



SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawai'i State Senate District 5

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WAILUKU · WAIHE'E · KAHULUI

A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kākou,

Thank you for giving me the honor to continue representing you in the Hawai'i State Senate. Our community is moving into a new era as we begin to experience the changes coming from the end of Hawai'i's historic plantation era. Together with Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator J. Kalani English, House Speaker Joe Souki, and my fellow Maui representatives, I will be working to help the Valley Isle adapt to these challenging times while ensuring that all the voices and concerns of the people of Maui continue to be heard.

I return this legislative session to my role chairing the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee. This committee considers measures on matters relating to our courts, criminal justice, statutory revision, our state Constitution, 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. Additionally, I will be sitting on the Higher Education and Housing Committees.

As always I welcome your input on issues that you are concerned about. My office at the State Capitol welcomes the questions, comments, and concerns of my Central Maui constituents on any of the measures and issues being reviewed this session. The Legislature's website is also an effective tool for tracking the progress of measures important to you.

Aloha,

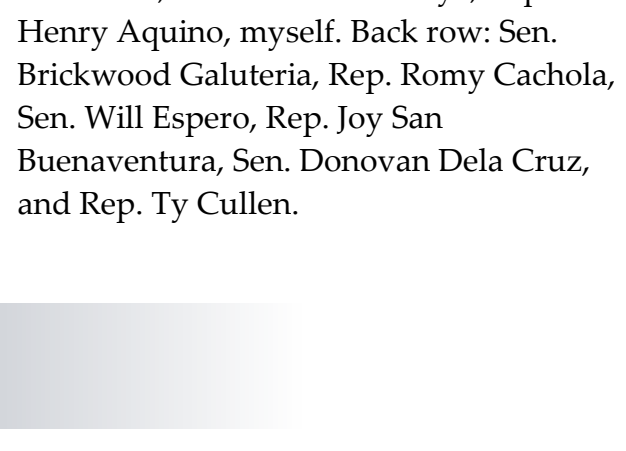
IN THIS ISSUE:

- Opening Day
- State of the State Address
- Legislation Introduced
- Make Yourself Heard!

FEATURED PHOTOS



With Maui Chamber of Commerce members Myles Kawakami, Pamela Tumpapp, and Tom Leuteneker.



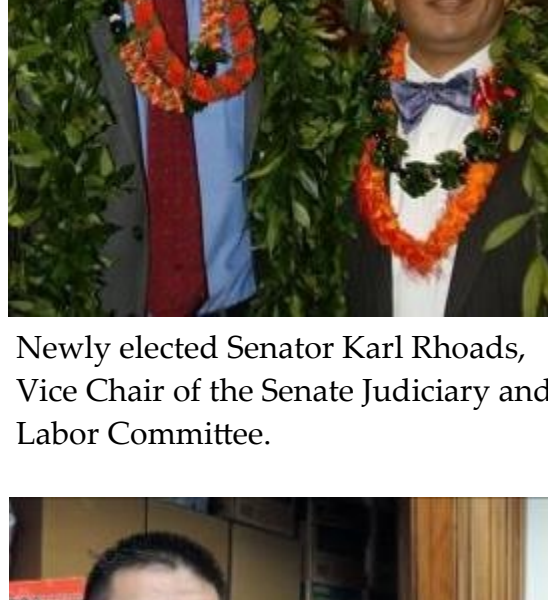
Filipino legislators on the steps of the Capitol. From left, front row: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Rep. Henry Aquino, myself. Back row: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Rep. Romy Cachola, Sen. Will Espero, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, and Rep. Ty Cullen.



Taking the oath of office with the other elected Senators.



My fellow Maui Senators, Sen. J. Kalani English and Sen. Rosalyn Baker, with Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui.



Newly elected Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee.



Senate President Ronald Kouchi, and his wife, Joy.



Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin.



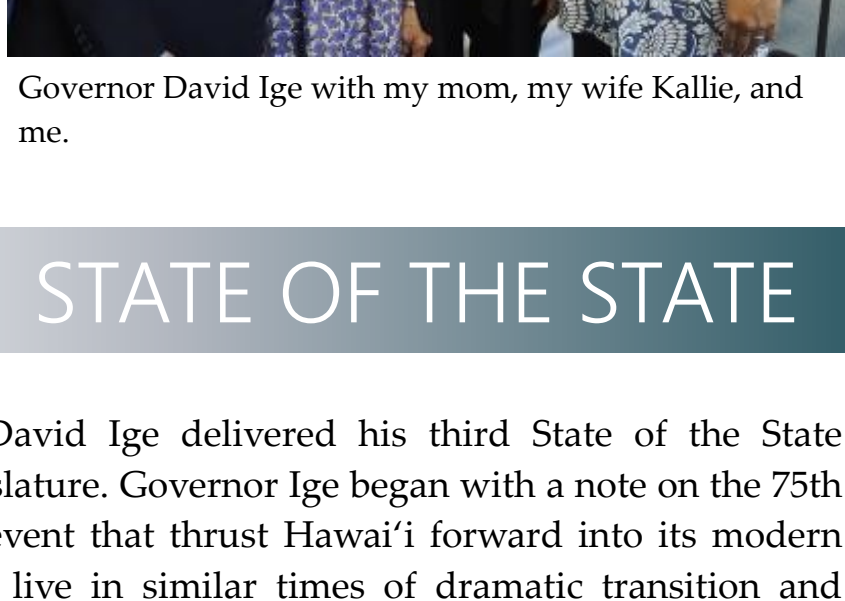
Selfies with Sen. Jill Tokuda and Sen. J. Kalani English.



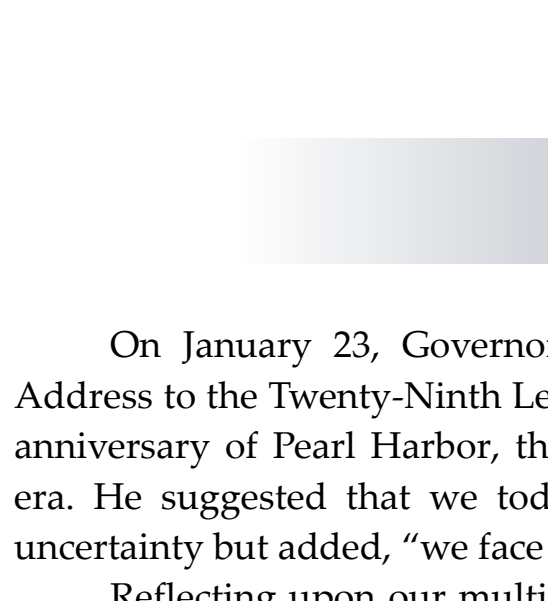
Honolulu Police Department Assistant Chief Clayton Kau.



Maui Council members Yuki Lei Sugimura and Alika Atay with my mom and me.



Governor David Ige with my mom, my wife Kallie, and me.



Honolulu Police Department Assistant Chief Clayton Kau.

STATE OF THE STATE

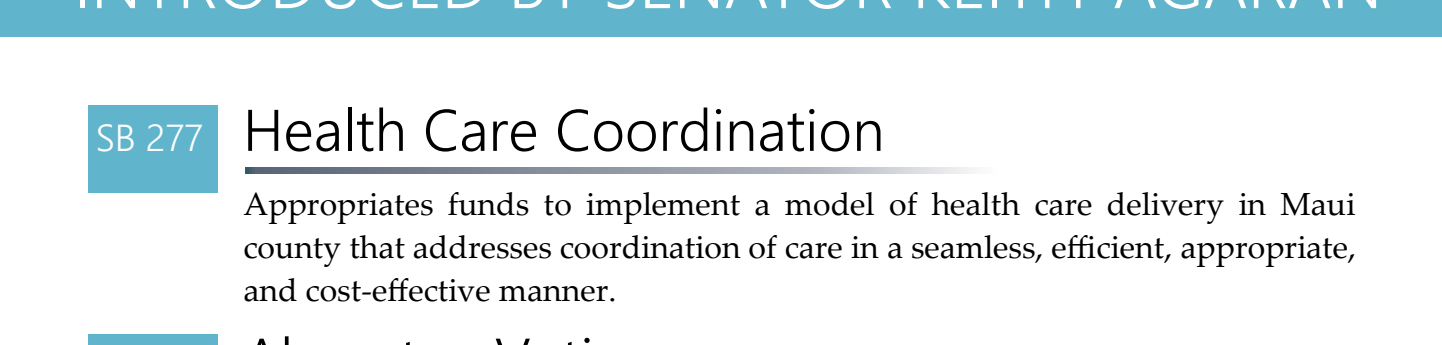
On January 23, Governor David Ige delivered his third State of the State Address to the Twenty-Ninth Legislature. Governor Ige began with a note on the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the event that thrust Hawai'i forward into its modern era. He suggested that we today live in similar times of dramatic transition and uncertainty but added, "we face these times standing on solid ground."

Reflecting upon our multicultural plantation history, Governor Ige argued that the same tenacity that once transformed Hawai'i into the world's leading sugar and pineapple producer can propel our state into the future. He imagines a future economy built on the development of an innovation sector with a focus on sustainable, place-conscious resources and technologies. He identified education as the backbone for fostering a robust innovation sector and emphasized his view of the importance of reorienting public education to be more school-centered. Additionally, he wants to expand the Early College Program, which allows public school students to earn college credit while still in high school.

The Governor also acknowledged some of Hawai'i's struggles, with perhaps the most critical being homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. He elaborated on current and planned programs by the state and its county and community partners to address these challenges.

He also highlighted the development of clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource protection as crucial to perpetuating Hawai'i's unique natural environment.

Governor Ige concluded his speech by reminding us that the hard work of nation building "begins right here in our own backyards" where we are "part of a greater 'ohana bound by the spirit of aloha."



Governor David Ige delivers his State of the State Address on the House floor.

2017 LEGISLATIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KEITH-AGARAN

- SB 277 Health Care Coordination**
Appropriates funds to implement a model of health care delivery in Maui county that addresses coordination of care in a seamless, efficient, appropriate, and cost-effective manner.
- SB 310 Absentee Voting**
Requires completed absentee ballots to be mailed no later than the closing of the polls on any election day.
- SB 316 Restitution for Victims of Crime**
Clarifies that reimbursement to crime victims includes lost wages, mental health treatment, counseling, and therapy.
- SB 325 Medical Marijuana**
Specifies that ten percent of tax revenues collected from medical marijuana dispensaries shall be allocated to the mental health and substance abuse fund.
- SB 329 Civil Legal Services**
Makes an appropriation to the judiciary to purchase civil legal services for low and moderate income persons.
- SB 331 Body-Worn Video Cameras**
Regulates the use of body-worn video cameras by law enforcement officers and body-worn video camera footage.
- SB 334 Voting by Mail**
Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020 and establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots.
- SB 340 Urban Agriculture**
Requires the counties to incorporate urban agriculture principles and policies in land use planning and to allow urban agriculture as a residential use in a residentially designated zone.
- SB 409 County Powers and Invasive Species**
Allows each county to enact and enforce ordinances necessary to prevent, investigate, control, or eradicate invasive species on any public or private premises within the limits of the county.
- SB 414 Important Agricultural Lands**
Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.
- SB 416 Economic Diversification and Agriculture**
Creates an exclusion from income tax for the first \$50,000 of income earned by farmers whose gross income is \$200,000 or less.
- SB 423 Student Meals**
Prohibits denying a student a meal for the first \$50,000 of income earned by farmers whose gross income is \$200,000 or less.
- SB 424 Public Disclosure of Police Misconduct**
Requires police departments to disclose to the legislature the identity of an officer upon the officer's second suspension in a five-year period or discharge.
- SB 4298 Online Privacy**
Adopts uniform laws on protecting the online accounts of employees and students from employers and educational institutions, respectively.

ANOTHER BILL TO LOOK OUT FOR

- SB 1162 University of Hawaii Promise Program**
Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

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 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 email 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 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 website at www.lrbhawaii.org/par/ 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 email us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

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