

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Laura Thielen

DISTRICT 25: KAILUA - WAIMANALO - HAWAI'I KAI

April 2017



*Aloha
Kailua!*

We have passed the halfway point of the legislative session, where Senate Bills have crossed to the House and House Bills are now in the Senate.

Here's a brief update of some of the bills that are moving along.

Please feel free to contact me about any legislation that is important to you or for any questions regarding how to navigate the website.

Laura

PALI HWY IMPROVEMENTS

Funds in the amount of \$12,700,000 for the Pali Highway Resurfacing project have been released by the Governor.

These funds will be used to resurface the Pali Highway between Waokanaka Street and Kamehameha Highway.

These funds will also be used to replace or upgrade lighting between Vineyard Boulevard and Kamehameha Highway.

EDUCATION ROADSHOW

Representative Cynthia Thielen and I co-hosted mock Legislative hearings at Kailua Intermediate School and LeJardin Academy.

The students were given two actual bills introduced this session. They prepared and delivered testimony in support or in opposition for each bill.

I am always intrigued and impressed by the arguments offered by these intelligent and thoughtful teenagers. This engaging activity helps students understand the legislative process and some of the issues surrounding the bills.



RECOGNIZING OCEAN SAFETY SERVICES

As a co-convenor of the Outdoor Heritage Caucus, I advocate for laws and programs that provide for safe outdoor recreational activities.

This year, the Outdoor Heritage Caucus celebrated the importance of our Ocean Safety Officers.

Hawaii's lifeguards are internationally renowned for their competence in the ocean. Many people owe their lives to these individuals. We are grateful for all their hard work to keep us, our ohana and our visitors safe.



The "Art at the Capitol" event will be held on April 7th, First Friday, at 5-7pm. Please join us for this free event to view the collection of work from local artists that adorn the offices at the Capitol. This event is sponsored by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

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MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

TAX RELIEF, A FEW

HB932—Expands the food/excise tax credit and repeals the sunset date.

HB209—Expands the low-income renters income tax credit.

HB209, SB648, HB670—Establishes an earned income tax credit for low wage filers.

HOUSING

SB912—Expands the Downpayment Loan Program to assist low- and moderate-income households by providing greater assistance to eligible borrowers to become first-time homebuyers.

SB1244—Authorizes qualified nonprofit housing trusts to repurchase affordable units developed with government assistance when a government entity waives its first right of refusal to repurchase the unit.

AGRICULTURE

SB698—Grants county and state to enter agricultural property upon reasonable belief of a violation with subdivision and lease requirements.

SB 804—Requires disclosure of commercial agriculture pesticide use under specified conditions.

ENVIRONMENT

SCR99—Requests the Department of Health to update Hawaii Administrative Rules regulating underground storage tanks consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency regulation, effective as of October 13, 2015.

SB1150—Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic containing oxybenzone.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

I am honored to be a co-convener of The Women's Legislative Caucus again this year. This caucus brings all the female legislators together on women's issues no matter what district or party they are from. Joining forces brings more attention to gender equality and family issues and tends to move bills along. There are currently 14 caucus bills still moving, including:

Child Care Facilities SB511, SB522, HB674 –Requires DHS to post inspection reports, violations, findings and corrective actions. Requires licensed child care facilities to place sleeping babies on their back. Requires child care providers to obtain liability insurance.

Healthy and Ready to Learn SB510, HB672 –Appropriates money to this Keiki program within DOE.

Working Family Tax Credit HB670 — A refundable credit aimed to provide relief to low-income families.

Pharmacists SB514 – Authorizes pharmacist to administer vaccines.

