



2016 Legislative Session E-Newsletter

February 2016

In Memory of Senator Gilbert Kahele



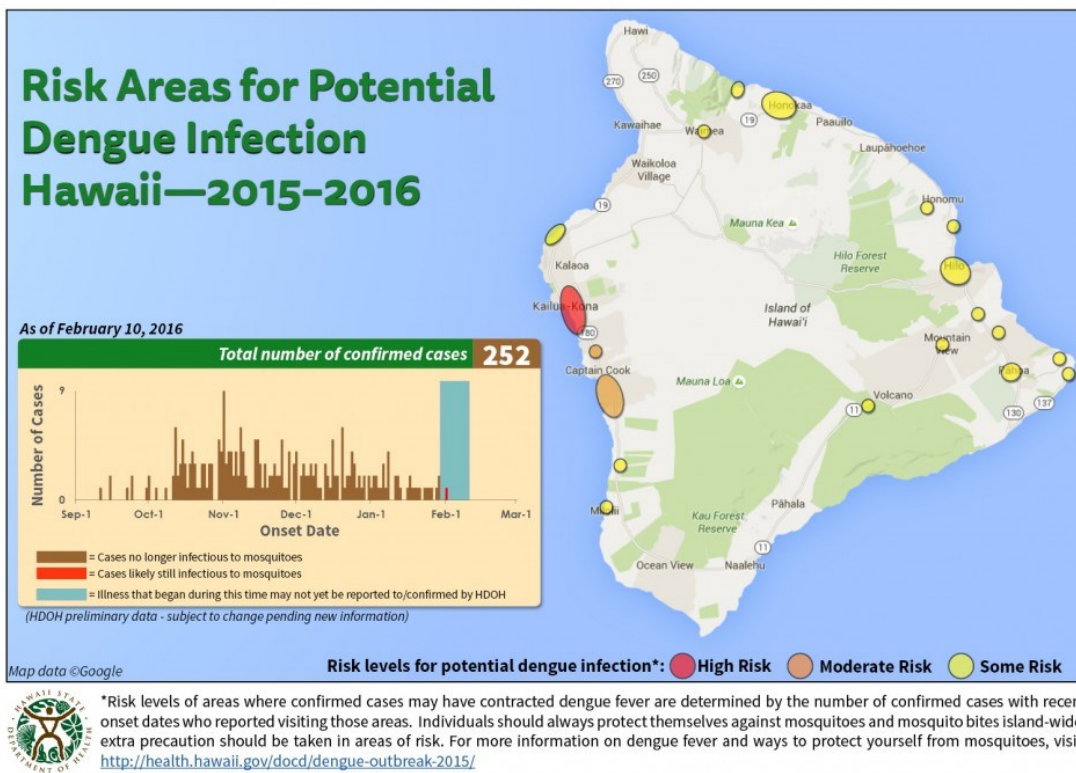
Walking back from
Veteran's Day Parade at
Wailoa Park Bridge



Senator Kahele
came to Makuu,
2nd Primary Night
after Iselle



State of Hawai'i has Declared a State of Emergency on Dengue



REMINDER to help eliminate those pesky mosquitoes:

- Eliminate standing water in buckets and puddles;
- Clear outdoor drains of leaves and lawn cuttings;
- Clean clogged gutters to allow proper drainage;
- Treat bromeliads and other plants that hold water-flush weekly or spray with chemical treatments from garden store;
- Fix leaky outdoor faucets;
- Repair screens and jalousie windows to keep mosquitoes out.



Please Join us at a Townhall Meeting

Representative Joy San Buenaventura and Senator Russell Ruderman are hosting a joint townhall meeting. The purpose, to talk about the bills and issues to be heard in the 2016 legislative session. The first 20 people that arrive, will receive lavender insect repellent, compliments of Representative and Senator.

To voice your concerns, ask questions, or share new ideas, please join us at :

Pahoa Community Center

Monday, February 29, 2016

5:00 PM-7:00 PM



BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE (BIISC) upcoming hands-on trainings and workdays.

Saturday, February 20, 2016 9am-1pm meet at Lava Tree State Park

Please wear/bring: long pants, long sleeved shirts, sturdy, closed-toe shoes and water. The little fire ants may be in the area so it is recommended that you also bring a hat and towel or cloth to protect your neck and collar line.



Hatchets, hardhats, and gloves will be provided, although if you have your own it would be useful for them to bring on this day. Please email your attendance so that they can make sure to have enough equipment: biisc@hawaii.edu

You can also visit their website at <http://www.biisc.org/albizia-workshop-in-hpp-this-saturday/>

Families are encouraged to apply for the Department of Human Services Preschool Open Doors (POD) program. Applications are currently available and must be received by March 31, 2016. All applications received throughout this time will be reviewed and considered for the July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 program period. This program helps to provide child care subsidies for eligible low and moderate income families to pay preschool tuition.

To learn more about this program and instructions on how to apply please visit www.patchhawaii.org/families/paying/preschool



I am happy to be able to provide you with a list of the bills that I am introducing this session. If you wish to find more information, give testimony, or any other questions, please click the bill number below and it will take you that specific bill.

If you need help or a 'refresher' on how to submit testimony, click here <http://lrhawaii.org/par/pub/egtest.pdf> to learn about "Written Testimony: The Bare Basics". If you have any other concerns, comments, ideas, or questions, please feel free to contact my office.

2016 Bills Introduced



Bill Number	Bill
HB 1559	Prohibits the State from seizing cars, generators or other assets and property unless there has been a conviction concerning such property. Currently, the State need only have a civil proceeding to seize assets from people suspected of certain crimes without the need for a conviction. Such seizure has caused a hardship for innocent members of the suspect's family who used the seized vehicle or generator or live on the property. A resolution will also be introduced to audit the existing civil asset forfeiture program. The bill has passed Judiciary Committee and will be heard in Finance.
HB 1561	Authorizes civil lawsuits from neighbors and homeowners associations to evict squatters by amending the nuisance abatement laws. The bill has passed Judiciary Committee.
HB 1562	Senate confirmation of Chief Elections Officer required before reappointment
HB 1563	Allows a court to order a person who is found guilty of speeding not more than 25 miles over the maximum speed limit to attend driver retraining. If the person successfully completes the training, expungement of violation is provided and retention of insurance premium rates.
HB 1794	Since 2008, Hawaii Island has not had a county arborist committee because landscape architect is required. This bill makes it eligible for membership to be other qualified positions such as certified arborists. The bill has passed Energy & Environmental Protection Committee and will be heard in Judiciary
HB 1795	Excludes certain lava zone property insurance properties from those that may be non-renewed during a state of emergency.
HB 1796	Currently only the county allows for initiative. This bill will allow voters to have a direct voice on issues. Although the initiative will not automatically become law because that would require a constitutional amendment. Legislators who face reelection will have no choice but to pay attention to the results.
HB 1797	Creates an alternative dispute resolution process in the event that mediation fails to resolve the dispute. Allows the Office of the Ombudsman to determine the liability of legal fees
HB 1808	This bill allows medical marijuana production centers to be greenhouses, shade houses, and open-air growing operations, as long as they are not secure and not visible from street or neighborhood.
HB 1809	With this bill, it will change drug paraphernalia possession and delivery offenses from felonies to civil violations.
HB 2434	Helps to appropriate funds to establish and staff and advanced life support medic unit in Puna. The bill has passed Health Committee and will be heard by Finance.
HB 2523	This bill will help establish default rules for homeowners, community, and condominium associations to allow the solar energy devices to be placed on single-family homes and townhouse units. The bill has passed Energy & Environmental Protection and will be heard in Finance.
HB 2688	Provides funds to help improve District 4. For example, Pahoia Elementary covered walkways and helps to provide a new alternate route for Highway 130.
HB 1745	With the current outbreak of Dengue Fever on Hawai'i Island, I co-introduced this bill to help reestablish the vector control branch of the Department of Health (DOH). Since 2009, DOH has reduced vector control whose duty is to control the spread of insects and animals that potentially carry diseases. The bill has passed Health Committee and will be heard by Finance.

2016 Opening Day



My 2016 Legislative Staff

Tai Pā was born on Hawai'i island and raised in the District of Puna. He graduated from Kamehameha Schools-Hawai'i in 2009 and went on to graduate from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2013 with a Bachelors Degrees in Hawaiian Language & Hawaiian Studies. Tai currently lives on O'ahu and works part-time as a legislative aide for Representative Joy San Buenaventura for the 2016 legislative session.



Spencer Fong was born and raised on Oahu. He graduated from Hawaii Baptist Academy in 2011 then attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Spencer recently graduated in December with a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science. For his last semester, Spencer interned with Honolulu Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi where he was inspired to seek a position as a legislative aide. Spencer was blessed with the opportunity to become Representative Joy San Buenaventura's full time Legislative Aide for the 2016 legislative session.

Pictured from left to right: Tai Pa, Legislative Aide; Spencer Fong, Legislative Aide; Blyth Iwasaki, Office Manager; Jack Koehn, Intern; and Valerie Dionne, Committee Clerk

Born in Honolulu, **Blyth Iwasaki**, lived in California as a youngster for a few years before moving to the Big Island.

Blyth knows me well, as she was my paralegal for over 7 year before relocating to O'ahu to take on the task of being my Office Manager. This is very important because it helps to keep the office operations running smoothly.

Jack Koehn is a senior political science student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Raised in Rapid City, South Dakota, Jack has a passion for writing, music, and politics. He served two terms on the University of Hawaii's student government ASUH. He looks forward to interning for the Office of Representative San Buenaventura and to being able to gain real world political experience at the Legislature.

Valerie B. Dionne is a Hawaii attorney who considers Puna and East Hawai'i her home for almost 20 years. For over a decade, Valerie worked with the Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA), the largest public-sector labor union in Hawai'i, at the Hawai'i Island Division Office. In 2011, Valerie graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a B.A. in Political Science and Administration of Justice. She then relocated to Honolulu to attend the William S. Richardson School of Law. Valerie graduated law school in May 2014, and is now an active member of the Hawai'i State Bar. She has spent the last three years working for the State of Hawai'i in various Labor Relations positions, and is eager to serve Representative San Buenaventura, and her constituents in lower Puna, this session.



On **Friday, February 19th** and **Saturday, February 20th**, the University of Hawaii at Hilo International Student Association will host the International Nights of 2016 at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center. This year's annual event will feature 18 different performances that span across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific. Tickets will cost \$12 for general admission, and \$5 for children, students, and senior citizens. For more information regarding this event and ticket information, visit <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/international/IN.php>

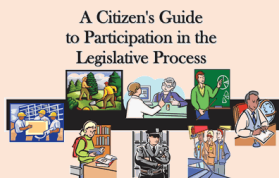
The Blue Zones Project is a well-being improvement initiative to create healthy communities by working with employers for health/exercise programs, with restaurants for healthier menus, with individuals through workshops on healthier living, and with policy makers to remove obstacles to access fresh fruit/vegetables & to incentivize a healthier living environment.



On **February 18** and **March 18** in Hilo, there will be a purpose workshop held at the Aupuni Center Conference Room for those who need help in finding their life's purpose. By finding your purpose in life, you reduce stress and maintain your health.

On **February 25** from **10 AM-11 AM** at Liliuokalani Park, a gardening demonstration will be taught by master gardener Bill Miller who will teach people how to build your own raised-garden bed with you favorite fruits and vegetables.

For more info and to RSVP for the events above, visit this link here: <http://bluezonesproject.hs-sites.com/hawaii/ehcommunityupdatenewyear2016>



Would you like more information on how to participate and being more involved in the legislative process? Check out "A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process" Capitol link:

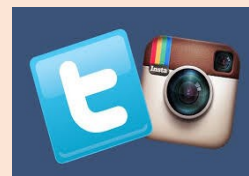
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/citizensguide.aspx> for more information.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter! This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov

Please **FOLLOW** my Twitter and Instagram!

<https://twitter.com/repjoydistrict4>

<https://www.instagram.com/repjoysanbuenaventura/>



Be sure to **LIKE** my page!

<https://www.facebook.com/>

E-mail Address: repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Visit Joy's capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?>

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Consumer Protection & Commerce; Public Safety; Labor & Public Employment; Transportation

Contact Information: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 305, 415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.

