Mazie K. Hirono was elected to the Senate in 2012, becoming Hawaii’s first female senator and the country’s first Asian-American woman senator. Throughout her career, Hirono has fought on behalf of Hawaii families and communities whose voices are not often heard in Congress, working to protect and build upon the progress generations of Americans have fought to secure.

In the Senate, Hirono is a leading champion for women’s rights and reproductive freedom, voting and civil rights, the Native Hawaiian community, sustainable communities, and early education. In 2021, Senator Hirono introduced the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, legislation signed into law to help communities combat the rise in anti-Asian hate and violence.

Hirono serves on the Committees on Armed Services, Energy and Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Veterans’ Affairs. She is also Chair of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, where she is leading the fight to modernize military infrastructure in Hawaii and across the country.

Born in Fukushima, Japan, Hirono was nearly eight years old when her mother brought her and her siblings to Hawaii to escape an abusive husband and seek a better life. Hirono served in the Hawaii House of Representatives from 1981 to 1994 and earned a reputation as an advocate for consumers and workers. After being elected as Hawaii’s lieutenant governor in 1994, Hirono led the creation of Hawaii’s Pre-Plus Program to expand access to quality, affordable early education. In 2006, voters in Hawaii’s second congressional district elected Hirono to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served three terms before being elected to the Senate.