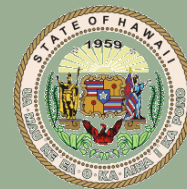




BERTRAND KOBAYASHI STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 19 - DIAMOND HEAD,
KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street, Room 403 Honolulu, HI 96813



May 2015

Aloha Neighbor,

I want to share with you the accomplishments of the 2015 State Legislature. The House and Senate approved bills that addressed the needs of a wide spectrum of the State's population. Please review the included highlights of the 2015 Legislative Session and brief descriptions of some of the more significant measures that passed.

Although Hawaii's economy remains stable, we still have some challenging work ahead of us to ensure that the state's economy continues to grow, while our social services remains intact. Given the delicate nature of the state's economy, the Legislature took a cautious approach to budgetary spending while still addressing key state issues such as protecting our seniors and the most vulnerable, safeguarding our environment, supporting our educational institutions, boosting business development, and other key issues.

Please know that I recognize the privilege to serve my community to the best of my ability. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 586-6310 or

repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo nui loa,

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
District 19
Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki,
Kapehulu

Waikiki Elementary School Teacher Named National Teacher of the Year Finalist

Waikiki Elementary School second grade teacher Catherine Caine, Hawaii's 2014 DOE Teacher of the Year, is one of four finalists for the 2015 national teacher of the year award, considered one of the country's most prestigious education honors. Caine is Hawaii's first national finalist since 2001. Her teaching career has spanned 34 years, the past 24 at Waikiki Elementary, where she is a proponent of critical thinking and project-based learning. She also is a mentor teacher and coordinator for teacher development programs at the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University.



100% Renewable Energy
Manoa Elementary students visited Rep. Kobayashi urging lawmakers to adopt a goal of using 100 percent renewable energy for electric power generation in the state by 2040.

Japan Diet Member Keiko Itokazu Visits the Hawaii State Capitol

Japan Diet Member Keiko Itokazu visited the Hawaii State Capitol on February 23, 2015. Ms. Itokazu has represented Okinawa Prefecture in the Japan Diet since 2004 and is active on issues relating to peace, environment, education, welfare, and women's issues.

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi hosted her visit to the House Chambers where she was introduced to the members during the House session.



Town Hall Meeting

Insiders' Views of 2015 Legislature

A Community Meeting Hosted by Representative Bert Kobayashi

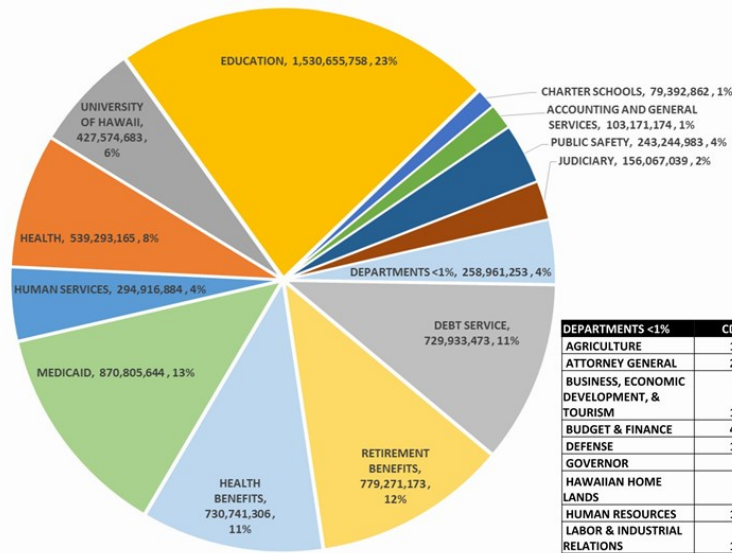
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
6:30 — 8:00 p.m.

Waialae Elementary Public Charter School Cafeteria
1045 19th Avenue Honolulu 96816

Please join Representative Bert Kobayashi and others in briefing the community on the 2015 legislative session and hearing your feedback on issues that matter most to you.

For additional information, please call 586-6310, or email repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov

HB500 CD1 FY2016 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS



| DEPARTMENTS <1% | CD FY2016 |
|---|------------|
| AGRICULTURE | 14,419,365 |
| ATTORNEY GENERAL | 29,038,673 |
| BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM | 10,054,705 |
| BUDGET & FINANCE | 43,296,361 |
| DEFENSE | 17,527,452 |
| GOVERNOR | 3,749,146 |
| HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS | 9,632,000 |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | 16,073,362 |
| LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS | 17,765,118 |
| LIBRARIES | 32,559,945 |
| LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES | 31,408,520 |
| LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | 1,596,179 |
| OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS | 3,217,504 |
| TAXATION | 28,622,923 |

FISCAL YEAR 2016
STATE BUDGET

\$6,744,029,397
GENERAL FUNDS

HB500 The State Budget Bill

The legislature crafted a responsible budget that addressed the State's long-term obligations and took care of immediate social services needs and capital improvement requirements.

HB500, CD1, the state budget bill, appropriates funds for operating and capital improvement costs of the Executive Branch for the current biennium, fiscal years FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017, and has gone to Governor Ige for his signature. The bill includes nearly \$6.6 billion in general funds for FY2015-2016 and \$6.862 billion in general funds for FY2016-2017.

In crafting the budget, the legislature looked to create a "better budget" in four ways, by: (1) limiting growth in the budget, (2) fueling economic growth through selective tax credits, (3) investing in people who need help the most, and (4) reducing the state's unfunded liabilities and building up its Rainy Day funds.

Governor Ige will have forty-five days after the end of the legislative session, to consider which bills will become law. (The computation of the forty-five day period excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. In this instance, three state designated holidays – Memorial Day, Kamehameha Day, and Independence Day – fall within the forty-five day period.) The forty-fifth day after adjournment (May 7, 2015) is Tuesday, July 14, 2015. The Governor's ten day notification of intent to veto is Monday, June 29, 2015.

Funding for District 19 Improvement Projects (Fiscal Biennium 2016-2017)

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Kaimuki Middle School | \$ 600,000 |
| Design, construct, equip, V Bldg. classroom 1 | |
| Kalani High School | \$3,500,000 |
| Construct, multi-purpose Athletic Facility, girls locker room | |
| Kaimuki High School | \$1,000,000 |
| Phase II to pave gravel parking lot of gym | |
| Diamond Head Theatre | \$ 450,000 |
| Design, construct a new theatre | |
| Waikiki Aquarium | \$ 500,000 |
| Plan, design, construct and equip improvements | |
| Diamond Head Crater | \$ 924,000 |
| Design, construct repairs to shot-crete finish | |
| Fort Ruger | \$1,385,000 |
| Design, construct improvements to retrofit buildings | |
| Birkhimer Tunnel, Diamond Head | \$ 690,000 |
| Design, construct infrastructure improvements | |
| Ala Wai Canal Dredging | \$5,000,000 |
| Plan, design for dredging and improvements | |
| Waikiki Beach Maintenance | \$7,000,000 |
| Plan, design, construct and nourish beach sand | |

Winners of the 2015 Legislative Session



SB 791 Relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders - Mandates that insurance companies cover up to \$25,000 a year in treatment until a child turns 14.

HB 134 Rail Tax Extension – Extends Honolulu’s 0.5 percent General Excise Tax surcharge for rail another five years beyond its Dec. 31, 2022, sunset date.

SB 284 Turtle Bay - Protects 635.3 acres of undeveloped land on the North Shore of Oahu.

SB 64 Preschool Open Doors - Restores \$6 million necessary to run the Preschool Open Doors Program next year.

SB 964 Kupuna Care - Provides an additional \$3 million to fund the Kupuna Care program in fiscal year 2016, which is in addition to the base budget of \$4.8 million. This amount of funding is less than previous years, and much less than \$11 million that the bill originally asked for.

SB 374 UH; DOE; Dual Credit Program – Waives college tuition for high school students in dual credit programs at the University of Hawaii’s community colleges like Running Start and Jump Start.

HB11 Teacher Incentive - Authorizes an additional per year bonus for teachers who maintain current national board certification under the national board certification incentive program and teach at a school in a focus, priority, or Superintendent's Zone, as determined by the Department of Education.

SB 555 Refundable Food Excise Tax Credit - Increases the refundable food/excise tax credit for individual taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of below \$30,000 and for heads of households, married couples filing jointly, and married couples filing separately, with adjusted gross incomes of below \$50,000. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2015.

HB 1509 University of Hawaii Energy (\$) - Requires the University of Hawaii to establish the collective goal of becoming net-zero with respect to energy use by January 1, 2035.

HB 623 Relating to Renewable Standards – Increases the state’s renewable portfolio standards to 30 percent by December 31, 2020, 70 percent by December 31, 2040, and 100 percent by December 31, 2045.

SB 464 Relating to Consumer Protection - Requires persons charging a consumer's credit or debit card or account for automatic renewal or continuous service offer to first obtain the consumer's affirmative consent. Requires free trial offers to clearly and conspicuously disclose how to cancel the agreement prior to the consumer being charged for goods and services.

SB 717 Relating to Ethanol – Repeals the existing requirement that gasoline for motor vehicles be composed of ten per cent ethanol. Effective December 31, 2015.

HB 830 Relating to Residential Property DLNR - Creates an exemption from DLNR historic review for proposed projects on privately-owned single-family detached dwelling units or townhouses that meet certain criteria.



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania Street Room 403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Contact Bert at :
Phone: 586-6310
Email: repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov

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Jeannine Souki,
son Elliott, and
Alana Afualo,
of
Good
Beginnings
Alliance
(Early Education)
With Rep.
Kobayashi



Kaimuki Middle School Performs at New York's Carnegie Hall

Congratulations to the 70 Kaimuki Middle School students on their performance at one of the most prestigious and iconic venues, Carnegie Hall, on March 10, 2015. The Kaimuki Middle School Symphonic Winds holds the distinction of being the first middle school from Hawaii ever to be formally invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Kaimuki Middle School Symphonic Winds were invited to participate in the 13th Annual New York Wind Band Festival held from March 6-10, 2015. Admission into the festival is based on audition only and is limited to six high school groups and two showcase university wind ensembles. Festival activities included group workshops with festival faculty, ensemble rehearsal exchanges, and a dinner/dance cruise along the Hudson River. The Festival culminated with ensemble performances in Carnegie Hall.

Kaimuki Middle School Symphonic Winds Music Director Susan Ochi-Onishi called the student's performance a dream come true. She reported that her students survived the unusually cold weather in New York City at that time and their successful recital culminated in a gold award for their performance. At the completion of the festival, the Kaimuki Middle School students had time to tour the East Coast before returning home.