several recommended increased incarceration, while others emphasized the need to build more housing.

YOUR TOP PRIORITIES: Bills to address state and community challenges were introduced last session with only some passing. What should come first next year?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 1





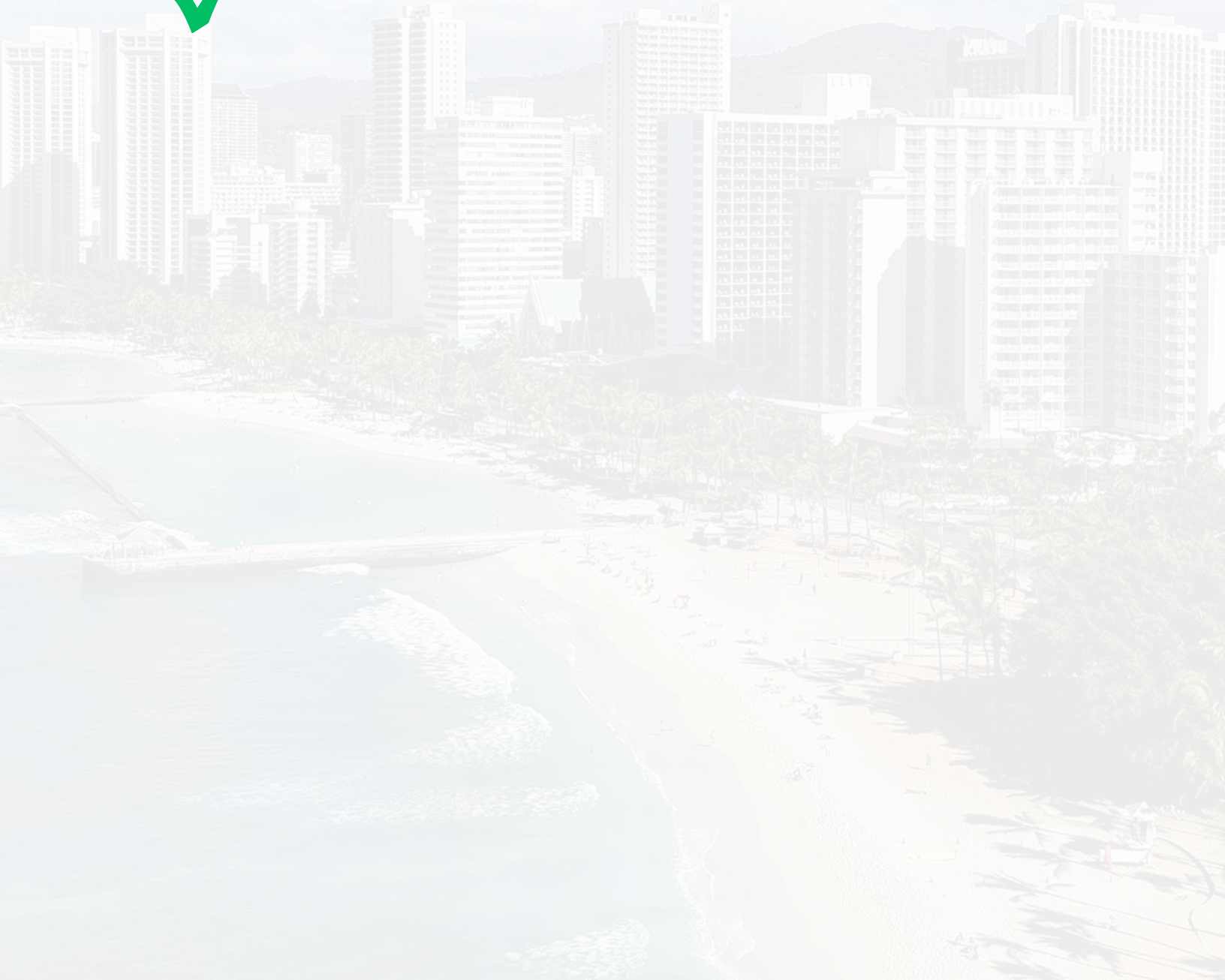
## WHAT WE'RE DOING:



The 2025 legislature appropriated \$88 million for FY26 and FY27 to continue creating *kauhale* and support services for the homeless. We will continue to monitor the implementation, effectiveness, and performance of these projects administered by the State Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions.



Last session, \$380 million was appropriated for affordable housing.



# SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSED:

We asked you to propose solutions to key community challenges.

Below are the topics you weighed in on, along with your responses and what we're doing next.

*SURVEY*

## 1. HOMELESSNESS

## 2. REVENUE GENERATION

➤ Real Estate Investment Trust

➤ Legalization of Marijuana

➤ Legalization of Gambling

## 3. EXCESSIVE NOISE

## 4. SEA LEVEL RISE

## 5. PLANNING FOR KAKA'AKO MAKAI



## WHAT YOU SAID:

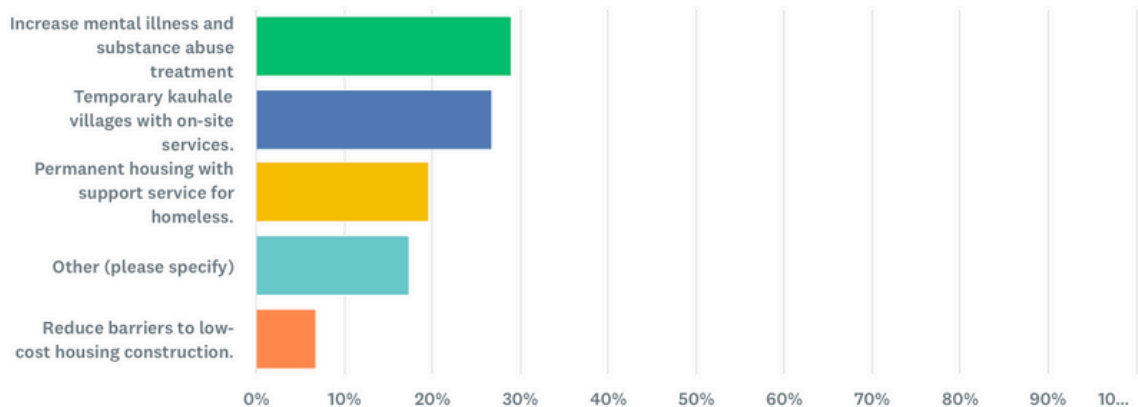
### 1. HOMELESSNESS:

The most frequently recommended solution was expanding mental health and substance use treatment (29.1%). Other suggestions included building temporary kauhale (26.9%) and developing permanent housing with support services (19.6%).

Sixteen percent of respondents submitted written comments, with many proposing programs to return unhoused individuals to their home states.

Homelessness: Over half of the homeless suffer from one or more physical disabilities. Most have substance abuse/addiction or mental illness, and 20% were 60 years and older. Which ONE of the following would you put first:

Answered: 275 Skipped: 2



## WHAT WE'RE DOING:

The 2025 legislature appropriated \$88 million for FY26 and FY27 to continue creating kauhale and support services for the homeless. We will continue to monitor the implementation, effectiveness, and performance of these projects administered by the State Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

A Bill to provide funding for a program to return homeless to their out-of-state homes was introduced but failed last session. We will introduce a similar bill in the upcoming session.

## 2. REVENUE GENERATION:

To address the state's growing needs, we asked for your views on several revenue-generating proposals. Specifically, we asked about taxing dividends from Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), legalizing recreational marijuana, and legalizing gambling. Below are your responses.

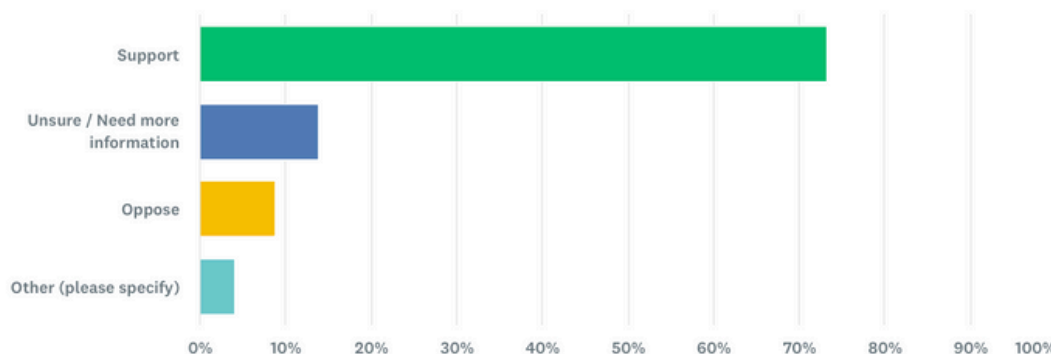
### WHAT YOU SAID:

#### ➤ REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST:

Seventy-three percent supported eliminating the dividend-paid deduction for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Fifteen percent were unsure or said they needed more information, and ten percent opposed the proposal.

Taxing Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs): REITs are companies that own major income-producing properties like Ala Moana Center, Hilton Hawaiian Village, and other large commercial and/or hotel real property developments. They are currently exempt from paying Hawai'i state income tax on profits given to shareholders who mostly live out of state. This deduction would keep money in Hawaii to fund housing without taxing local families and businesses. Others worry that taxing REITs could discourage developers from investing in new projects here. Would you support Hawaii taxing REIT profits?

Answered: 273 Skipped: 4



### WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Based on strong support from respondents, a bill will be introduced to eliminate the REIT dividend-paid deduction for dividends generated within the state. Under this proposal, REIT shareholders who live outside Hawai'i would be required to pay Hawai'i income tax on dividends derived from revenues earned in the state.



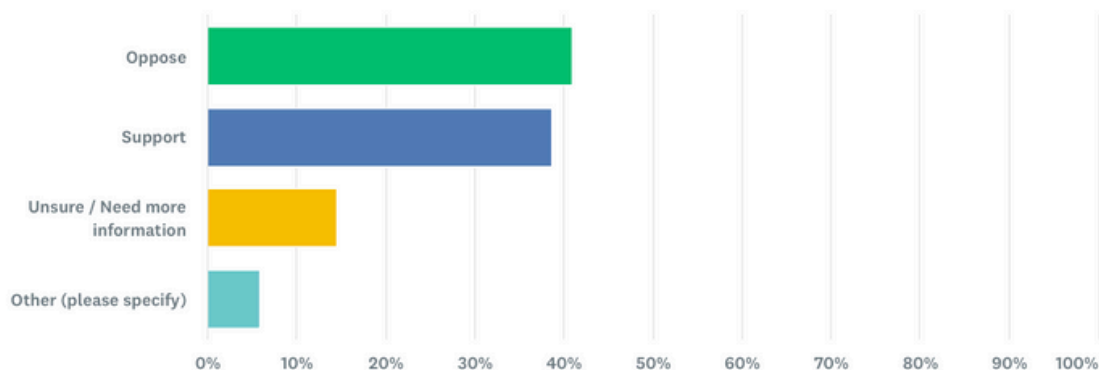
## WHAT YOU SAID:

### LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA:

Opinions were divided on whether to legalize recreational marijuana. Forty-one percent opposed legalization, while 39% supported it. An additional 20% said they were unsure or needed more information.

Legalizing Recreational Marijuana: Some in our community favor legalizing recreational marijuana because it will bring in revenue and lessen illegal black market sales. Others point to the costs involved in enforcement and in societal costs of marijuana-related disorders among youth, traffic accidents, and additional substance abuse costs. Would you support Hawaii legalizing recreational marijuana?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 3



## WHAT WE'RE DOING:

We reviewed the 2024 HPD [IMPACT REPORT](#) on commercialization of marijuana. It found that states legalizing recreational marijuana often see minimal net revenue once regulatory, enforcement, public health, and environmental costs are accounted for.

We also reviewed a [UH CANCER CENTER STUDY](#) on the adverse effects of recreational marijuana use among youth and young adults. The researchers found recreational use among 7<sup>th</sup> graders (6%), 8<sup>th</sup> graders (11%), and college students (25%), showing adverse effects increasing with more frequent use.

We are proceeding cautiously before considering any change to the current policy limiting marijuana use for medical purposes only.

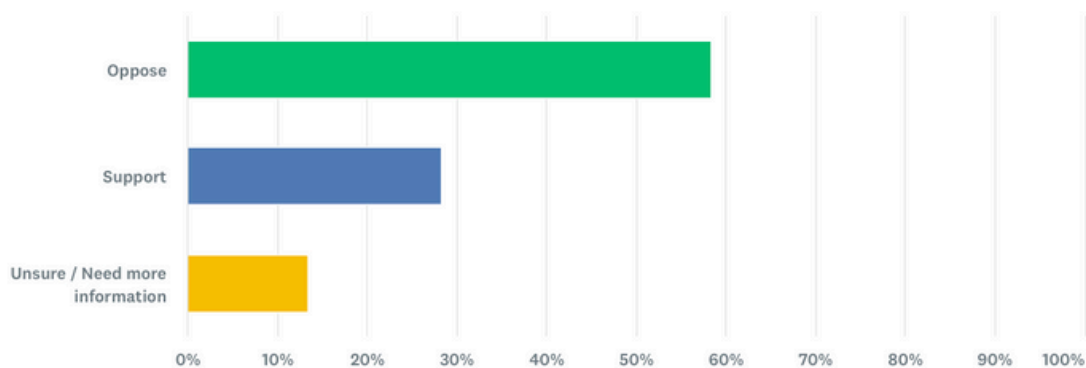
## WHAT YOU SAID:

### LEGALIZING GAMBLING:

Fifty-eight percent opposed legalizing gambling, while 28% supported legalization. Twelve percent said they needed more information.

Legalizing Gambling: Some lawmakers favor legalized gambling in Hawai'i to generate revenue. Others caution that legalized states have faced higher demands on enforcement and increased costs of social services from gambling addiction, crime, and personal financial hardship. Would you support Hawaii legalizing gambling?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 1



## WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Based on research from other states that have legalized gambling, we found that the social, health, and enforcement costs often outweigh the anticipated revenues. Based on this evidence to date and your input, any gambling bill will not be supported. We will continue to review data and share relevant findings.



### 3. EXCESSIVE NOISE:

Last session, legislation was passed to address excessive noise, including the use of noise cameras and penalties for loud vehicles. To understand ongoing concerns better, we asked residents which noises are most disruptive to them.

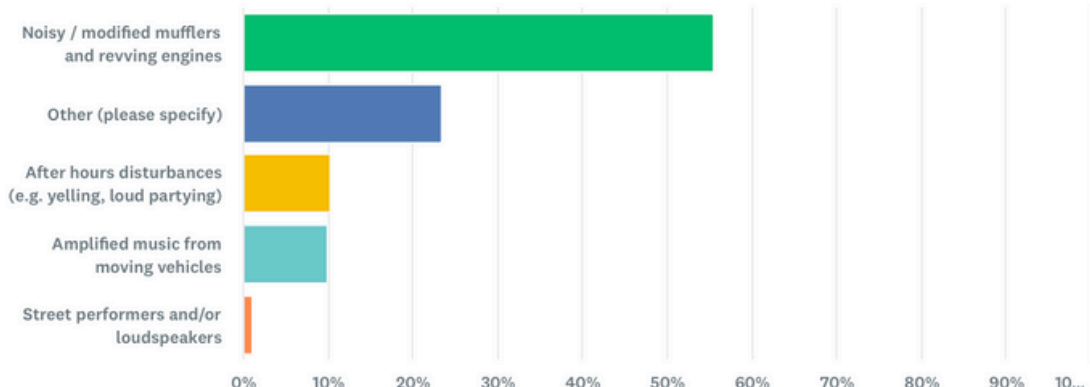
#### WHAT YOU SAID:

Fifty-nine percent identified cars with loud engines or mufflers as the primary concern.

Twenty-three percent submitted written comments. Of those, a majority (64%) mentioned excessive noise from garbage trucks and buses.

Excessive Noise: We live in a noisy urban area. Which one source of noise is most disruptive to you? (Choose one only)

Answered: 274 Skipped: 3



#### WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Act 172 (1975) regulates noisy mufflers and exhaust systems, and we will continue to monitor its enforcement. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) has installed noise cameras to collect data on excessively noisy vehicles. We will support legislation in the upcoming session to authorize issuing citations based on violations recorded by noise cameras.

We are also introducing a bill to place restrictions on the operating hours of certain vehicles, including garbage trucks. Based on discussions with residents in the district, the proposed measure would allow operation in residential neighborhoods from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## WHAT YOU SAID:

### 4. SEA LEVEL RISE:

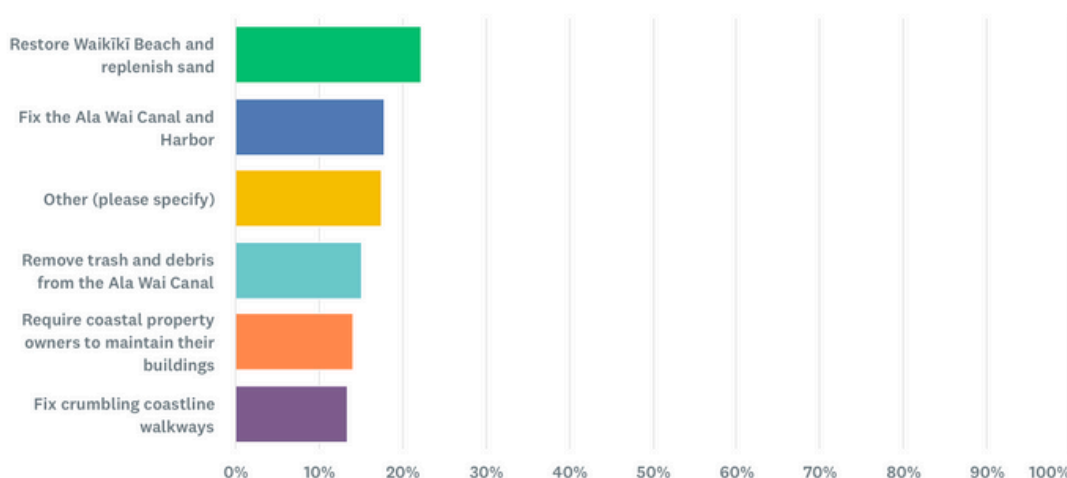
When asked to identify the best solution to address sea level rise, respondents most often prioritized restoring Waikīkī Beach (22%).

Other priorities included fixing the Ala Wai Canal and Harbor (18%), removing trash and debris from the canal (14%), and requiring coastal property owners to maintain their buildings (14%).

Seventeen percent submitted written comments, with many indicating that all of these actions should be addressed together.

Sea Level Rise: Rising sea level threatens Waikīkī and our coastline communities. Check the solution you consider the HIGHEST priority to address.

Answered: 270 Skipped: 7



## WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Last session, \$5 million was appropriated to continue work led by the University of Hawai'i to plan for Waikīkī resilience and adaptation to sea level rise. These funds support planning and design to restore the Waikīkī Beach coastline.

An additional \$5.75 million was secured for two projects to improve the Ala Wai Canal and Harbor, including repairs to the canal and surrounding walls. Another \$1 million was appropriated to the University of Hawai'i College of Engineering and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation to research, plan, and design a debris catchment system to prevent trash and debris from entering the canal, harbor, and ocean.



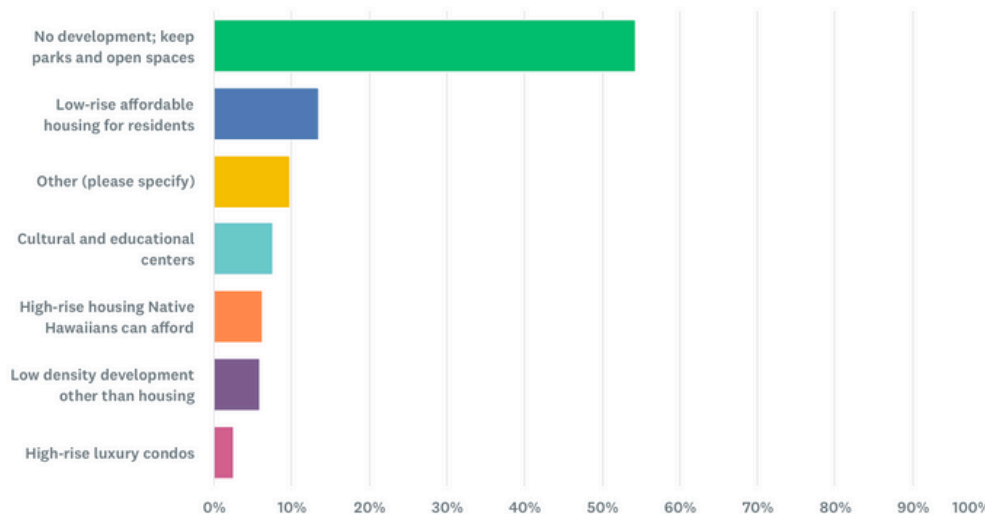
## WHAT YOU SAID:

### 5. PLAN FOR KAKA'AKO MAKAI:

Kaka'ako Makai has been the focus of controversy as different interests pursue development on the coastal lands. The majority (55.8%) preferred no development leaving it open to public open spaces; followed by low-rise affordable housing for residents (13%), cultural and educational centers (7%), high-rise affordable housing for Native Hawaiians (6%), low-density non-residential development (5%), and high rise luxury condos (2%). Nine percent submitted comments primarily suggesting mixed use development.

Kakaako Makai: Some want to put luxury high rise condos in Kakaako Makai.  
What do you want for Kakaako on the coastline Makai of Ala Moana Boulevard?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 3



## WHAT WE'RE DOING:

Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) is responsible for overseeing the planning and development of the Kaka'ako Community Development District, including Kaka'ako Makai. The Legislature appropriated \$1 million to update the Makai plan and \$1.5 million for a geotechnical survey. With the funding, HCDA is currently updating the Kaka'ako Makai Conceptual Plan, adopted in 2011, including a geotechnical survey of the land condition as it sits on an encapsulated landfill. Once the assessment is complete and community input obtained, decisions will be made as to what can be developed safely on the Makai lands. Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded a \$2 million brownfields assessment grant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to conduct similar assessments on the lands they own land.

Our office will monitor these efforts closely so that any development —residential or otherwise— will first ensure the health and safety of our residents and our coastal environment and community.