

District 24 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, PAPAĀOLEA, MCCULLY, PĀWA'A, MĀNOA

FEBRUARY 2019

Scenes from Opening Day 2019



Hawaii State Capitol (January 16, 2019): Shortly before Opening Day ceremonies, Representative Belatti visits with Kamehameha students Kaulana Kanno, Mirai Mawae, Rory Keliikipi, Sierra Furukawa, Hokupa'a Melim, Karina Jacang, Connor Kalahiki, and Mahealani Lewis



Representative Belatti with retired businessman Roger Morey and former Maryknoll School English teacher Natalie Morey.



Representative Belatti with Stella Wong, Betty Lou Larson, and Tina Andrade, representatives from Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Dear Neighbor,

January 16, 2019, marked the start of the Thirtieth Session of the Hawai'i State Legislature. With each new year, we celebrate Opening Day by welcoming constituents and visitors to the State Capitol. This year, we saw many familiar faces as well as some new ones.

This year, I had the honor of delivering remarks as the House Majority Leader. It was indeed a special day as I was able to introduce Kamehameha School students and first time voters Sierra Furukawa, Karina Jacang, Connor Kalahiki, Kaulana Kanno, Rory Keliikipi, Mahealani Lewis, Mirai Mawae, and Hokupaa Melim. This inspiring group of seniors spearheaded a student-led "Get Out the Vote" campaign last year to encourage voter registration and voting among our youngest voters.

As legislators focused on the task of problem-solving and tackling the tough issues facing our communities from recovering from disasters to reducing the high cost of living affecting all of Hawaii's residents, a sense of optimism, determination, and resolve could be felt throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who was able to enjoy Opening Day ceremonies with me.

As the session goes on, staying connected with constituents is important to me. Please consider filling out the enclosed "2019 Community Survey" and returning it to my office by mail or email. You can also drop off a completed survey at one of two Town Hall Meetings occurring on February 20th or February 26th. More details about these Town Hall Meetings can be found in "The Shortlist" at page 4 of this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to wish you a year full of fortune and luck! It is my great privilege to be able to continue to serve as your State Representative.

With warmest aloha,

Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 24

2019 Hawai'i Women's Legislative Caucus: Advocating for Women and Families Statewide

On January 23, 2019, the Hawai'i Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC) met at the YWCA of O'ahu for their annual unveiling of the WLC legislative package of bills and resolutions.

The Hawai'i WLC is a bipartisan Caucus focused on supporting and promoting issues that are important to women and families. The WLC is comprised of women elected to state and county offices. The House of Representatives has seventeen women representatives, making up one-third of the fifty-one total members. The Senate has seven women members.

This year's WLC package of bills was dedicated to United States Senator Mazie Hirono and includes the following bills and resolutions:

ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Relating to Insurance (HB 481 and SB 1034). Clarifies existing health insurance mandate for coverage of low-dose mammography to include coverage for digital mammography and breast tomosynthesis.

Relating to Clinical Victim Support Services (HB 484 and SB 1036).

Clarifies that clinical support services for victims of sexual violence and abuse are a mental health outpatient services benefit required to be covered under health insurance policies offered by health insurers, mutual



Hawaii State Capitol (January 22, 2019): (L-R) Representatives Cynthia Thielen, Amy Perruso, Senator Laura Thielen, Representatives Dee Morikawa and Della Au Belatti, Senator Roz Baker, United States Senator Mazie Hirono, Senators Donna Mercado Kim and Michelle Kidani, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, and Senator Sharon Moriwaki gather for Governor David Ige's 2019 State of the State Address. Photo courtesy of Michele Michiko Moore, Senate Communications.

benefit societies, fraternal benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations.

Relating to the Licensure of Midwives (HB 490 and SB 1033).

Establishes the licensure of midwives including scope of practice, professional code of conduct, continuing education requirements, and prescriptive drug authority. Appropriates funds from the compliance resolution fund. Exempts traditional birth attendants and Native Hawaiian healers from licensure requirements.

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN

Relating to Sexual Violence (HB 482 and SB 1035). Extends the amount of time from the date an act of child sexual abuse occurred for a victim to bring a civil cause of action.

Relating to Human Trafficking (HB 485 and SB 1038).

Requires the State Commission on the Status of Women to establish a statewide training program on the state human trafficking laws for criminal justice personnel.

Relating to Sex Trafficking (HB 487 and SB 1040).

Requires the State Commission on the Status of Women to maintain a database on sex trafficking. Requires reports to the Legislature.

Relating to Domestic Violence (HB 489 and SB 1037).

Amends the offense of strangulation of

a family or household member to include blocking the nose or mouth of the person or applying excessive pressure to the chest. Clarifies that infliction of visible injury is not required to establish the offense.

Relating to Prostitution (HB 486 and SB 1039).

Permits persons convicted of certain prostitution offenses to file a motion to vacate the conviction if the defendant is not convicted of another offense under the penal code within three years of the prostitution offense.

WOMEN & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Relating to Civil Rights (HB 483

ans SB 1042). Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to submit by 1/24/2019, a report studying how other jurisdictions enforce Title IX protections. *(Continued on page 3.)*

(Continued from page 2.)

Relating to Employment Practices (HB 488 and SB 1041). Prohibits written nondisclosure agreements involving sexual assault and sexual harassment as part of an employee's conditions of employment. Prohibits employers from retaliating against an employee for disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Relating to Safe Work Places (HCR 5 and SCR 12). Requesting members of the United States Congress to amend federal law to ensure that victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault who might otherwise be forced into arbitration and silence instead have access to courts.

Elected Women in Hawai'i by the Numbers:

- ✓ **Seventeen** out of 51 State Representatives are women, comprising 33% of the 2019 State House. Six out of 10 new members are women.
- ✓ **Seven** of 25 Senators are elected women, representing 28 percent of the State Senate.
- ✓ **Six** out of 9 Maui County Council seats and **six** out of 9 Hawaii County Council seats are held by women, comprising 67 percent representation by women on each county council.
- ✓ **Four** of 9 council positions on the City and County of Honolulu County Council are held by women, comprising of 44% representation by women.
- ✓ **One** of Kauai County Council seat is held by an elected woman, comprising of 14% representation by women.

Tracking Bills: How to Receive Hearing Notices by E-mail

Every year, thousands of bills are introduced in the Hawai'i State Legislature. A total of 3,142 bills were introduced this session (1,597 bills in the House of Representatives; and 1,545 bills in the Senate), meeting the State Legislature's introduction deadline on January 24, 2019.

During the first part of the legislative session, these bills are scheduled, scrutinized, vetted and voted on by legislators during hearings in the House and Senate chambers.

With such a large amount of bills it is helpful to know how to keep track of bills important to you. The State Capitol website can alert you when a measure you are interested in gets scheduled for a hearing. This is a great way to ensure you do not miss an important opportunity to offer testimony.

1. Go to the Legislature's website, <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> and in the upper-right corner, click on "**Sign In.**" If you don't already have an account select "**Register**" (If you've already

completed this process skip to step 2). To register you will be asked for your name and email address, and to create a password. Next, go to your email inbox where you will receive an email message asking you to confirm the account.



2. Once you are signed in click on the "**Hearing Notification**" icon in the center of the screen. You will be brought to a screen where you can enter the bills and resolutions numbers or the committees for which you would like to receive hearing notices.



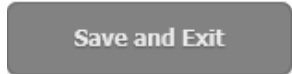
3. **To track specific bills or resolutions:** in the left hand column, type in the bill or resolution numbers for which you would like to receive hearing notices and then click "**Add.**"



4. **To track committees' activities:** in the right hand column, click the boxes next to the committees whose hearing notices you would like to receive.



5. When done, click the "**Save and Exit**" button.



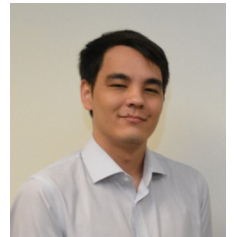
Returning Legislative Staff to Serve District 24

Representative Della Au Belatti's 2019 legislative staff is made up of returning staff members **Jon Kawamura, Robert Choy, and Kimberly Puente**. They bring with them a variety of experiences and skills to serve the residents of District 24 and assist Representative Belatti in her duties as House Majority Leader.



Jon Kawamura, Office Manager: Returning as Representative Belatti's office manager is Jon Kawamura. Serving in his eighth year at the Legislature, Jon's experience includes six years in the construction industry as a project manager and six years as an executive assistant in the private sector. Jon has an extensive background in office administration and personnel management. He is an integral part of Representative Belatti's office and maintains the continuity of the office from session to session.

Robert Choy, Special Assistant to the Majority House Leader: Robert returns for his fourth year with the Legislature and his second year as Special Assistant to Representative Belatti. Robert previously served as Health Committee Clerk in 2014 and 2017. In 2016, Robert earned his Master of Public Health in Health Policy from George Washington University, building upon his 2013 undergraduate degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a background in psychology.



Kimberly Puente, Legislative Aide: This year Kimberly will be returning for her second year as a legislative aide focused on civil legal services and other policy projects. She graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a B.A. in Public Health in 2013. Kimberly's most recent work focused on oral health disparities across the state. Her interests include health, policy, and advocacy.



Questions about the 2019 legislative session, contact Jon, Robert or Kimberly at (808) 586-9425.

The Shortlist

MCCULLY-MŌ'ILI'ILI TOWN HALL MEETING
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
5:30 PM @ McCully Library
2211 South King Street

Representative Belatti and area lawmakers invite you to discuss the 2019 Legislative Session and important topics shaping Hawai'i.

MAKIKI TOWN HALL MEETING
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
6:00 PM @ Makiki District Park Administration Building
1527 Ke'eumoku Street

Join Representative Belatti and Senator Brian Taniguchi for a community discussion regarding the 2019 legislative session. Bring your questions, comments and concerns.

ART @ THE CAPITOL
Friday, April 5, 2018

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Meander through the State Capitol's Art in Public Places collection, consisting of nearly 1,000 pieces of artwork displayed in offices throughout the Capitol.

2019 CAPITOL TAX CLINIC
Saturday, April 6, 2019

By Appointment Only
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
415 South Beretania Street

Thanks to certified volunteers, you can have your federal and state tax returns prepared for free. Assistance on this date is by appointment only for qualified individuals. To schedule an appointment please call, (808) 450-4351 and leave a voicemail or visit www.hawaiiitaxhelp.org

ANNUAL MAKIKI EASTER EGG HUNT & COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
Saturday, April 13, 2019

Makiki District Park
1527 Ke'eumoku Street

Join us for the 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Community Food Drive. Bring canned good items to help support local food pantries and join in the Easter festivities. Activities will include egg hunts, photos with the Easter bunny, games, and more for the keiki to enjoy!

Are you organizing a District 24 event open to the public? Email rebelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov with requests & details to be listed in "The Shortlist."

