

SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUYE

Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona

Newsletter

March 2018

Session 2018...

This session is proving to be very fast-paced. By the time you receive this, the Senate should be hearing House bills and contemplating conference.

I continue to balance my role as Chair of the Senate Transportation and Energy (TRE) Committee, weighing the needs of my committee and the needs of my constituency. I spent part of the interim attending energy seminars and conferences to learn more about the ever-changing landscape of this issue. I am also a member of the Water and Land and the Ways and Means Committees. Our staff has been busy managing our workload and are pictured on the back page. We appreciate all the calls and emails to our office and hope we served you knowledgeably and respectfully.

The intent of this newsletter is to give you an idea of my priorities this session, the Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) that we are requesting for our district, and a glimpse of some of the people with whom we have had the honor to work. Please continue to participate in the legislative process by calling our office with your concerns or comments and submitting testimony on bills about which you feel strongly.





Left to Right: Floor presentation for Amy Bircher, Hawaii Island screenwriter, seen here with her family; Chairing a Transportation and Energy Meeting; bottom: Confirmation hearing for Jade Butay and Roy Catalani, Governor's nominees for DOT Director and Deputy, and Opening Day visitors from Hawaii County.







Serving Hawaii's Senate District 4

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2018 CIP Requests for Senate District 4



Waimea Elementary and Middle Schools

Waimea Elementary and Middle Schools were built in the middle of Waimea town. As the years have passed, the campus has become land-locked. We are requesting funds to purchase a parking area adjacent to the school's back gate. The vacant lot targeted for purchase is owned by Parker Ranch. The ranch has allowed school families and staff to park there, however recently announced it will sell the commercially zoned parcel to fulfill other obligations to its beneficiaries which triggered widespread community concern.



Kalanianaole Elementary and Intermediate School

Kalanianaole School needs a roof type covering to be installed over its existing basketball court to provide shade/cover for various weather conditions. They are asking for the roofing, lights, gutters and drainage as appropriate, plus fencing. The school does not have a gym, so this new area would also provide an alternate venue for school assemblies and events, parent nights and community meetings. The current blacktop court is completely exposed to the elements and is unusable during rainy weather and after dark. This often means that recess and PE classes are canceled, leaving teachers and students to improvise.



Well Acquisition for Monitoring the Mahukona Aquifer

The purpose of this funding request is to acquire a well and surrounding 3-acre parcel to allow for continued analysis of the Mahukona Aquifer—to assess thickness over time and explore the potential for deep confined fresh water. DLNR has established a network of monitor wells that collect data which is essential to the protection of Hawaii Island's water resources. Staff currently collect water-level data from this well as part of a larger monitoring network in the North Kona/ South Kohala region. Continued monitoring of this well is essential to document changing regional aquifer conditions, and monitoring the overall health of our water systems.

2018 Bills of Interest

TRE Committee Related

SB2996 SD1 Relating to an Airports Corporation

Authorizes the establishment of the Hawaii Airports Corporation within the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes. Defines membership to the board of directors and powers and duties of the Hawaii Airport Corporation. Transfers the aeronautics functions of DOT to the Hawaii Airports Corporation by the established transfer completion date agreed upon by Hawaii Airports Corporation, the Director of Transportation, and the Governor, which shall be no later than July 1, 2021. (SD1)

SB 2100 SD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Replaces the current renewable energy technology systems tax credit with tax credits for solar or wind energy systems and energy storage systems and applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2018. (SD1)

District Related

SB 2013 SD1 Relating to Civil Identification

Requires the Director of Transportation to adopt rules to allow an individual who has a letter from a licensed primary care provider certifying that a severe disability causes the individual to be homebound to renew a state identification card by means other than an in-person appearance. (SD1)

SB 3079 Relating to Law Enforcement

Establishes one full-time lieutenant position in the Kona unit of the Sheriff Division within the Department of Public Safety. Appropriates funds for the initial six-month hiring period and for one-time costs for the purchase of position-related uniforms and equipment.

SB2911 SD1 Related to Environmental Due Diligence

Makes an appropriation for DLNR to conduct a phase I environmental site assessment and, if necessary, a phase II environmental site assessment and suitable environmental remediation at the former Lalamilo reservoir site on the island of Hawaii as due diligence to include any common transaction costs concerning the Lalamilo reservoir site land exchange transaction for the relocation of a public library. (SD1)

Personal Priorities

HB 1812 HD2 Relating to Health

Authorizes a health care surrogate to be an authorized representative to assist a patient with a Medicaid application, redetermination of eligibility, and other related communications with the Department of Human Services. (HB1812 HD2)

SB 2344 SD1 Related to Automatic Restraining Orders

Automatically imposes a restraining order upon parties filing for annulment, divorce, or separation to preserve the financial assets of the parties and their dependents. Effective 7/1/2035. (SD1)



Staff of DLNR and DOA collaborate with Senator Inouye on Kohala Water Study



North Hawaii Education and Research Center (NHERC) Visit



Planting a native tree with Governor Ige and his wife at the Waimea Middle School STEAM building dedication.



Senator addresses a domestic violence prevention meeting in Waimea.

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Senator Inouye's Moment of Contemplation August 31, 2017









Photos from L to R: Senator speaking at Pali Highway dedication, giving her remarks at the Kapalama Pier dedication, the 2018 office staff, Parker School FLEX intern for a day, chairing a TRE hearing and braving the elements at the Hilo Pier dedication.



