

# REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ONISHI

DISTRICT 3 | SOUTH HILO | WAIAKEA UKA | PANA'EWA | KEA'AU | UPPER PUNA |  
KURTISTOWN | MT. VIEW | GLENWOOD | VOLCANO | PAHALA | HONU'APO



## Legislative Bills and 2019 Budget Highlights

HB2010

SB2699

SB2868

Kea'au Middle  
School

Kea'au and Mountain  
View Public Library

Mountain View  
Elementary School

Volcano School of  
Arts & Sciences

## End of Session Newsletter

Representing you in this legislative session has given me a great sense of pride. As your legislator I feel that I have accomplished a lot in terms of setting precedence in not only the kind of bills that should be created, but also the kind of policy that is needed to move this state in the right direction. Over this legislative session we have seen many lawmakers use uncommon, unusual, and quite frankly unethical tactics in trying to pass legislation.

The bills that passed out of the tourism committee, to tackle numerous issues with short term rental, homelessness, and tourism impact to our local community, were either ignored or utterly transformed into hideous, unrecognizable versions of what they once were. Common sense throughout the State of Hawaii legislature seemed in short supply this session, but as I have always strived to do, I will do what I think is right for the people of District 3 and the State of Hawai'i.

I want to express my gratitude for the staff that helped throughout this session my long-time office manager, Tracy (Chang) Weidie, along with my Committee Clerk and Legislative Aide, Alina Tassano and Matthew Nickel. It was a short journey, but I feel that this group has gone above and beyond my expectations, as well as sharing many laughs together along the way.

## HB 2010

Agreeing to all House Amendments, this bill creates greater transparency of expenses for the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA).

It will enable the State to get a clearer picture of actual expenses for HTA and the convention center by forgiving the debt owed to the State of Hawaii for the construction of the Hawaii Convention Center. This outstanding liability had been paid in full, however it still remained on the books as a paper debt.

The bill further reduces HTA's budget after a very extensive audit, which showed earlier mismanagement under a previous HTA leadership team. The Legislature wants to send a message that previous bad practices, many of which have been reduced under current leadership, are not repeated and that HTA continues to go above and beyond to implement best business practices.

This bill will also allocate funds from the general fund to the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas for those much less fortunate, throughout the state.

# Tourism

## SB 2868

The Legislature will impose registration requirements and the Transient Accommodations Tax on transient accommodations brokers, travel agencies, and tour packagers that enter into arrangements to furnish transient accommodations at noncommissioned negotiated contract rates on their share of the proceeds.



Representative Onishi with Kaia Fujinaka, the Hawaii'i Next 50 Essay Winner, with her family and former Gov. Ariyoshi

## SB 2699

The Hawaii Department of Tax will write rules that will outline that Transient Accommodations Tax will apply to mandatory resort fees that are charged to guests.



# Education

## Kea'au Middle School

The school was allocated \$750,000 to resurface the parking area, at Shipman Gym. With student safety a top priority, resurfacing and re-striping the parking area streamlines the student drop off and pick up as well as providing better parking for buses.

## Mountain View Elementary School

Mountain View Elementary School was awarded, \$760,000, to plan, design, and construct drainage improvements for buildings C, G, and upper portable units for the school. This award help to improve the extreme drainage problems due to the large amounts of rain. This includes replacing ageing and broken gutters, resurfacing parking area, and extending roof ways that connect building and walkways. This provides a safer environment for our keiki.



Representative Onishi with students  
from UH Hilo Pharmacy School

## Friends of the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences

A grant in aid, of \$450,000, was given to help build a Preschool/Early Learning Center through 4th grade classroom buildings in order to relocate these students to a new facility at their Keakealani campus. These new classrooms will be equipped with space for hands-on, experiential learning, as well as greater access to increased outdoor learning experiences.

## Kea'au and Mountain View Public Library

The Kea'au and Mountain View communities will get a new library through the allocation of funds from the State Legislature. This new library will help to make these school campuses safer, as strangers and library goers will not have to continually go to school campuses to access a public library.



# Other Funded Projects

## HAWAII JAPANESE CENTER

The Hawaii State Legislature has awarded a grand in aid, to the Hawaii Japanese Center, in the amount of \$175,000 for the development of a permanent exhibition to highlight and preserve the history of Hawaii's immigrant populations.

## TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATION TAX ENFORCEMENT

The House approved budget appropriated funds in the amount of \$215,425 for 5 full time positions, for the Department of Taxaton to help enforce existing laws for payment of the Transient Accommodations Tax. This appropriation replicates HB 2011 which was written to do the same thing.

## KEA'AU PAHOA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

\$40,000,000 for the construction and widening of the two lane highway to four lanes or alternate alignments in this corridor. This project federal aid financing and/or reimbursement.

## KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY | OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Legislative budget allocated an operating budget of over \$6,000,000 with added funding of \$500,000 to fund updates to previous sewage and water studies.

## HILO HARBOR

Demolition of the Pier 2 Shed and Water Tower and design and construction of related improvements including, but not limited to, continued water distribution for domestic/fire suppression and paving for a newly created cargo operational area.

## KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY | SAFETY MEASURES

\$1,000,000 CIP for the design and upgrade to the security infrastructure, including cameras, fencing, and other security improvements.













