



# REPRESENTATIVE DeeMORIKAWA

District 16 • Niihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea



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## 2014 Legislative End of Session Report

*Aloha,*

The 2014 legislative session ended in a flurry to save bills in conference. The downward projection of revenue growth by the Council of Revenues caused some severe cuts of funding initiatives and many bills did not survive. Nevertheless, I am proud that our district did receive some very important funding, such as the Waimea Valley Rock Fall Mitigation Project, Koke'e Re-Forestation Project, a new DLNR-West Field Operations Facility, and a beach erosion study. These bills and others are detailed in this newsletter.

In addition, grant-in-aid funding was approved for the Lawai International Center, which is considered a "Sacred Foundation Dedicated to Ancient Hawaiian Kahuna, Skilled Priests, Master Builders, Architects, Cultural Promoters, and Keepers who have initiated this land and its people out of obscurity." This is one of many areas we need to preserve and I'm pleased to have gained funding for this project.

I'm also proud to have supported SB2175 SD2 HD2, authorizing industrial hemp research. The bill was signed by the Governor as Act 56 on April 30, 2014, allowing the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to establish a two-year program to study the potential for hemp to decontaminate soil and increase the state's production

of biodiesel. Act 56 authorizes the growth and cultivation of industrial hemp in accordance with the Federal Agriculture Act of 2014, which allows higher education institutions and the state department of agriculture to conduct the research.

Through our State Budget, the Legislature approved funding to the Department of Agriculture for four Environmental Health Specialists, which will allow the department to better monitor pesticide use, especially on Kaua'i. The Department of Health has also committed to continue random testing of irrigation and ground water and could, depending on resources, expand research into ocean and fresh water streams.

In support of Hawai'i's public schools, the weighted student formula funds were increased, providing more financial support to all public schools. Moreover, through

SB2768 (signed into law on 5/01/14 as Act 76), Kindergarten is now



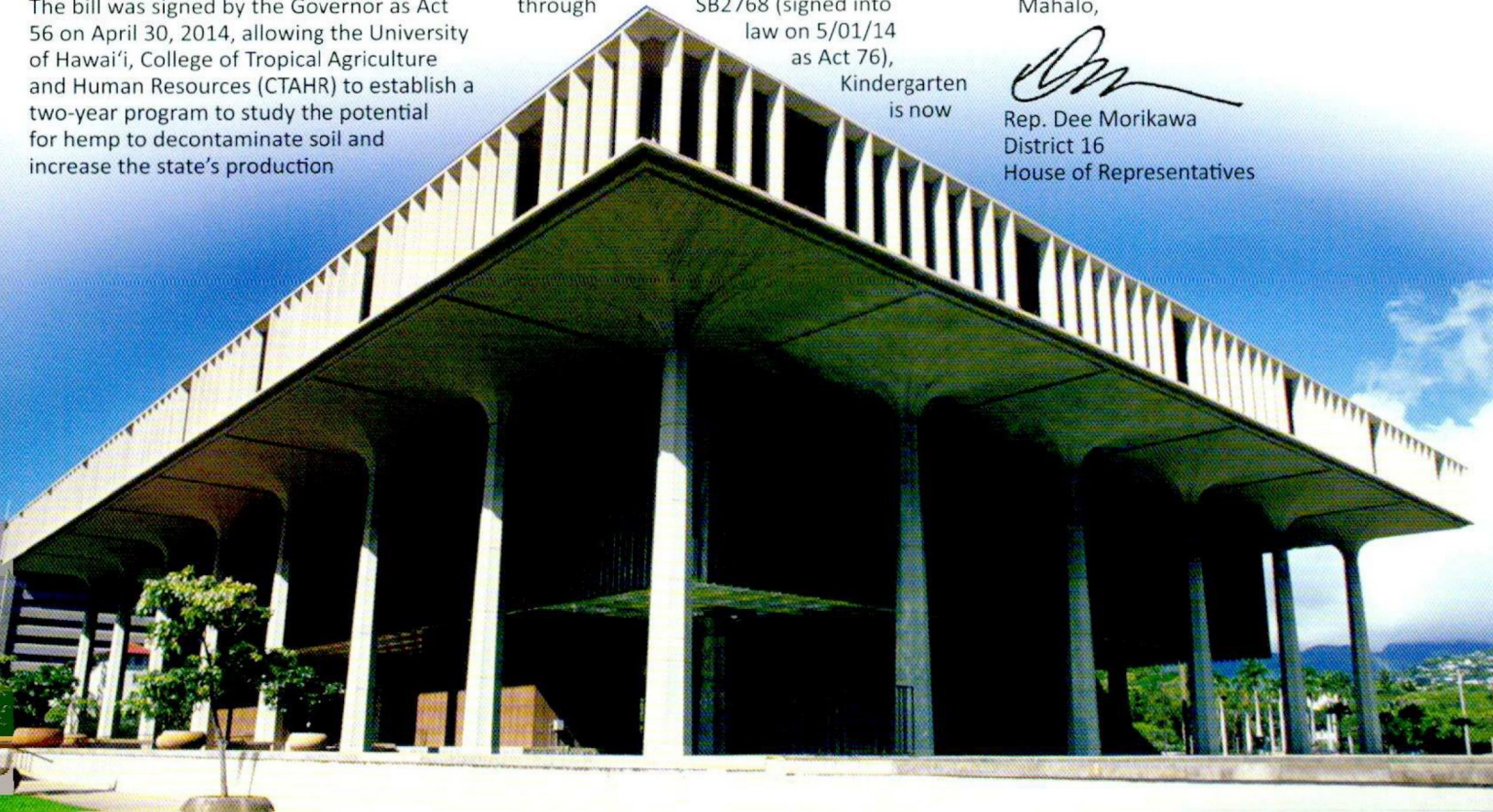
mandatory and there will be funding to begin supporting early learning through the pre-kindergarten program. And lastly, sports programs statewide will receive \$2,000,000 in support of high school athletes.

Kaua'i's recent appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources is Tommy Oi, who has been working with me since 2011. I know that his expertise and experience will be a great asset to decisions made for Kaua'i and Ni'i'hau. He has assisted my office on many Kaua'i related matters, and I look forward to his continued assistance.

In conclusion, we have accomplished much by working together, respecting our differences and, at times, agreeing to disagree, because our goals are the same: Making Kaua'i and all of Hawai'i a better place to live for all of us. Thank you for the honor and privilege of working for you.

Mahalo,

Rep. Dee Morikawa  
District 16  
House of Representatives





# The State Budget

**HB 1700, CD1** — Executive Budget Operating Highlights. The highlights below are just a snapshot of appropriations made in the state budget bill to the various state departments. The funding to the various state departments are consistent with my priority issues I have stated in my postcard message and initial newsletter sent to you earlier this year.

## Department of Agriculture

- Added four Environmental Health Specialist positions and General Fund for the Pesticide Branch.
- Added \$400,000 in Revolving Funds for operating and equipment costs for Pesticides Branch.



Kaua'i Community College proudly displays their satellite tracking project during Education Week at the State Capitol.

## University of Hawai'i

- The sum of \$149,870 or so much thereof as may be necessary in fiscal year 2014-2015 shall be expended for the purpose of establishing and conducting a shoreline monitoring and educational program, "Monitoring Hawaii's Changing Shorelines: Phase I-Key South and West Shore Beaches on Kaua'i."

## Department of Education

- Added \$15,000,000 in General Funds for Weighted Student Formula for direct support to each of the 252 schools.
- Added \$2,000,000 in General Funds to support school athletics.
- Added \$600,000 in General Funds for an educator evaluation system to measure teacher effectiveness.
- Added \$256,000 in General Funds for a state-wide teacher mentoring program.
- Added \$3,000,000 in General Funds for Early Learning through the Prekindergarten program.



Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho and staff pay a visit to Rep. Morikawa to discuss important issues regarding Kaua'i.

## Charter Schools

- Added \$134, 802 in General Funds for Per-Pupil funding.

## Department of Land and Natural Resources

- Added \$650,000 in Special Funds for Watershed Protection.
- Added two positions and \$175,000 in General Funds for stream protection and management.
- Added twelve temporary conservation enforcement officers and \$800,000 in General Funds for fisheries enforcement.

## Department of Transportation

- Added \$4,000,000 in N Funds and \$1,000,000 in E Funds for Kaunualii Highway Improvements — widening of Kaunualii Highway from two to four lanes from Lihu'e to West of Maluhia Road.

## District 16 Capital Improvement Projects and Grants in Aid (GIA) approved by the 2014 Legislature

<b>West Kaua'i Field Operations Facility</b> :: Plans, design and construction to provide a secure and accessible location for eight divisions of the Department of Land and Natural Resources with storage, fueling, parking, restroom and office space.	<b>FY15</b>	<b>\$7,950,000</b>
<b>Rockfall Mitigation, Menehune Road, Waimea</b> :: Plans, design and construction for rockfall mitigation at Menehune Road in Waimea, Kaua'i, Hawai'i. The legislature finds and declares that the appropriation is in the public interest and for the public's health, safety and general welfare of the state.	<b>FY15</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Aha Hui E Kala (GIA)</b> :: Design and Construction for Infrastructure Improvements at the Lawai International Center.	<b>FY15</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

## Capital Improvement Projects and GIAs approved by the 2014 Legislature benefitting all communities on Kaua'i

<b>Sheltered Bus Stops</b> :: Construction for approximately 46 sheltered bus stops along state highways and collector roads; construction to include larger pads to accommodate Americans with Disabilities Act; transition accessibility; protective transit shelter with lighting, trash and recycling receptacles and a bike rack.	<b>FY15</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>Kaua'i Museum Association, Ltd. (GIA)</b> :: Design and construction for improvements and renovations of the museum, to include installation of a photovoltaic system.	<b>FY15</b>	<b>\$776,000</b>



# 2014 Session Highlights

The measures below provide a snapshot of bills that have passed the legislature. In order for a bill to pass out of the Legislature, it must be approved by both the Senate and the House. While numerous bills have passed, the measures listed below are consistent with what I have been advocating for and what I believe is important to my district, all of Kaua'i, and everyone in this state.

- **HB1716** (Primary Introducer) — Invasive Species Council. Appropriates \$5,000,000 for Hawai'i Invasive Species Council projects, including invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

- **HB1714 HD1 SD2 CD1** (Primary Introducer) — Climate Change Adaptation; Sea Level Rise. Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide to 2050.

Tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations using the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report as a framework for addressing other statewide climate impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012. Appropriates a total of \$567,749 for staffing, resources, and the development of the report.

- **SB2345 SD1 HD1 CD1** — Kupuna; Financial and Investor Education. Appropriates \$500,000 for educational outreach to protect vulnerable kupuna based on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' existing investor education programs, particularly in the areas of indexed annuities, life-settlement annuities, variable annuities, and Ponzi schemes.

- **SB2346 SD1 HD2 CD1** — Executive Office on Aging; Long Term Care. Appropriates \$6,576,772 to the Department of Health for community-based services and programs for older persons. Requires the Department of Health Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on long-term care and appropriates \$500,000 for this purpose.

- **HB2053 HD1 SD1 CD1** — Fall Prevention; Department of Health. Establishes and appropriates \$81,985 for a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch.

- **HB2320 HD1 SD1** — Department of Health Goals; Health Equity; Social Determinants of Health. Establishes health equity as a goal for the Department of Health. Requires the Department to consider social determinants of health in assessing health needs in the State.

- **SB2866 SD1 HD1 CD1** — Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation; Appropriation. Makes a \$15,000,000 emergency appropriation to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation to continue operations and the

provision of health care.

- **SB2768 SD2 HD2 CD1** — Mandatory Kindergarten; Age Requirement. Makes kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the school year, beginning with the 2014–2015 school year, unless otherwise exempt.



Rep. Morikawa visits with members of Kaua'i Farm Bureau during Ag Week at the State Capitol. Farming and agriculture is a way of life and very vital to Kaua'i.

- **HB1993 SD2 CD1** (Primary Introducer) — Domestic Violence; Abuse of a Family or Household Member. Requires a police officer, after reasonable inquiry, to order a no-contact period of 48 hours upon the person whom the officer reasonably believes has inflicted physical abuse or harm upon a family or household member. Makes the commission of an act of physical abuse in the presence of a family or household member who is a minor under the age of fourteen a class C felony.

- **SB2609 SD1 HD2 CD1** — Minimum Wage. Increases

the minimum wage rate to \$7.75 per hour beginning on January 1, 2015, \$8.50 per hour beginning on January 1, 2016, \$9.25 per hour beginning on January 1, 2017, and \$10.10 per hour beginning on January 1, 2018. Increases the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2015, and 75 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2016; provided that beginning January 1, 2015, the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage.

- **HB1024 HD1 SD2** — Lifeguards; Liability Exemption. Extends for three years the exemption of county lifeguards from liability for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission within the scope of employment as a county lifeguard.

- **HB1671 HD1 SD1 CD1** — Transient Accommodations Tax; Allocation to Counties. Increases the cap on Transient Accommodations Tax revenues to \$103,000,000 to be distributed to the counties for the next two fiscal years. Establishes a working group to determine future county allocation ceiling amounts and the appropriate division of the provision of public services between the State and counties.

- **HB2071 HD1** — Signed by the Governor on 04/07/2014 as Act 7 (Primary Introducer) — Armed Services; Gold Star Family Day. Establishes the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day" in Hawai'i to support and recognize the families of service members who lost their lives in service.

- **HB1618 HD1 SD1 CD1** — Board of Land and Natural Resources; Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices. Amends the composition of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to require the inclusion of at least one member with demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices according to specified criteria.



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# Unclaimed Property

As your State Representative, I always try to keep you informed about helpful State programs. There is a possibility that you may qualify for reimbursement by the State Department of Budget and Finance for customer funds held as unclaimed property.

By State law, companies must turn over any unclaimed customer funds held longer than five years to the State for safe-keeping. Unclaimed property includes items such as forgotten valuables in safe-deposit boxes, lost paychecks, and even unused gift certificates. Most commonly cited examples include forgotten checking accounts or electric utility deposits. To my understanding, the State currently holds over \$150 million in unclaimed property.

If you believe that you are an owner of unclaimed property and you would like to file a claim for reimbursement, more information about the program can be found at <http://hawaii.gov/budget/unclaimedproperty> or by calling the State of Hawai'i Unclaimed Property Office at (808) 586-1589.

Due to the limited number of staff in the Unclaimed Property Program, please allow twelve (12) to sixteen (16) weeks for your claim to be processed. There is no fee to search for unclaimed property or the recovery of property.

Please feel free to contact my office at 586-6280 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Disclaimer: Please note that this information is provided solely and exclusively for your reference and further action, if any. It is merely provided as information and is not an express or implied guaranty or warranty of entitlement to the property. You must take appropriate action to verify and collect the stated property. Any and all claims must be processed through the State of Hawai'i, Department of Budget and Finance.

## LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOTS



Above: Kaua'i Legislators with honorees of Kaua'i's Boys and Girls club being recognized at an event on O'ahu.



Left: House Health Committee Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and members listen as a concerned citizen testifies on a health measure.

Below: It is always an honor to host the Department of Health's Kaua'i Developmental Disabilities Office on their annual visit to the State Capitol.



Kaua'i HSTA Retirees stops by and pays a visit with Rep. Morikawa during the legislative session.



## CONTACT US

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