

2025 Legislative Mid-Session Newsletter

Office of Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

State Representative — District 2

Session Introduction

Aloha family, friends and neighbors!

First and foremost, thank you for electing me to serve as the Representative for House District 2. I am honored and humbled by the privilege of this opportunity to represent you in the Thirty-Third Legislative Session. My eight years on the Hawai'i County Council has proven to be a strong foundation to tackle issues facing the State of Hawai'i, and I am very fortunate to have outstanding staff by my side with years of legislative experience: Isaac Goya—Hilo born-&-raised Legislative Aide who has been a long-time legislative session worker, Soana Tupua-Fanoga—my Office Manager who has worked with many other representatives, Alisha Leisek—my Committee Clerk who comes with an extensive and established background in both the Senate and House, and Kevin Chong—Legislative Aide and an eager learner and future UH Manoa student.

As a freshman member of the State House of Representatives, I was elevated to serve as the Vice Chair on the Committee on Health and as a member of the Humans Services and Homelessness (HSH) Committee. While the subject matter of public health and overall community health is new territory, meeting with experts has made the learning curve a quick transition, and caring for the most vulnerable in our community together with personal lived experience has made the policy work meaningful and rewarding. As a member of the HSH committee, I have seen how the great work I've done on the County Council dovetails nicely with State plans and programs aimed to tackle this area of need and attention.

I have also been tapped by House leadership to serve as a member on the Committee on Finance. Within a few weeks of the new session, UHERO delivered it's 2025 first-quarter forecast and as noted in the report's Executive Summary – *"Hawaii's economic growth is threatened by federal disruptions. While tax cuts may provide some stimulus this year, the Administration's actions—including tariffs, mass deportations, and spending cuts—will impose significant drag thereafter."* As of this writing, the House passed HB300 HD1 that charts a strong course to tackle the challenging financial headwinds, and supports our communities' needs. These three committee assignments are vital for our island and State to thrive.

Finally, I was also given the opportunity to introduce various pieces of legislation to help Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawaii, from funding for the Mauna Kea scholars program to a bill to help revitalize the Waiakea Peninsula (Banyan Drive). Highlights of other CIP projects and legislation that support Hawai'i Island can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Mahalo once again for the opportunity to serve you as a Representative, and for your continued support!

Aloha Piha and Cheers,



Staff Photo: Kevin, Soana, Isaac & Alisha



Rep in Finance Committee Hearing

HB 818

-Establishes the Waiakea Peninsula Community Development District and the Waiakea Peninsula Community Development District Special Fund. Specifies the powers and duties of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority as it relates to the new development district.

"Banyan Drive, nestled in the vibrant city of Hilo, is not just a road; it's a lifeline for our community and a testament to our rich history. Banyan Drive serves as a cherished gathering hub, welcoming visitors and locals alike to enjoy its stunning natural beauty and recreational opportunities. As we stroll along this historic route, we connect with our families and friends, supporting local businesses that thrive in its vicinity. However, years of neglect have taken a toll on Banyan Drive, jeopardizing its role as a symbol of pride for the Hilo community."



Other Bills Introduced by Rep Keohokapu-Lee Loy

HB 729 HD 2—RELATING TO MARRIAGE OF MINORS

HB 563 HD 1—RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INITIATIVE

HB 1187 HD 1—RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

HB 1337 HD 1—RELATING TO MEDICAID

CIP Projects:

Waiakea Intermediate and Hilo Union repairs and maintenance

Hilo Intermediate gym demolition and removal with planning and design of new gym

Jimmy Corriera ball field artificial infield grass installation

****An easy way to track bills like these and many others is through the capitol website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), click on the Laws & Research tab then go down to Reports and Lists or simply use the search button.***



Group Photo of the 2025 Women's Legislative Caucus



Rep with former Rep. Onishi on Opening Day



International Women's Day—Hilo



Opening Day with the Hilo Hospital Group



Rep at Hawai'i History Day with Students, Teachers, Parents and Volunteers



Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 332
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hawai'i State Representative

SUE L. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY

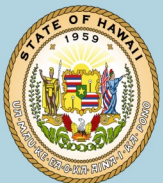
House District 2 - Hilo

Have a question? Contact my office:

Phone: (808) 586-6120

Fax: (808) 586-6121

Email: repkeohokapuleeloy@capitol.hawaii.gov



Rep. Keohokapu-Lee Loy's 2025 Committee Assignments

Committee on Health - Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

