



SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE

Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona

Newsletter

February 2020

A Fresh Start for the New Year

“The Roaring 2020’s” are upon us with the start of the new year and legislative session. I am honored to continue as your State Senator for the Fourth District of Hawai’i Island.

I am supporting the Joint House-Senate Economic bills which cover the following topics:

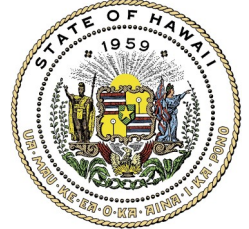
- Targeting tax relief for working class families and individuals,
- Increasing the minimum wage,
- Developing leasehold housing for the working class,
- Providing tax exemptions for developers to build market priced homes,
- Providing infrastructure for developments at or near rail stations,
- Expanding childcare options for parents near their workplaces,
- Creating a new Schools Facilities Agency and allow DOE to focus on education.

Some of the bills I introduced this session address safety on island roadways including the creation of a red light camera system and a reduction to the blood alcohol count applied to drivers operating a motor vehicle under the influence. I introduced legislation to obtain capital improvement projects (CIP) for the Fourth Senatorial District, create affordable rental housing in Honokaa, and get much needed improvements to the Banyan Drive area in Hilo. A list of current bills is posted on page 2.

The challenges of the new year and decade are plentiful. We can move our district and state forward by being the catalyst of change to create new economic, educational and job opportunities while being mindful of our environment and culture of our cherished island State.

I look forward to hearing from you. Do not hesitate to call or visit me at the State Capitol if you’re in town. I also attend numerous events in on Hawaii Island throughout the year. You are always welcome to say “hello” if you see me around. Let’s make 2020 and beyond “roar” for us all!

With warmest aloha,
Senator Lorraine Inouye



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Senate District 4**

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Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture’s **Dash Kuhr, Cyrus Kuhr, Hualalai Keohulua, DayInn Tiyan, Trisben Vanberg** and **Nick Thompkin** were some of the many visitors that dropped by my Senate office at the State Capitol in Honolulu on the opening day of the Legislature, January 15, 2020.



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

New Legislation and Carryover Bills for 2020

The following is a list of bills that I introduced for the 2020 session, as well as those that are still alive and carried over from the 2019 session. You can check the latest status of my bills at the Capitol website: [BILL STATUS](#)

BILLS INTRODUCED FOR THE 2020 SESSION

SB 2103 – Special Number License Plates for Polynesian Voyaging Society EVs
SB 2104 – Driver License requirement of three wheeled EVs
SB 2105 – Driver License Renewal Period; Federal Dept of Defense Employees
SB 2106 – Child Passenger Restraints; Requirements; Penalties
SB 2107 – Drivers License, Federal Dept. of Defense, Civilian Employees/ Contractors
SB 2232 – Peer to Peer Vehicle Sharing; regulation, insurance
SB 2233 – Commercial Motor Vehicles; Examiner to disqualify; felony
SB 2234 – Blood Alcohol Concentration; DUI – Lower threshold
SB 2235 – Use of Intoxicants while Operating a Vehicle; Repeat & Habitual Offenders
SB 2236 – Establishes an automated speed enforcement systems program
SB 2304 – Domestic abuse; TRO; Family Courts – records withholding (WLS)
SB 2327 – General Excise Tax Exemption, Medical Services
SB 2328 – Gross vehicle weight rating; provisional license
SB 2329 – Ignition Interlock Devices; Sentencing
SB 2330 – Penalty Increases – operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant
SB 2331 – Special Purpose Revenue Bonds – Keahole FBO I LLC
SB 2332 – Highways Jurisdiction; Old roads, state and county
SB 2415 – DLNR transfer to DOA specified non-agriculture park lands
SB 2416 – Substantial hardship situations; impact concession contracts
SB 2417 – Sustainability; Game & Fishing resources; food security
SB 2418 – Condominiums; Voting – managing agents
SB 2419 – Condominiums; Voting; Enforcement
SB 2420 – Manslaughter; willful and wanton standard

SB 2508 – Statewide Traffic Code; Accident; Collision
SB 2509 – Wildlife Conservation Special Fund; oiled wildlife; food security tax
SB 2510 – Operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant – zero tolerance blood count
SB 2792 – CIP 4th Senatorial District
SB 2806 – DLNR Public Lands Non-profit organizations
SB 2807 – BLNR: Public Lands Lease Extension Development Agreement
SB 2808 – Transportation Networking Companies: Regulation, Permitting
SB 2809 – TOD – Office of planning, counties, DBEDT, Go Bond, Appropriation
SB 2992 – Motorcycles – use of shoulder lane under certain conditions
SB 2993 – Commercial drivers licenses; medical waivers – diabetes
SB 2994 – Highway Safety; Photo Red Light Imaging – Establishes program
SB 2995 – Electric Foot Scooters – Regulation
SB 3028 – HSEO: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction – EV Infrastructure Study
SB 3111 – Electric Vehicles: Definition of “alternative fuel vehicle”
SB 3112 – Allocates funds from TAT revenue to the Hawaii Tourism Authority
SB 3113 – Affordable Rental Housing in Honokaa, HI
SB 3114 – Agricultural park leases & non-ag park leases; qualifications; terms
SB 3115 – Waiakea peninsula redevelopment district; Banyan Drive

CARRYOVER BILLS FROM 2019

SB 406 – Exempts DOT from BLNR approval for highway purposes
SB 407 – Appropriation for Hawaii County Prosecutor. In WAM.
SB 408 – Amending Definition of an auto-cycle to include a three wheeled vehicle. Deferred TRS



The Senate Transportation Committee hears many bills on all aspects of transportation. Shown with Senator Maile Shimabukuro from Oahu.

SB 410 – Penalties increase for those who violate pedestrians right of way in crosswalks. JDC/WAM
SB 509 – DOT Appropriations
SB 510 – DOT Appropriations
SB 511 – DOT Appropriations, airports
SB 513 – DOT Appropriations, CIP,
SB 514 – DOT Appropriations, CIP,
SB 650 – DLNR Rapid Ohia Death; Appropriation – deferred
SB 651 – Non-agriculture Park Lands Program, Bonafide Farmer
SB 652 – SPRBs Keahole FBO I LLC
SB 653 – Special fund appropriation, EV Charging Systems
SB 654 – Kua Bay Lifeguards
SB 655 – Forensic Testing; DNA Testing; Appropriation; Grant-in-Aid
SB 656 – Bill was gutted and replaced for mass transit annual review (SD3)
SB 657 – EV owners free parking fee extend sunset date to June 30, 2030. Deferred in House
SB 658 – Headlights and taillights on at all time. Deferred TRS.
SB 659 – Establishes State Alternative Transit Fund
SB 662 – Prohibits renting or leasing vehicles subject to manufacturer’s recall until repaired.
SB 664 – Energy conservation or alt. energy measures for public facilities and vehicle fleets.
SB 665 – Definition of electric foot scooters; clarifies bicycle laws
SB 666 – Hawaii Airports Corporation Crossed to House in Finance Comm.
SB 1034 – Health insurance mandate coverage for low-dose mammography.
SB 1160 – Witness fees; reimbursements; per diem payments.
SB 1162 – Aquatic biosecurity
SB 1163 – Sunsets the renewable energy technology income tax credit
SB 1332 – Capitol Improvement Projects for Fourth Senatorial District.
SB 1379 – Employment Practice; Equal Pay; Sex Discrimination disclosure.
SB 1380 – Appropriation Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan.
SB 1434 – Female Genital Mutilation
SB 1504 – Requirements for Tax Return Preparers. (FIN)
SB 1505 – Safe refuge for small vessels under tropical cyclone conditions.
SB 1506 – Appropriation for Admin. Position, State Building Code Council
SB 1507 – Appropriation for 2020 Hawaii- Philippines Sister City Trade Show.



Members from the ILWU were some of the many visitors that I received on opening day at the State Capitol in January. Shown are Jason Bradshaw, Ron Clough, Corinna Salmon Nguyen and Brian Tanaka.



Wayne Higaki (Asst. Admin of QNHCH), Council member Dist. 9 Dr. Tim Richards, Dr. Gary Goldberg, Cindy Kamikawa (President of QNHCH) Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Jill Hoggard Green (President & CEO - Queen's Health Systems), and Rowena Buffett Timms, Executive VP Queen's Health System.



Opening day visitors: Hawaii State Charter School Commission members Ryan Shimabukuro, Deanne Goya, and Haunani Bush. More opening day photos are on my [Facebook](#) page.



Hilo resident Anne Perreira-Eustaquio (above) has been nominated to the post of Deputy Director at the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations by Governor David Ige. She has 30 years of experience in the department and stopped by my office for a on Feb. 4. Her nomination (GM 508) passed out of the Labor, Culture and Arts Committee on Feb. 13. The Senate will vote on Anne's confirmation soon.

2020 Staff

My staff for this year include **Melvin Ah Ching** (Legislative Aide), **Lauren Yamaguchi**, (Assistant Committee Clerk), **Sydney Hart** (Committee Clerk) and **Tommi Suginuma** (Office Manager).



Around the State and the Capitol

I was honored to present Senate Certificates to **Carol Okada** and **Dr. Haruyuki Kamemoto** as recipients of the 2019 HFNA/HFSA Shinnenkai Award presented in Hilo on January 11.

I attended the dedication of the Queen's Medical Center North Hawaii Community Hospital's new emergency room which held an open house for the public on Saturday, January 25 in Waimea. The new facility is 13,000 square feet large and houses 13 new beds. The old E.R. will be converted to administrative offices. Met up with hospital officials **Wayne Higaki**, **Dr. Gary Goldberg**, **Cindy Kamikawa**, **Jill Hoggard Green**, **Rowena Buffett Timms** and others at the open house event.

It was great meeting with my constituents on opening day of the State Legislature on January 15. Thank you for taking time to stop by my office. Some of the photos are on these pages while others are on my [Facebook](#) page.

The Hawaii State Health Department is not recommending any travel to China at this time since the outbreak of the **Novel Coronavirus**. The Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu International Airport started screening passengers from China for the coronavirus. It is one of 20 airports nationwide that are screening for it. Direct flights from China have been suspended by airlines serving the Hawaii market. The state will continue monitoring.

Hawaii State Senators and Representatives along with other employees at the State Capitol gathered to honor fallen Honolulu Police Officer **Tiffany Enriques** as her funeral motorcade made its way for a salute at HPD headquarters in Honolulu.

The Hawaii Airports Corporation Bill (**SB 666**) is a carry-over bill from last year which is currently in the House Finance Committee awaiting a date for a hearing and passage. Speaking of airports, **Southwest Airlines** started service to Hilo International Airport on January 21 and expanded flights into Kona.

The **United States Census Bureau** is looking for Hawaii residents to fill temporary, high paying jobs to help them count Hawaii's population. If you are interested, go to the following website: 2020census.gov/jobs.

Hawaii residents will need **Real ID** compliant identification to fly starting October 1, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.

Nine Bills That Became Law in 2019

Nine bills that I introduced during the 2019 session became law last year. They include the following:

Act 006 / SB 512 – DOT Appropriation; Harbors Division \$40 million

Act 031 / SB 1378 – Certificates of Registration exemption for owners of chassis for shipping containers.

Act 131 / SB 663 – Establishes within the DOT a red-light running committee to develop policy for county pilot programs.

Act 143 / SB 661 – Grants procurement priority for fuel cell electric vehicles for state and country purchases.

Act 159 / SB 1091 – Emergency Appropriation to DOT for landslide repair to Pali and Honoapiilani Highways. Bill originally introduced as a CIP for highways division.

Act 175 / SB 1037 – Domestic Violence; Abuse of a Family Member; Strangulation; Bodily Injury

Act 220 / SB 411 - Vehicle Safety Inspections; Registration; License Requirements; Marine Terminal Equipment

Act 233 / SB 660 – Non-compliant Identification Card option for those who are severely disabled.

Act 280 / SB 409 – Annual vehicle registration surcharge fee for EV and alternative fuel vehicles

A total of 286 bills became law in 2019. You can view a list of them at this link: [ACTS](#)

Three resolutions that I introduced were also adopted by the legislature. They include:

SR 121 – Aquatic Biosecurity

SR 165 - Kilauea Volcano Fissure 8 Names

SCR 205 – Kilauea Volcano Fissure 8 Names

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A number of improvements are coming to the airport in Kona.

Funding Released for District 4 Capital Improvement Projects

Senator **Lorraine R. Inouye** announced a number of Capital Improvement Projects for schools, a health center, and airport that were released by Governor **David Ige**.

A total of \$800,000 in General Obligation bond funding was made available for the **Hāmākua Health Center, Inc.**, for phase 1 of their new health center

The **Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport** will receive \$8 million for a USDA Inspection Building, and \$32.4 million for an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Regional Training Facility. Earlier this year, the Governor also released \$2 million for ramp and taxiway improvements for the airport.

Several schools received funding as well. The Governor released \$2 million for a covered playcourt at **Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole Elementary and Intermediate School**, and \$3.6 million for a covered playcourt at **Kohala Middle School**.

A total of \$400,000 will be used for renovations to the Home Economics classroom at **Paʻauilo Elementary and Intermediate School**.

“I am very pleased that Governor Ige released funding for these much-needed resources for Hāmākua Health Center, district schools, and the airport in Kona,” said Senator Inouye.

2020 Election Will Be By Mail

Starting this year all registered voters will be voting by mail. Registered voters will be receiving a mail ballot packet about 18 days prior to the Primary and General Elections.

Those who have moved, or are new to the election process need to go to the Office of Elections website to get more information and fill out online forms to update your voting status.

Hawaii’s Primary Election is **August 8** with the General Election happening on **November 3, 2020**. <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voters/hawaii-votes-by-mail/>