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Proudly serving District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihe'e, Waiehu, Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapū, parts of Kahului

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

April 2019

Aloha!

I want to thank everyone who attended the Lawmakers Listen last month. Your participation in our government is encouraging. I also want to thank House leadership for helping me address your concerns and show that our community will be given the attention it deserves.

Session ends on May 2. Before then, we have to get through Conference Committee.

All the bills still active this session have passed through both the House and the Senate. Now, we are holding Conference Committee hearings to work out our remaining differences.

I look forward to passing much-needed legislation to improve many of our district's and state's needs, and then spending more time in the community. Until then, I will continue to make sure our community's priorities get the attention they deserve. If you have questions or concerns, please contact my office at (808) 586-9444 or RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.





Troy at Lawmakers Listen with Majority Floor Leader Dee Morikawa, Speaker Scott Saiki, Majority Leader Della Au Belatti and Rep. Kyle Yamashita.



Troy showing his support for kupuna caregivers (above) and early childhood education (below).





Troy recognizing Brandon Arakawa, the 2019 Maui District Teacher of the Year (top), and Chassen Kosi-Cortez, a 2019 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year (bottom).



Troy at Kick Butts Day (above) and meeting with Future Farmers of America Maui students (below).



Solar project approved

The Public Utilities Commission approved the 60-megawatt Kuihelani Solar project, which will be built on up to 500 acres of former sugar fields in central Maui. It will include a 240 megawatthour battery storage system. Energy will cost Maui Electric Company 8 cents per kilowatt hour, which is currently cheaper than other sources of energy on Maui.

For more information, read Maui News' article at: www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2019/03/mauis-largest-solarproject-okd-by-puc/

Maui Electric will take over EV fast-charging network

Maui Electric Company will take over ownership and operations of the 8-site electric vehicle fast-charging network. The network, which includes 8 charging sites on Maui, is currently owned and operated by the Maui Economic Development Board, which will propose adjusted charging rates to incentivize charging when solar energy is most abundant.

Work at golf course continues

The second phase of renovations began at Waiehu Municipal Golf Course on April 15. All 18 holes will remain playable, but there will be reduced yardage for the front 9 for the grow-in, maintenance, and irrigation of two acres of SeaStar Seashore Paspalum grass. The work is expected to continue until September 2019.

For more information, call the Maui Department of Parks and Recreation at 270-7382 or visit www.mauicounty.gov/parks.

Tsunami Awareness Month

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is encouraging residents to spend April preparing themselves for tsunamis and other natural disasters. Hawaii is located in the center of the Pacific Ocean, within several hours of possible tsunamis generated along the "Ring of Fire" volcanoes. Volcanic activity can cause earthquakes, which can cause tsunamis.

Information about what to do during a tsunami or other disaster is available at www.ready.hawaii.gov.



Bill Highlights

A full list of bills advancing through Conference Committee this session is available at **capitol.hawaii.gov**. Here are a few highlights moving at the Legislature:

HB 398

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Requires additional distance learning classes for education students. Changes the Board of Regents' size and composition. Requires the board to hold the university president and administration responsible for actions that incur additional costs to the university.

HB 318

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Requires a study on the implications of instituting staggered school start times, including adjusting school bus service.

HB 1455

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Funds the International Office at the University of Hawaii Maui College.

HB 888

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE MAULHEALTH SYSTEM Appropriates funds to the Maui Health System.

SB 1292

RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Requires vacation rental platforms to collect and pay taxes for transient accommodation bookings. Requires certain information to be disclosed to assist the counties with their enforcement of land use laws.

HB 467

RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Changes the cap on allocations awarded by the Kupuna Caregivers Program for services to \$350 per week, rather than \$70 per day.

SB 330

RELATING TO AN EARNED INCOME DISREGARD PROGRAM

Requires the state to disregard income earned by individuals with disabilities when determining Medicaid eligibility. Requires reports about the viability of a full Medicaid Buy-in Program.

SB 1405

RELATING TO ELECTRONIC SMOKING PRODUCTS

Disallows shipping e-liquid products to unlicensed sellers. Increases permitting fees and criminal penalties.

HB 543

RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Requires the state to acquire and preserve Maui's Front Street Apartments and provides additional time to complete Maui's Leialii affordable housing project.

SB 301

RELATING TO TAXATION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Disallows the dividends paid deduction for Real Estate Investment Trusts, and allocates 10 percent of revenues to economic development.

SB 162

RELATING TO TAXATION

Changes the rental vehicle surcharge tax, deposits a portion of the revenue into the state highway fund for statewide use, and allows the county share to be used for highway road capacity projects.

HB 1552

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Creates the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission and implements certain pretrial task force recommendations.