



Newsletter

March / April 2023

# I Am Honored to Be Your Senator

Welcome to my first newsletter for Hawaii Senate District 1. As many of you know I am a Hilo girl, born and raised in town and employed over many years in various capacities to serve the people of this wonderful community and the Island of Hawaii.

While I am the State Senator from District 1 which covers not only Hilo, but also Pepeekeo, Papaikou and Paukaa, I am also interested in keeping up with my former constituents and issues in Senate District 4, who are now represented by my good friend and colleague Senator Tim Richards.

The entire island of Hawaii is always true and close to my heart.

This year marked the start of a new biennium, which also means the start of a new legislative session. Like all the sessions that came before, the 32nd legislature is faced with many new and ongoing challenges that we hope to resolve.

This year I continue as the chair of the Senate Water and Land Committee, Vice Chair of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee, and member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

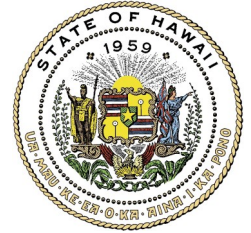
We are more than half-way through the 2023 session and have many bills still “going through the process” of being heard and voted upon in both chambers of the legislature. First crossover has passed, and the May deadline for “sine die” (end of session) will be upon us sooner than you know.

If for any reason you need to contact my office feel free to do so. You can reach me by phone and email. My office staff will be happy to help direct you on all legislative inquiries.

With my warmest aloha,  
**Senator Lorraine R. Inouye**



Senators and supporters of SB1 SD1 “Relating to Health Care” after a press conference was held on March 7.



**Serving Hawaii’s  
Senate District 1**

Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 210  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Phone:**  
(808) 586-7335  
**Fax:** (808) 586-7339

**Email:**  
seninouye@  
capitol.hawaii.gov

**Website:**  
[capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Facebook:**  
[Senator  
Lorraine R. Inouye](#)

**Committees**  
Water and Land  
*Chair*  
  
Transportation &  
Culture and the Arts  
*Vice-Chair*  
  
Ways & Means  
*Member*  
  
Majority Whip  
  
32nd Legislature  
of the State of Hawaii

# Funding for Hawaii Island Projects and Proposals

There are several projects in the pipeline for Hilo and elsewhere on Hawaii Island.

\$6,900,000 in capital improvement project (CIP) funds was released by former Governor David Ige for major repairs and demoli-



Senator Inouye is shown the CTAHR project to grow green onion seeds for Hawaii's farmers (above left). Senator Inouye with Hilo High School and DOE officials outside of the new Hilo



High School Gymnasium. Senator was there to look at possible locations for a new parking garage for the gym (above, right).

tion of existing structures at the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Waiakea Research Station. The research station serves as an important site for conducting research on agriculture and floriculture production in Hawaii.

Former Governor David Ige also released \$5,000,000 in capital improvement project (CIP) funds last year to finance water well improvements for agricultural use in

North Kohala. Improving the 'Upolu Well to meet agricultural production standards is critical to ensure that the North Kohala region has a viable water source. The water source is important for Hawaii Island's agriculture industry.

On March 17, Governor Josh Green released \$320,000 in funding for the Replacement of the Medical Air System at Hilo Medical Center. The Governor stated that "projects such as these are critical

components of the public infrastructure and contribute to building a better home for our kupuna, keiki, and all the residents of Hawaii,"

## 2022: Act 248 Budget Appropriations

\$7,500,000 from the 2022 State Budget (Act 248, HB 1600 CD1) was appropriated for the design and construction of a multi-story parking structure for Hilo High School. The parking facility will be located

## Facts About The 32nd Hawaii State Legislature

There are 25 State Senators—23 Democrats and 2 Republicans.

There are 15 Senate Committees: Agriculture and Environment (AEN), Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN), Education (EDU), Energy, Economic Development and Tourism (EET), Government Operations (GVO), Hawaiian Affairs (HWN), Health and Human Services (HHS), Higher Education (HRE), Housing (HOU), Judiciary (JDC), Labor and Technology (LBT), Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM), Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA), Water and Land (WTL) and Ways and Means (WAM).

This year there were 1,618 bills introduced in the Senate and 1,514 bills introduced in the House of Representatives, for a total of 3,132 bills. Senator Lorraine R. Inouye is listed as first primary introducer to 62 bills.

The work of the legislature is done through the committee process, where colleagues and advocates can exchange ideas and provide testimony to help shape, amend or kill legislation.

The Senate also holds confirmation hearings for the Governor's departmental appointments (also known as Governor's Messages—GMs).

Information about the legislature can be viewed at the website at <https://capitol.hawaii.gov/>

near the gymnasium. I spent a day with Department of Education and Hilo High School officials scouting sites for the proposed facility. Release of the funds are pending.

\$6,000,000 of appropriations was allocated for the construction for a new rubberized track and synthetic turf, bleachers and equipment for Hilo High School. Another \$1,300,000 was appropriated for improvements at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.



The Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Laura Kaakua, won full approval from the Hawaii State Senate on March 23. Ms. Kaakua brings extensive legal, land use and conservation experience to the DLNR.



Testifiers pack the meeting room during the February 8th hearing of the combined Water and Land + Hawaiian Affairs committee.

## Governor's Appointees Will Appear Before Committee, Full State Senate

Governor **Josh Green** has nominated the following individuals to serve in state departments that fall under the purview of the Senate Water and Land committee. These individuals who are now on the job, are subject to the "Advise and Consent" process of the State Senate. More appointees are expected to appear for review before the Senate Water and Land committee.



Dawn N.S. Chang

Currently, the named appointees are:

**Dawn N.S. Chang** – Chairperson, Dept of Land & Natural Resources (**GM 516**)

**Laura Hokunani Edmunds Kaakua** – First Deputy, Dept of Land & Natural Resources (**GM 528**)

**Scott Glenn** – Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (**GM 506**)

**Brian Lee** – State Land Use Commission (**GM 535, GM 536**)

**Ralph Kam (GM 563)** and **Graham Hart (GM 564)** have been nominated to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board.

Kaneohe Bay Review Council—**Sylvia Hussey (GM 580 & 581)**, **Joseph Pickard (GM 582)**,

Legacy Land Commission— **Kim Falinski (GM 598)**

The Water and Land committee will also be hearing from the nominees to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, of which 8 individuals have been named: **Michelle Wong-Wilson (GM 537)**, **Paul Horner (GM 538)**, **Joshua Mangauli (GM 539)**, **Pomaikalani Bertelmann (GM 540)**, **John Komeiji (GM 541)**, **Richard Matsuda (GM 542)**, **Gary Krug (GM 543)** and **Kamanamaikalani Beamer (GM 544)**.

A list of all Governor's nominees and updates can be found on the Reports and Lists tab of the Legislature website under "**Governor's Messages**". Governor's nominees that are being referred to the Water and Land Committee can also be accessed at the following link: [WTL GM Nominees](#).

## Important Bills Pass Out of the Water and Land Committee

The **Senate Water & Land Committee** passed 102 Senate Bills out of the committee by the first lateral deadline. Several of them successfully passed through the second committees and made it to the Senate floor for a third reading vote.

Some of the bills passing out of the Senate Water & Land Committee include the following:

- SB 67 SD1**— Commercial Beach Equipment Presetting
- SB 73 HD1**— Agruculture Park Leases extension
- SB 77 SD1** – Transfer of Non-Agricultural Park Lands
- SB 79 SD1** – Lease extensions, Hilo Economic District
- SB 81 SD2** – Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority
- SB 82 SD1** – Public Land Leases, Revocable Permits; Powers
- SB 89 SD1**— Marine Management Areas comply with Ch. 91.
- SB 94 SD2**— Special Activity Permit, Aquatic Research
- SB 98 SD2**—Wildlife and Sport Fishing Restoration Program
- SB 304 SD2** – Visitor Impact Fee
- SB 353 SD2** – Trespass; Public Land; Ownership; Enforcement
- SB 376 SD2** – Prohibits seabed mining state marine waters
- SB 409 SD1** – Fire Prevention
- SB 507 SD1**— Wetland protection
- SB 730 SD2**—Fishponds restocking & restoration
- SB 734 SD1** – Burial sites; coastal erosion; appropriation
- SB 770 SD1** – GIA Kahaluu Beach Park restoration
- SB 833 SD2** – Wahiawa Irrigation System, land purchase
- SB 1034 SD1** – Free Public Parking; Ala Wai Boat Harbor
- SB 1040 SD1** – Housing Rent with Option to Purchase
- SB 1153 SD2** – Honolulu Bay fund, upkeep & maintenance
- SB 1254 SD1** – Kaiwi Coast State Park; appropriations
- SB 1264 SD2** – Limited entry commercial fisheries
- SB 1485 SD1** – CIPs; small boat harbors
- SB 1498 SD1** – Taro Land Protection

An expanded and dynamic list of Senate Water and Land bills making it out of committee can be found under the Reports and Lists tab of the Hawaii State Legislature website under "Committee Referrals". <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/main.aspx> | Bills in **bold** passed third reading and are being considered in the House of Representatives. Text of all bills can be also found at the legislature's website.

# Opening Day Brings New Legislation & Visitors



The Hawaii State Legislature started the 2023 session on Wednesday, January 18th.

I was honored to be the temporary presiding officer of the Senate before my colleagues. We were formally sworn in for our new terms and districts by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald. Shortly after Senator Ronald D. Kouchi was named Senate President with Senator Michelle Kidani as Vice President.

Many people attended the opening day live and in person, several of which visited my office as shown in the photos on this page.

A list of bills I introduced this session appear on page 6 of this newsletter.

Hawaii Island members and more from the ILWU.



Senator Lorraine R. Inouye at the President's podium at the start of the 2023 session. This is preliminary before all Senators are sworn in.



Students and teachers from Kua o ka La New Century Public Charter School in Hilo visited us at the Capitol on Opening Day. They included students Ashley D'Ambrosio, an 8th grader and 7th grader Emiliano Mojica. Kumu visiting with them were Ka'imi Kaupiko and Pilimai Traub. Kua o ka La school is located in Hilo, Hawaii.



Opening Day visitors included Sherilyn Kalua and Justie Wroblewski of the United Public Workers (UPW) union in Hilo (top). To the left is Hawaii County Council Member Jenn Kagiwada, who represents portions of South Hilo. (left)





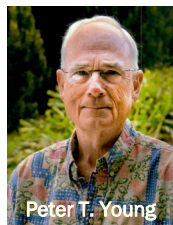
'Aha Pūnana Leo honorees with Hawaii Senate delegation (left). Hilo Medical Center Foundation Lisa Rantz (above).

## Senate Certificates Presented to Island Honorees

Congratulatory certificates issued by the Senate or jointly with the House of Representatives have been awarded to the following individuals by Senator Inouye this year.

Executive Director of the Hilo Medical Center Foundation **Lisa Rantz** was selected as the recipient of the 2022 ATHENA Award. She was recognized for her excellence, creativity, and initiative in helping the communities on Hawaii Island with their healthcare needs and grew the Hilo Medical Center Foundation's outreach and program efforts. She was presented with a Senate Certificate on February 15.

Shown in the photo (top right) are: **Miles Yoshioka**, Executive Director of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce and sponsor of the ATHENA Award, **Lisa Rantz**, the 2022 ATHENA Award recipient and **Rhea Lee-Moku**, legislative assistant and Hilo District 1 liaison.



Peter T. Young

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii honored the following individuals as Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ for 2023. The honorees were **Keakaokalani Cachola, Jr.** **Hiromi Nakai Peterson**, **Frederick S. Nonaka** and **Peter T. Young**.



Senator Inouye with personnel from the Hawaii County Fire Department. Several government officials and employees dropped by the Capitol to visit legislators on the first day of the 2023 session.

I was honored to present **Peter T. Young** with a Senate Certificate at a banquet held in honor of the Living Treasures on February 11. Mr. Young is the founder and chief executive officer Ho'okuleana LLC and is well known for his work in historic preservation and planning in the State of Hawaii as well as being a lifelong student of Hawaiian history.

**Brandee Menino**, of Hope Services of Hawaii, was given the Rose Award of Excellence by The Zonta Club of Hilo for 2023. She is noted for being a tireless volunteer who helps the homeless on the Island of Hawaii by providing services and shelter for many families and individuals. Her leadership team was instrumental in helping house some of the victims of the 2018 Kilauea lava flow with micro-shelter facilities.

Hawaii Island Eagle Scouts were recognized for their accomplishments with joint House and Senate certificates in January. The honored scouts included **Kalif K.Y.R Leung**, **Travis J. Puleo**, **Kaipoi J. Murray** and **Kaden Edison Lau**, all residents of the Hilo area.

A Senate certificate was also presented to **Kamahao "Ocean" Kanekoa**, a student at Honokaa High & Intermediate School who was recognized for his entrepreneurial service to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A joint House and Senate Memorial certificate was issued in the memory of **Jeffrey** and **Carla Takmine** of Hilo, who were the owners of Big Island Delights.

I was pleased to present a lei to honor **Dr. Larry Kimura**, as one of the honorees of 'Aha Pūnana Leo, The organization celebrated their 40th year of operation. 'Aha Pūnana Leo programs include child care, Hawaiian Language courses, and *Ne'epapa*, a nationally recognized mode for Native American language revitalization.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo honorees in the photo (upper left) include **Dr. Kauanoe Kamana**, **Dr. Larry Kimura** and **Kaiulani Laeha**. They are pictured with Hawaii Island Senators **Joy San Buenventura**, **Dru Mamo Kanuha**, **Tim Richards** and **Lorraine Inouye**, Senate President **Ron Kouchi** + University of Hawaii at Hilo Chancellor **Bonnie D. Irwin**.

# Bills Introduced for the 2023 Legislative Session

The following is a list of bills that Senator Inouye introduced for the 2023 session. For precise descriptions, status and information on each bill, go to the Hawaii State Legislature's website at this link.

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> .

## BILLS INTRODUCED FOR THE 2023 SESSION

### Bill No. & Description

SB 66 Fishing Safety; Harassment; Fishers  
**SB 67** DLNR - Beach Equipment Rentals - Prohibition  
 SB 68 Hawaii Register of Historic Places; Inclusion  
 SB 69 Coastal Zone Management; Sea Level Rise  
**SB 70** DLNR Appropriation  
 SB 71 DLNR Environmental Impact Statements  
**SB 72** PUC - Renewable Energy  
**SB 73** HDOA - Agriculture Park Leases Extension  
**SB 74** Special Management Areas - Historic properties, burial sites  
  
**SB 75** Historic Properties & Burial Sites survey  
 SB 76 Historic Preservation Reviews  
**SB 77** Transfer of Non Agricultural Park Lands  
 SB 78 Audit - Historic Preservation Division  
 SB 79 Lease Extensions Hilo Economic District  
 SB 80 Search and Rescue Cost Mandatory Reimbursement to Counties  
**SB 81** Natural Resource Management  
 BLNR - Mauna Kea  
 SB 82 BLNR - Public Land Leases; Revocable Permits  
 SB 83 Capital Improvement Program  
 First Senatorial District  
 SB 84 Sustainable Food Systems  
 SB 85 Land Use - Rural District Study appropriation  
**SB 86** Seafood Sustainability  
 SB 87 DLNR Appropriation - Green Jobs Youth Corps  
 SB 88 Privately Owned Roadways - Fuel Tax; State Tax  
**SB 89** DLNR - Marine Management Areas  
 SB 90 BLNR - Water Use Permits

SB 91 Agrivoltaic Renewable Energy  
 SB 92 Community Based Substance Fishing Areas  
**SB 93** Reuse Zones - Recycled Water  
**SB 94** Special Activity Permit - Aquatic Research  
 SB 95 DHS - Child Support TANF Program  
 SB 96 Aquaculture Development Branch  
 SB 97 DLNR - Lease Extension Hilo Economic District  
**SB 98** Audit: DLNR Aquatic Resources Division, etc.  
**SB 99** Meat and Poultry Inspection Program  
 SB 100 Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission  
 SB 101 Health Mobility Management Task Force  
 SB 102 GE Tax Medical Services Exemption  
 SB 103 Emergency Management  
 Electronic Media Transmission  
 SB 468 DLNR - Aquatic Resources Nuisance Species  
 SB 469 Land Use Reclassification of District Boundries - Housing  
  
**SB 730** DLNR - Fishponds restoration, restocking  
**SB 734** Burial sites - inter-division program  
**SB 735** Water rights - commercial kalo farming  
**SB 813** Court interpreters - increase in hourly fees  
**SB 1027** Prohibition of No Rules Combat sports  
 SB 1028 DLNR - Rental kayaks, ID numbers, fees  
 SB 1029 Seafood labels, fish and shellfish  
 SB 1030 DLNR - Conservation Mitigation Bank  
 SB 1031 State Historic Preservation Division  
 SB 1032 Sea level rise, land exchange  
 SB 1033 Aquatic resources; rulemaking authority  
 SB 1034 Ala Wai Boat Harbor, public parking, free stalls  
**SB 1035** General Excise Tax Exemption - Medicaid, Medicare  
 SB 1036 Native Hawaiian Traditional & Customary Fishing Practices  
 SB 1263 Commercial Vessels, Safety  
**SB 1264** Limited entry commercial fisheries  
 SB 1265 Kaneohe Bay Restrictions  
 commercial ocean use activities  
 SB 1266 Local crops, food manufacturer tax credit  
**SB 1267** Protective orders non-residents; domestic abuse  
 SB 1546 UH Hilo - Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, Outreach  
**SB 1609** Grants for Native Hawaiian Communities  
 SB 1616 Workforce Development - Incentive Rebate;  
 Local film / TV Production

Bill listed in **bold** are still alive this session.

### SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER & UPDATES

PRINT YOUR NAME

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

**DO YOU RESIDE IN STATE SENATE DISTRICT 1?** (Hilo, Pauka'a, Papaikou or Pepe'ekeo)

**YES!** I reside in State Senate District 1

**NO**, but I still would like an email newsletter.

This email list will be used for legislative business and updates only.  
 Send form to 451 South Beretania St. Suite 210 Honolulu HI 96813

Or send your email address to [seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## List of Senator Inouye's Bills That Became Law in 2022

Act No	Bill No	Description
25	SB2059	Ohia as the State Endemic Tree
33	SB2768	DLNR - Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps
34	SB2767	Fish Aggregation Devices
138	SB3379	Ports of Entry - Biosecurity
189	SB2056	Soil Classifications - Appropriation
197	SB2070	SPRB - Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation
199	SB3280	SPRB - St. Joseph School
207	SB2065	UAV Prohibition for Fishing
213	SB2752	Abandoned Wells - Clarifies Term
215	SB573	Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plans



Hilo High School students (above) and Waiakea High School (below).



## Hilo High and Waiakea High School Visit State Capitol

Students from Hilo High School and their student activities coordinator **Ms. Charlene Masuhara** and **Mr. Nicholas Yamamoto**, 9th grade academy lead, visited Senator Inouye's office on January 27 as part of their educational trip to the State Capitol. Senator Inouye talked to the students about her tenure in the legislature and some of the issues surrounding Hilo High School. These included the proposed parking lot for the gymnasium and repair to the restroom facilities. Senator Inouye is an alumnus of Hilo High and is proud to be one of many "Vikings" (the school's mascot and sporting namesake).

Students from Waiakea High School and their Student Activities Coordinator **Ms. Patti Nishimoto**, also visited Senator Inouye's office on January 27. The Senator spoke about her tenure in the legislature, the committees she's on and concerns students had about their school. A place where students and teachers could gather for outdoor, on-campus instruction was discussed. Senator asked them to identify possible locations on their campus where such a facility could be set up.

Both school groups as well as several others were at the State Capitol for the Secondary Student Conference held from Jan. 27 - 28. Participation in a Mock Legislative session, learning about the legislative process and learning about specific bills were on their agenda. The students were also recognized by the Senators at a floor session in the Senate Chamber.

Hilo High School students included: **King James Mangoba**, **Dylan Yanazaki**, **Malakai Keawe Correra**, **Richard Gonsalves**, **Jaycie Menino**, **Florenlaine Valena Gonzaless**, **Branon Hatake**, and **Mariella Wasserman**.

Waiakea High School students included: **Paul Brillhante**, **Abigail Jensen**, **Claire Kildahl**, **Marli Mason**, **Lina Miyazaki**, **Cheydon Naleimaile-Evangelista**, **Andrew Paresa**, **Misty Cruden** and **Mia Tulang**.

## Track Bills, Send Testimony, Do Research and More Online

Have you used the recently redesigned Hawaii State Legislature website? The updated website created a mobile friendly version in addition to the traditional desktop edition of the site.

The website is an important tool for both the public and government officials to use to help track legislation, read bills, submit and review testimonies. Individuals can sign up to get email alerts on bills, committee hearings and more.



The expanded archive section is especially useful for historic purposes, with many items going back to 1999, and session laws indexed back to 1959. The entire Hawaii Revised Statutes are also online.

Visit our website at <https://capitol.hawaii.gov>.

Senator Inouye's webpage with lists of bills, resolutions, news and an assortment of links can be viewed here:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/memberpage.aspx?member=181&year=2023>

The Public Access Room has a website health guide available for free download at: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/12/2022-23-Website-Guide.pdf>



The first Ag Day at the Capitol since 2020 sponsored by the Hawaii Farm Bureau was held on February 10, was a well attended showcase of local products from the agriculture industry in Hawaii. Senator Inouye stopped by to sample floral, vegetable, snack and beef products.

Senator Lorraine Inouye  
State Capitol Room No. 210  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813



It was Tourism Day at the capitol on March 10 where industry organizations and some state agencies set up informational displays like the one from the Orchid growers.



Brandee Menino was the 2023 Zonta Club Rose Award honoree. She got a Senate and House Certificate from the legislature.



With Senate Clerks on Opening Day.



Members of the the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council visited the State Capitol on March 13.



Cattlemen visiting Senator Inouye.

## Senate Posting Legislative Allowance Expenditure Reports

Starting March 1, 2023, the Hawai'i State Senate started posting a report of each Senator's 2023 legislative allowance expenditures online via the State Capitol website.

To access these reports, visit the State Capitol website's homepage, click on the Hawaii State Legislature drop-down menu, select the Senate link, and then click on the Legislative Allowance Expenditure Reports link. The reports can also be found by visiting each Senator's individual webpage, and will be updated monthly.

The reports are in PDF format and each Senator's report can be viewed and downloaded from this direct link: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Legislature/AllowanceReport.aspx?chamber=s>



Hawaii Tourism Day at the State Capitol with Kuhio Lewis and Tyler Gomes of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.