



## A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kākou,

I remain honored to represent the people of Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate. Along with my fellow Maui legislators, Senator J. Kalani English, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Speaker of the House Joe Souki, and the five Maui Representatives, I will keep working to address the concerns of our community, especially as we continue the Kaiser-Maui Region transition and the recent announcement that HC&S will be closing the last sugar plantation.

During this legislative session, I continue to serve as the Chair of the Judiciary and Labor Committee. This committee considers measures on matters relating to the courts, which includes crime prevention and control, criminal code revision, statutory revision, constitutional matters, and individual rights and civil liberties. The committee also considers measures on campaign spending and elections, ethics, labor, employment opportunities, collective bargaining, the State Employees' Retirement System, and the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

As this is the second legislative session of the biennium, a considerable number of measures introduced last year have carried over into this session. I encourage you to visit the Legislature's website for assistance in tracking the progress of measures important to you.

My office at the State Capitol welcomes questions, comments, and concerns from the people of Central Maui on any of the measures and issues being discussed this session. Mahalo in advance for taking the time to contact us and voice your opinions. As always, we hope to reflect your concerns in meaningful and timely ways. I look forward to hearing from you.

Aloha,

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## FEATURED PHOTOS

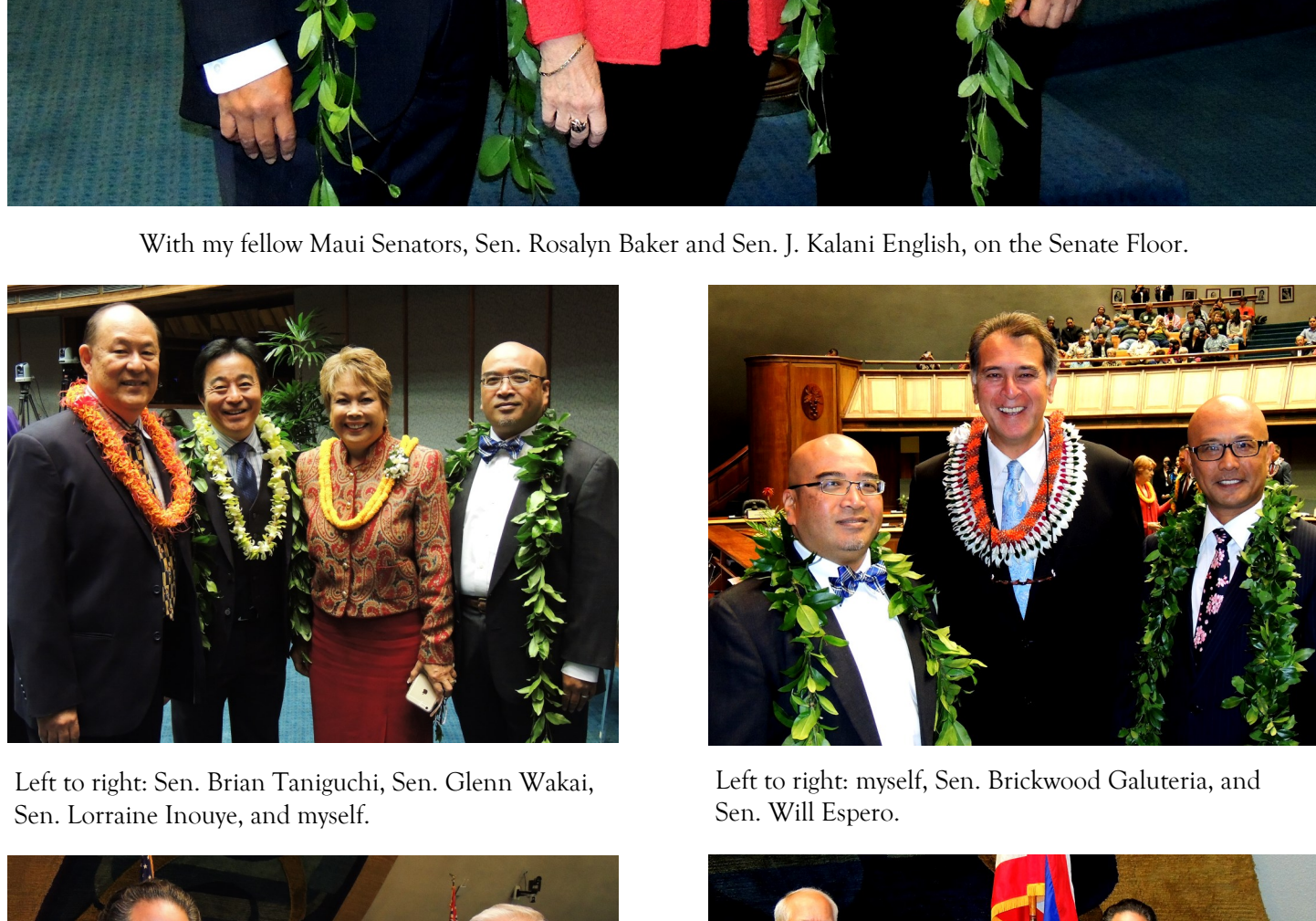


Filipino legislators on the steps of the Capitol. From left, front row: Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Rep. Della Au Belatti, Sen. Will Espero. Middle row: myself, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Rep. Henry Aquino, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura. Back row: Rep. Ty Cullen, Rep. Romy Cachola.



Breaking ground for the new Kihei High School. From left to right: Chairman of Kihei High School Action Team Andrew Beer, Alpha Inc. President Jason Stenger, Maui Board of Education Member Grant Chun, myself, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Maui County Council Member Don Couch, Department of Education Acting Complex Area Superintendent Leila Hayashida, Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Gov. David Ige, Mayor Alan Arakawa, Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui and DOE Assistant Superintendent Dann Carlson.

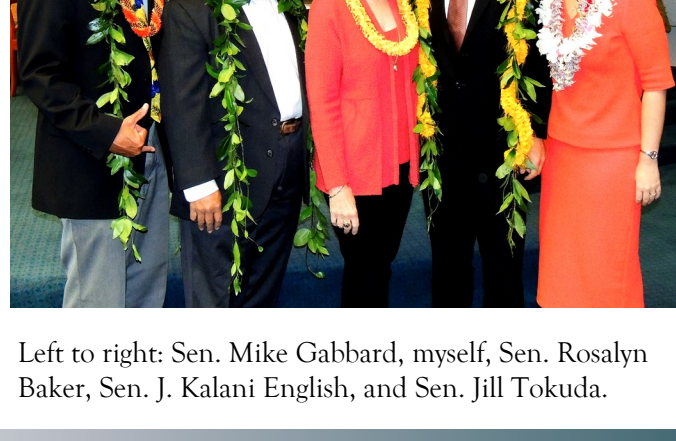
## OPENING DAY PHOTOS



With my fellow Maui Senators, Sen. Rosalyn Baker and Sen. J. Kalani English, on the Senate Floor.



Left to right: Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Lorraine Inouye, and myself.



Left to right: myself, Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, and Sen. Will Espero.

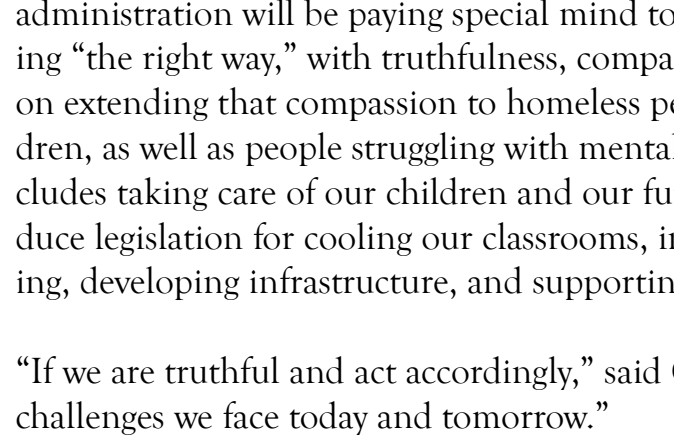


Left to right: Sen. Kalani English, myself, and Sen. Clarence Nishihara.

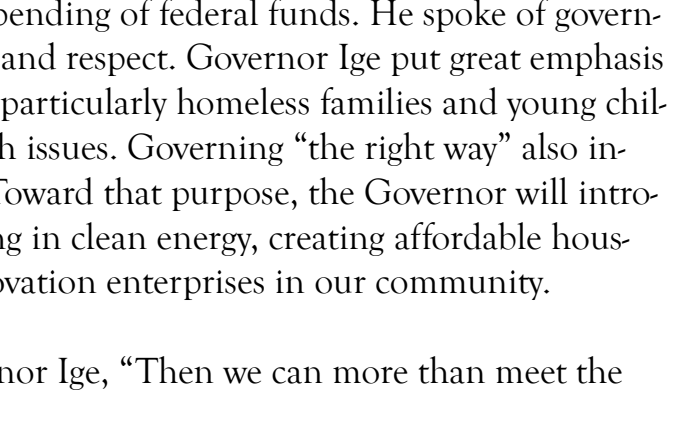


Left to right: Sen. Mike Gabbard, myself, Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Sen. J. Kalani English, and Sen. Jill Tokuda.

## STATE OF THE STATE



Listening to the State of the State Address with fellow Senator Dela Cruz on my left.



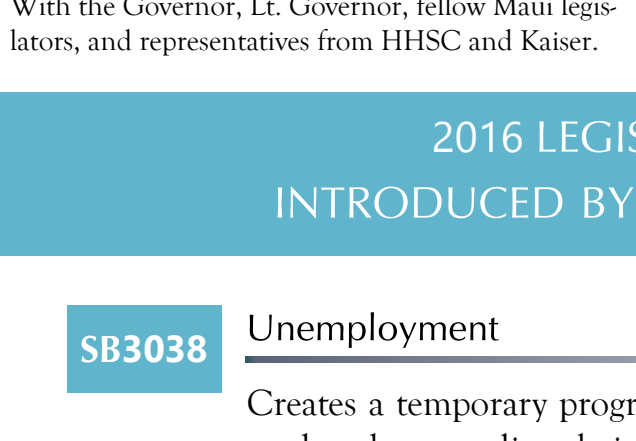
Gov. Ige delivering the State of the State Address. Also pictured: Senate President Kouchi and Speaker Souki.

On January 25th, Governor Ige gave his second State of the State Address before a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Governor Ige began his speech by addressing the end of sugar production at HC&S. We know all too well that the end of sugar in Hawai'i marked the end of an era and presents our State with unprecedented challenges—especially for the displaced sugar workers on Maui. Governor Ige remained hopeful, however, that we as a community will rise to meet those challenges. Governor Ige also promised to work closely with interested parties to ensure that the sugar lands owned will remain agricultural lands.

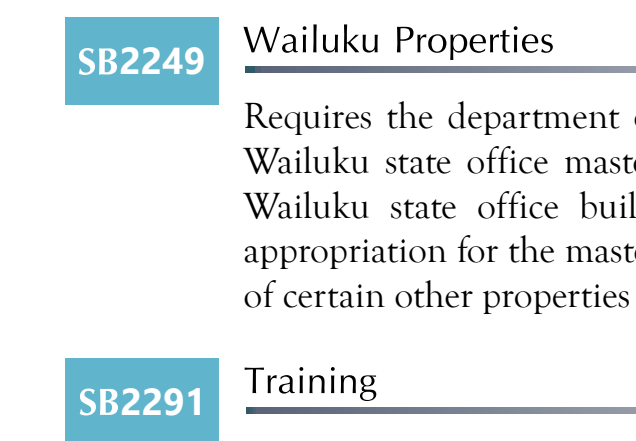
Governor Ige also highlighted his commitment to maintaining public trust, emphasizing that his administration will be paying special mind to the spending of federal funds. He spoke of governing "the right way," with truthfulness, compassion, and respect. Governor Ige put great emphasis on extending that compassion to homeless people, particularly homeless families and young children, as well as people struggling with mental health issues. Governing "the right way" also includes taking care of our children and our future. Toward that purpose, the Governor will introduce legislation for cooling our classrooms, investing in clean energy, creating affordable housing, developing infrastructure, and supporting innovation enterprises in our community.

"If we are truthful and act accordingly," said Governor Ige, "Then we can more than meet the challenges we face today and tomorrow."

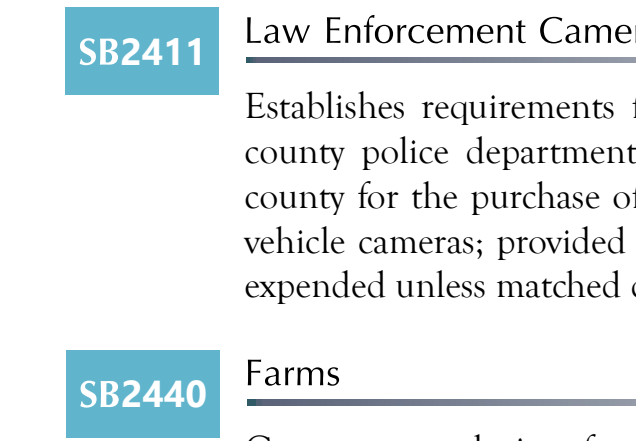
## MAUI REGION HOSPITALS



Gov. Ige signing the transfer with (from left) Dr. Linda Rosen, Mary Ann Barnes, and Avery B. Chumbley.



Applauding the agreement with Sen. Rosalyn Baker and Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui.



With the Governor, Lt. Governor, fellow Maui legislators, and representatives from HHSC and Kaiser.

On January 14th, Governor Ige signed an agreement to continue the process to transfer operation of Maui region hospitals to Kaiser Permanente. The hospitals affected by this agreement are Maui Memorial Hospital, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital.

CEO of Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Dr. Linda Rosen, Chair of Hawai'i Health Systems Maui Region Avery B. Chumbley, and Regional President of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals Mary Ann Barnes, RN, signed the agreement alongside Governor Ige.

My fellow Maui legislators and I attended the agreement signing, along with Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui. We are very hopeful that this agreement will have a positive impact on the Maui region by ensuring that our family and friends continue to have access to quality healthcare on island.

Governor Ige estimated that the transfer will save the State about \$100 million in operational costs from a subsidy perspective over the course of the agreement, while Mary Ann Barnes emphasized that patients at all three regional hospitals will continue to receive care regardless of their insurance.

You can read the full agreement on the website of the Governor here: <http://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Signed-Maui-Transfer-Agreement.pdf>

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KEITH-AGARAN

SB3038

### Unemployment

Creates a temporary program providing additional benefits to unemployed workers by extending their unemployment insurance benefits.

SB2248

### Restitution for Victims of Crime

Clarifies that reimbursement to crime victims includes lost wages, mental health treatment, counseling, and therapy.

SB2249

### Wailuku Properties

Requires the department of accounting and general services to develop a Wailuku state office master plan to address the shortage of space in the Wailuku state office building and old courthouse building. Makes an appropriation for the master plan. Makes an appropriation for the purchase of certain other properties in Wailuku.

SB2291

### Training

Requires police commissions to establish and police officers to complete training programs on cultural competency and implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity. Requires Department of Public Safety to establish and public safety officers to complete training programs on cultural competency and implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity.

SB2411

### Law Enforcement Cameras

Establishes requirements for body-worn cameras and vehicle cameras for county police departments. Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to each county for the purchase of body-worn video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras; provided that no funds appropriated to a county shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the county.

SB2440

### Farms

Creates an exclusion from income tax for the first \$50,000 of income earned by farmers whose annual gross income is \$200,000 or less.

SB2441

### Education

Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's Law.

SB2452

### Urban Agriculture

Requires the counties to incorporate urban agriculture principles and guidelines in land use planning and to allow urban agriculture as a residential use in a residentially designated zone.

SB3034

### Crime Victim Rights

Proposes a constitutional amendment to guarantee rights to victims of crimes and their surviving family members. Also known as Marsy's Law.

## MEASURES TO WATCH

SB2137

### Agriculture

Establishes an on-farm mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm system approach to agriculture. Appropriates funds as a grant for existing on-farm mentoring programs and a pilot on-farm mentoring program in Maui.

SB2138

### Nutrient Cycling

Makes an appropriation for a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui. Requires DOA to report on the efficacy of the pilot project.

SB2978

### Freshwater Reservoirs

Requires the DLNR, with the collaboration of the DOA, to identify, purchase, and rehabilitate freshwater reservoirs in central Maui suitable for fishing and agriculture.

SB3022

### Ferries

Requires the DLNR to conduct any necessary environmental assessment for the establishment of an intra-state or inter-state ferry system. Provides a non-refundable tax credit and a fifty per cent reduction in ferry fees for the first year of operation for any company operating an inter-island ferry vessel.

SB2496

### Elections

Beginning with the primary election in 2018, requires the office of elections to implement election by mail in a county with a population of fewer than 100,000. Beginning with the 2022 primary election, implement election by mail in each county with a population of fewer than 500,000 and also require election by mail for all elections beginning in 2022 election.

## IN MEMORY OF SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE



A memorial for Sen. Kahele assembled at his home on the State Floor, with Marines from the Marine Corps Base in Kane'ohe, O'ahu standing vigil over it.

I would like to express my deepest and most sincere condolences to the family of our dear colleague, the late Senator Gil Kahele. Our State has suffered an incredible loss. Truly a man of the people, he was a dedicated public servant and an exemplary leader who I believe genuinely embodied the words of James 3:13 (Message):

"Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts."

As we move forward in the State Legislature, we do so in remembrance of a man who inspired us all. Senator Kahele will be deeply missed.

## MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The State Legislature's website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) is the place to start. There you can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. When you register for an account using your e-mail address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing, and you can electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at [www.lrbhawaii.org/pa/](http://www.lrbhawaii.org/pa/) or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

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