

2016 Legislative Accomplishments!!!

Over 90% of bills do not make it to the governor's desk , the following is a list of the ones that made it through the gauntlet of committee hearings, floor votes, senate committees, senate votes and conference committees, and a final vote in both House & Senate.

Here are bills/resolutions where I was the primary introducer:

HB1370-Requires the State Employee Retirement System to follow the divorce decree so that State Employees and former spouses do not need to hire lawyers at a time when they are most vulnerable, at retirement. Without this bill, domestic abuse victims or those who can't afford lawyers end up with far less, if anything, than they are entitled to.

HB1561– Allows neighbors and community associations to evict squatters.

HCR4-Audit of the Prosecutor's Asset Forfeiture Program. Currently, Prosecutors can seize personal assets without a conviction.

HR28-A Task Force to mandate mediation/arbitration for Homeowners Associations Disputes

These are resolutions that I passed as vice-chair of Judiciary:

HCR127: Study of

decriminalization of personal use of controlled substances. Portugal has successfully used substance treatment instead of incarceration for personal use drug crimes. Legislative Ref Bureau is to report on potential impact on courts.

HR12/HCR44-Urges the Judiciary to establish DWI court programs on the Island of Hawaii

HR89-Requesting the DOE to affirm its commitment to uphold Title IX of the Education Amendment

HR100-Mandatory insurance coverage for certain sexually transmitted disease screenings

HCR29-Urging US Constitutional Amendment to overturn <u>*Citizens*</u> <u>*United*</u>—a case allowing unrestricted corporate spending on political ads.

Bills/resolutions where I was the co -introducer

HR103-Supporting access to debtfree higher education

HB112/HCR162-Requesting collaborative efforts for stewardship and preservation of Waipi`o Valley

HCR137-Requesting the DOE to convene a working group to review after-school programs

HB1739-Prohibits employers from requiring employees to provide access to their personal social media account

HB2543-Automatic Approval of broadband Permits if state fails to act within 60 days.

HB2675-\$300,000 for research to combat rapid ohia death

HB1850-Requires Airbnb to pay GE and TAT taxes like any hotel/hostel/ inn

HB1897-Requires insurance coverage of health screenings for sexually transmitted diseases.

HB2233-Requires physicians to provide Dept of Health with email addresses & requires labs to report patient demographics to Dept of Health of those with communicable or infectious diseases.

HB2569-Provides fans, air conditioning, heat abatement, and related energy efficiency measures at public schools

HB2707-Allows greenhouses as grow sites for Medical marijuana dispensaries; paraphernalia exemption for patients; creation of legislative working group to advise on new laws to cover new issues.

HB2639-Gives domestic abuse victims cell phone rights so they can have their own billing.

You are invited to an evening of discussion with....



Representative San Buenaventura

> Senator Ruderman



Some of the topics to be covered.....

- End of the 2016 Legislative Session; and
- Future of Medical Marijuana Dispensary

For more information call (808) 586-6530 or (808) 586-6689



May 2016

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Wilt/ Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death ('ROD')

The rapid death of the 'ōhi'a forest is spreading from Puna and threatening our entire state.

What can you do?

- Don't move wood, soil, 'ohi'a trees, or plant parts from any forested area, especially from the RED areas in the map.
- Use alcohol or bleach to clean boots, chain saws, cars and other tools and heavy equipment used in any forested area containing the fungus.

There is a quarantine on the Big Island now that prevents transportation of 'Ōhi'a and its parts. A violation is punishable of a fine up to \$10,000.00.

What's happening this session?

\$300,000 was appropriated for research

For more information:

http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/disease/ ohia wilt.html

http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/ downloads/ROD-trifold-03.2016.pdf



What is Rat Lungworm and how to protect yourself from the disease?

RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE:

Hawaii, especially East Hawaii, is the epicenter of the Rat Lungworm Disease in the world. There is no known cure.

Dr. Jarvi's team found that a 15% salt solution kills the larvae; though currently, there's no approved solution to wash fruit and vegetables.

Initial Symptoms: There may be fever, joint pain, fatigue, nausea, and often the skin may feel itchy and tingly, becoming painfully sensitive.

Protect your Ohana, keiki, and pets...

- Always check and clean or cook fruits and vegetables before eating them
- Bring in pet food and water dishes overnight
- Control rat, slug, and snail populations to reduce risk
- Maintain water catchment systems, replace filters regularly
- Don't drink unfiltered catchment water

For more information please visit: http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/rlw/

Email your questions to: <u>rlw411@hawaii.edu</u>



Upcoming hands-on trainings, workdays, and workshops, meetings Saturday, May 21, 9am - 12pm Albizia Workday at HPP Community Center

Please wear/bring: long pants, long sleeved shirts, sturdy, closed-toe shoes and water. The little fire ants may be in the area so it is recommended that you also

bring a hat and towel or cloth to protect your neck and collar line. Hatchets, hardhats, and gloves will be provided, although if you have your own it would be useful for them to bring on this day.

Please email your attendance so that they can make sure to have enough equipment: biisc@hawaii.edu

Saturday, May 28, 9am - 11am, Little Fire Ants (LFA) informational meeting at HPP Community Center

The goal of this meeting is to provide the community with support in starting neighborhood treatment plans.

You can also visit their website at http://www.biisc.org/ for more information

Visiting from Pahoa High School's Skills USA Team were Simmy Billy-Oh, student; Chris Midel, Adviser; Junior Refit, student; and Albert K. Haa III, Advisor

UPDATE on Highway 130

- Roundabout projected completion <u>MAY</u> 2016
- Shower Drive intersection traffic light construction begins 2016
- Fixing Southside of shoulder conversion between Shower and Kea'au will be completed in 2017
- Highway 130 4-lane expansion project construction begins 2019 with design starting this year

Thank you to the many visitors who stopped by this year; here are just a few......

Aunty Shirley Pedro of Maku'u Market and Aunty Emily Naeole from Puna stopped by to say hi and ask that I not forget about DHHL.





Rep. Nakashima, Rep. Evans, Joanne, Denise, Ryanna (Hilo Easter Seals), Nalu, Brenton, and myself. They visited from the Hilo Easter Seals for Developmental Disability Day at the Capitol.



Tatiana Ferreira, Jr. at Waiakea High School; Marwin Sarmiento, Sr. at Campbell High School; Keiko Kurohara, Sr. at Waiakea High School and Sally Ancheta, East Hawaii Coordinator for Hawaii Public Health Institute stopped by to meet me



on Opening Day of the 2016 session.

My interview with Brenton Awa of KITV regarding the squatter problem in Puna





Representative Onishi and myself congratulating Keaau High School's Principal Dean Cevellos on winning the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award



Donne Dawson, Hawaii State Film Commissioner was invited to speak with the Big Island delegates.



May 2016

Mahalo to my 2016 session staff:



Valerie B. Dionne, Committee Clerk, worked with me on bills and resolutions that I introduced this session. She reviewed bills that I was to hear in the Judiciary committee, gathered testimony and attended the hearings. If you called my office regarding the 2016

bills/resolutions: from their status to questions about testifying, you probably spoke with Valerie.

Valerie will continue her education and work at her law firm here on Oahu.



My Legislative Aide, Spencer Fong was usually the first person you spoke to when you called my office. Spencer was responsible for updating my social media. Spencer will be starting a new job as a legal secretary for a law firm. Two of my part-time staff members are Puna's own Tai Pā, Legislative Aide and Jack Koehn, intern.

Both Tai and Jack helped with committee hearings and helped research various concerns and issues.

In addition to growing his clothing business, Permanent Shaka, Tai will continue dancing hula around the world for Hawaiian Airlines. He has applied for law school at UH Mānoa and if accepted will start in August. We wish him the best of luck on his future endeavors.





Jack's internship was through his Political Science Capstone for the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Congratulation on receiving your BA. We wish you all the best as you venture to Spain to teach English.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter!

This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: <u>b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov</u>

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Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Consumer Protection & Commerce; Public Safety; Labor & Public Employment; Transportation

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Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.



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