



SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE

Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona

Newsletter

March – April 2019

Aloha!

I would like to express a great big “Mahalo” for the confidence you have shown me allowing me to serve you for another four-year term in the Hawaii State Senate. I am honored to continue to be of service to the Fourth Senatorial District on the Big Island, as well as the rest of Hawaii.

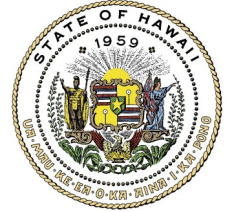
This year I am once again the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. I am also the Vice-Chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee and am a member of the Senate Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Things are bustling here in Honolulu at the Hawaii State Capitol. A large number of Senate bills are going through the legislative process of public hearings, and committee and floor votes before crossing over to the House of Representatives. Bills from the House are going through the same process and crossing over to the Senate where my colleagues and I will make further decisions on them.

I am honored to meet anyone who comes to visit me at my State Capitol Office, especially my fourth district constituents who fly over from the Big Island. It is always a privilege to see you, listen to your concerns and get a picture taken with you.

As we pass the halfway point of the sixty-day Legislative Session, I want to share some of the proposals, news, and accomplishments we have made so far this year. Articles appearing in this newsletter will mention some of my priorities for the session, a list of capital improvement projects I have for the district and news “tidbits” of whatever is going on.

It is my hope that we will be able to accomplish our legislative goals and help make Hawaii a better place to live, work and play. I encourage you to participate in our legislative process by testifying or commenting on those bills that may be of impact to your life. Feel free to contact me by telephone (808 586-7335), email (seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov) or in person if you have a question or anything of concern to share with me. Just stopping by to say “hello” is appreciated too!



**Serving Hawaii's
Senate District 4**

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My supporters from the Big Island ILWU came to visit me on opening day, January 16.



Senator Lorraine Inouye
Majority Whip
Transportation
Chair
Government Operations
Vice Chair
Energy, Economic
Development & Tourism
Member
Ways & Means
Member



Ron McKeehan of Ahualoa Hog Farm, Randy Cabral of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaii County Councilman Tim Richards, and Jason D. Moniz of the State Dept. of Agriculture visited me at the Capitol on Agriculture Day, February 6th. I support our Big Island ranchers, farmers and flower growers with their endeavors.

Capital Improvement Projects for the Fourth Senatorial District

I proposed the following capital improvement projects (CIP) for the fourth senatorial district.

- 1.Plans & design for a new sewer system in **Puako**.
- 2.Construction for a new ten-million-gallon water reservoir for the **Lālāmilo** water system.
- 3.Design and construction of roofing for buildings A, E, F and T at **Honokaa High School**.
- 4.Plans and design for a new gymnasium at **Kohala High School**
- 5.Plans, construction and equipment for a parking area at **Waimea Elementary School**
- 6.Design, construction, and equipment for entryway and exterior improvements for the STEAM learning center at **Waimea Middle School**.
- 7.Construction for driveway and parking improvements and installation of a culvert at **Waimea Outdoor Circle**.
- 8.Plans, design and construction for an exploratory well for non-potable agricultural use and related improvements in **North Kohala**.
- 9.Plans and design for parking, restrooms and trail restoration at **Pololu Valley Lookout**.

While the CIPs were initially part of **SB1332** which I introduced, they should be included in the upcoming budget bill that is making its way through the legislature. Funding for each project varies and is subject to amendments as the legislature progresses.

Red Light Cameras for Public Safety

This year I introduced a new bill (**SB 663**) that will allow the Counties to enact a photo red light imaging detector system on Hawaii’s roadways. While I understand that the bill is controversial and may have its opponents, it is important for the state to enact this measure to ensure the public’s safety.



If the bill passes as intended, motorists who drive through a steady red light at any intersection equipped with photo imaging detection hardware will be subject to a court summons and asked to pay a fine or challenge it in court. The proposed law assumes that the registered owner is the driver of the vehicle and it will be up to that person to prove otherwise.

The law only applies to motorists who “run red lights” meaning a traffic light that is in a steady red cycle state. Vehicles that have gone through an intersection when the light is yellow but turns red while still in the intersection will not be subjected to action.

The photo red light system will be completely automated with sensors buried in the roadways, and the camera/detection hardware permanently mounted to a stationary, fixed pole. This is unlike the 2002 era “van cam” system that was overturned by the legislature after public outrage.

The intention of this proposed law is to increase public safety. In 2018, 117 people were killed statewide in a number of traffic accidents, 43 of them pedestrians. Photo red light systems are used throughout the world and in the United States. They have proven to be reliable, efficient and effective in identifying and deterring those who run red lights.



(Left): With fellow Senators at the Capitol’s 50th Anniversary Commemoration; (Right): Senate chamber with the Grammy Award winning singing group Manhattan Transfer.



Mike and Tricia Hodson from the Waimea Hawaiian Homes Association and Waimea Nui CDC were visitors to my office in February this year.

Be sure to follow me on my Facebook page for the latest updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/senlorraineinouye/>

Third Reading Bill Voting Synopsis

With the legislature well past the halfway mark, I am providing this review on how I voted on some of the bills that passed through the Senate at the first crossover. I voted “aye” or “yes” in favor of the following bills unless otherwise indicated:

SB 666 – This bill authorizes establishment of the Hawaii Airports Corporation within the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes.

SB 663 – This bill creates a red light camera program to automatically photograph, tag and ticket motorists going through red lights at intersections.

SB 657 - Requires electric vehicles to pay for unmetered fee parking when parked for any period longer than an initial 4 hours.

SB 824 – Lexi’s law; requires helmets for rental motor scooters and mopeds.

SB 1069 – This bill establishes a tax credit for helicopter operators who install noise-cancelling technology on their aircraft.

SB 1161 – This bill establishes rules, regulations, and permitting procedures for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft operating in the State.

SB 1463 – Carbon emissions tax.

SB 1505 – The safe harbors refuge bill which I introduced got a **yes** vote. This will allow owners of small vessels to seek refuge at the state harbors during hurricane and other storm warnings.

SB 522 – Statewide ban on plastic food packaging including single use plastic bags, containers, straws, etc.

SB 367 – Prohibits sales and use of polystyrene foam containers for prepared food.

SB 600 – Prohibits persons under 18 from bringing a firearm into the state.

SB 1474 – General Excise Tax increase; voted “no”. County of Hawaii increased the GE Tax earlier this month. Had this bill passed, Hawaii Island residents would have had to endure two tax increases this year. The House killed the bill.

HB 2 CD1 – State Budget: Passed a month early.

HB 1180 – \$60 Million allocation for disaster relief funding for the Puna area due to the 2018 volcano eruption.



Senator Inouye with Young Bros. representative and members of Raymond Alapai’s family whom a tugboat bears his name.

Legislative Certificates Issued to Individuals and Organizations

The Hawaii State Senate and House offer groups and individuals congratulatory certificates to recognize an achievement, accomplishment or a certain status during their lifetime. Certificates are also issued for occasions of historical or cultural significance.

So far this year, I have issued the certificates to honor the following individuals and organizations:

University of Hilo Vulcans Basketball Coach **Jimmy Yagi** as a 2019 Living Treasure of Hawaii Honoree, Honpaa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

In remembrance of and condolences for **Loea Flora “Tita” Lei-omalama Desha Beamer Solomon**, kumu hula who passed away, February 2019.

Sharon K. Hurd and **Kevin Horiuchi** Outstanding Achievement at the State Department of Agriculture

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hilo for their 100th Year Centennial Commemoration.

Young Brothers on the blessing of their new tugboat, Kapena Raymond Alapai.

Tex Drive-In, on their 50th Anniversary of operations.

Honokaa High School, 130th Celebration, July 2019.

Here I am at St. Joseph Church in Hilo with **Bishop Larry Silva** and friends **Nick** and **Jozie Pacheco Balingit**. The 100th year centennial of the church was celebrated.



DO WE
HAVE YOUR
EMAIL?

Send me your email address for future updates and additional newsletters that we may send out during the year.

Email me at:

seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

Include your name, email address and place of residence in your request.

What's Happening at the State Capitol



The Filipino Legislative Caucus with Rep. Romy Cachola, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Rep. Henry Aquino, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Rep. Della Au Belatti, Senator Lorraine Inouye and Senator Donna Mercado Kim was featured on the front cover of the *Fil-Am Courier* in January.



For the 2019 session my legislative staff includes (from left to right), Melvin Ah Ching (Legislative Aid), Tommie Suganuma (Office Manager), Marché Matsumura (Intern), Hope Duran (Assistant Committee Clerk) and Sydney Hart (Committee Clerk).

Legislature at a Glance

Session Days: 60
Jan. 16 to May 2, 2019.
Bills Introduced by
Senator Inouye: 45
Total Bills Introduced in
the Legislature: 3,142
Senate Committees: 16
Total Senators: 25
Total Representatives: 51
Session No.: 30th Biennial



Hawaii Island members of the Hawaii Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation stopped by my office today for a brief chat.



On March 8 the Senate confirmed Lynn Araki-Regan as Deputy Director and Jade Butay as Director to the Dept. of Transportation.



Hilo Public Library's Mona Tavares on being the recipient of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii 2018 Excellence in Service award. She received a congratulatory certificate from the Senate on March 21.



The Senate Transportation Committee heard dozens of bills this year on a number of issues ranging from regulation of the ride share industry to airport privatization.



I was a panelist on Honolulu Civil Beat's Legislative Forum. I was one of four panelists. Several controversial issues were brought up. If you are interested the video can be viewed online at:

<https://youtu.be/niZR5Tvcoo>



The Hawaii Island delegation along with Governor David Ige support the emergency funding bill for disaster recovery from the 2018 volcanic eruption in the lower Puna district.