



## Q&A WITH SENATOR SHIMABUKURO

### Why did you support the marriage equality bill?

I believe our Constitution and the Supreme Court's striking down of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) requires equal protection for all. I realize that many of my constituents were opposed to this bill, and wanted to place this issue on the ballot for a popular vote. However, I think civil rights should be based on what is fair, and not what is "popular." On the other hand, I also firmly believe in religious freedom, and have the utmost respect of others' religious beliefs. Therefore, I would support further tightening of the bill to allow churches the right to exercise their choices and not be unduly encumbered by the legislation.



"Maile responded when our neighborhood had a drug house by contacting the Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit at the Attorney General's Office. We are grateful that she helped keep our neighborhood safe." -- Kalani Hayworth and Phyllis Duncan, Mākaha residents

### Hawaii's cost of living is the highest in the country by many indicators. What can really be done to make things like housing, food and transportation less expensive?

Encourage more people to try riding the bus, using bikes, the rail, and other forms of alternative transportation. I catch the bus regularly to the Capitol, and it's like a "reward" every time I step on. I can use my smartphone, read, write, socialize, sleep, and just plain relax in air-conditioned comfort. Even if I have to stand up it still beats driving hands down. If you live far from the bus stop you can ride your bike and store it on the bike rack or park your car nearby. At just \$60 a month (cost of an adult bus pass), you save tons of money too!

In regards to food, teach people about natural farming. It's a growing trend, and people can do it in their own backyards.



"Maile respects our churches and believes in our right to exercise religious freedom." -- Thomas Couch, Wai'anae resident



"Maile listened when I had concerns about DHHL and our schools. I appreciate her willingness to help." -- Germaine Meyers, Nānākuli resident

### Local officials and advocates have worked to address homelessness for years, yet the crisis is growing. What proposals do you have for this complicated issue?

We need to bring down the cost of building homes. Around 2007 I worked with Sen. English on passing a bill to legalize indigenous architecture/natural building for residential structures. I plan to work with the counties to find model building codes to implement the legislation so that people can live in yurts, hale, earth bag, and other similar sustainable and cost efficient homes. I will also push to legalize "container" homes, which convert old Matson and other shipping containers into residential units.

### Where do you stand on labeling genetically engineered food and pesticide regulation? Are these public safety issues, or are the dangers exaggerated?

I support labeling. I do believe this is a public safety issue.



"Maile supports local businesses and community based economic development." -- Desiree Higa Hikuroa, Charles Hew Len, and Tainui, business owners

### Are you satisfied with the way Hawaii's public school system is run? How can it be run better?

Allow charter schools to be eligible for capital improvement project (CIP funding). There was a measure trying to do this in the past session, but unfortunately it failed. I think its terrible that charter schools have to turn away students due to the lack of classroom space. A lot of these overflow students end up in private schools, which puts immense financial strain on the families. I think it would be a win-win because more students would be able to stay in their communities, which would increase the per pupil funding, create more jobs for homegrown teachers, keep more spending money in parents' pockets, etc.



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 HI Fire Fighters Assn.  
 HI Government Employees Assn.  
 HI State AFL-CIO  
 HI Teamsters & Allied Workers  
 Honolulu Star-Advertiser  
 International Longshore & Warehouse Union  
 Patsy T. Mink PAC  
 Planned Parenthood of HI Action Network  
 Plumbers & Fitters UA Local Union 675  
 Progressive PAC  
 Sierra Club HI  
 United Public Workers  
 University of HI Professional Assembly

### There is a desire to grow the economy through new development yet also a need to protect our limited environmental resources. How would you balance these competing interests?

Follow the example of the North Shore to fight for and succeed in preserving a portion of Turtle Bay.



"Maile sends her child to public school, and understands the importance of supporting our public school students." -- Lanny Busher, Wai'anae Coast resident

### What other important issue would you like to discuss here?

I introduced a bill this past session to preserve state taro lands. It was recommended by the Taro Purity and Security Task Force. Unfortunately, the bill died in conference committee at the very end of session. I will re-introduce this measure.

Also, I think issues of political sovereignty and justice for Hawaiians should proceed as a 2-part process. First, Hawaiians should be "recognized" as a race that the US owes reparations to for past wrongs. This would preserve their current benefits. The 2nd step is to allow the Hawaiians to decide for themselves about how they want to build their nation and sovereignty.

**Maile is a member of the following important Senate Committees:**  
 Chair, Hawaiian Affairs  
 Vice Chair, Judiciary and Labor  
 Member, Water and Land

I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Senate District 21. Visit [electmaile.com](http://electmaile.com) and [Facebook.com/maileshimabukuro21](https://www.facebook.com/maileshimabukuro21) to learn more.

Aloha,  
  
 Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
 District 21

*Paid for by: Friends of Maile Shimabukuro - 87-162 Liopolo Street Wai'anae, HI 96792 • Mervina Cash-Ka'eo, Campaign Chair*