



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

NEWS RELEASE

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HAWAII STATE SENATE ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TEAM AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS

Honolulu – The Hawai‘i State Senate has organized today and selected Donna Mercado Kim to continue as Senate President for the 28th Legislature, which will convene on January 21, 2015.

“I appreciate the confidence the members have in my leadership and I am pleased that we were able to organize so quickly,” said Senate President Kim (D-14 Kapalama, ‘Alewa, Kalihi Valley, Ft. Shafter, Moanalua Gardens & Valley, portions of Halawa and ‘Aiea). “This is a strong leadership team that will waste no time in preparing for the upcoming legislative session.”

Sen. Will Espero (D-19 ‘Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, ‘Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, portion of ‘Ewa Villages) will serve as Vice President and will continue to chair the Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs committee. Sen. Jill Tokuda (D-24 Kane‘ohe, Kane‘ohe MCAB, Kailua, He‘eia, ‘Ahuimanu) will chair the Ways & Means Committee and Sen. Ron Kouchi will serve as the Vice Chair. Sen. J. Kalani English (D-7 Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i, Kaho‘olawe) assumes the Majority Leader position.

“Our State continues to face a number of fiscal challenges, and the Senate Majority stands ready to work with both the House and the Ige administration to address these issues and help Hawai‘i families,” said Sen. Tokuda.

“The Senate will focus on sustainability and resiliency as an overall theme for the next legislature,” added Sen. English. “We will work diligently to ensure that all of Hawai‘i’s people move forward together.”

The State Senate leadership and committee chairs are as follows:

President	Donna Mercado Kim
Vice President	Will Espero
Majority Leader	J. Kalani English
Floor Leader	Josh Green
Caucus Leader	Gil Kahele
Policy Leader	Les Ihara, Jr.
Majority Whip	Brian Taniguchi
Ways & Means	Jill Tokuda
Ways & Means, Vice Chair	Ron Kouchi
Judiciary & Labor	Gil Keith-Agaran
Consumer Protection	Roz Baker
Hawaiian Affairs	Maile Shimabukuro
Education	Michelle Kidani
Health	Josh Green
Economic Development	

and Technology	Glenn Wakai
Water and Land	Laura Thielen
Tourism and International Affairs	Gilbert Kahele
Human Services and Housing	Suzanne Chun Oakland
Higher Education and the Arts	Brian Taniguchi
Government Operations	Donovan Dela Cruz
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs	Will Espero
Energy and Environment	Mike Gabbard
Agriculture	Russell Ruderman
Transportation	Clarence Nishihara

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