

KANEOHE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT – March 16, 2017

Rep. Ken Ito 49th District

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Aloha Residents,

We have just passed the halfway point of this year’s legislative session and bills that have passed committee hearings and 3rd readings in both the House and Senate and have crossed over to be vetted through the process of approval, amending or taking no action on the bill. Key legislation being proposed and looked at very carefully are the following bills:

HB 547— Establishes an income tax credit for host families of foreign exchange students.

SB 1129— Establishes a medical aid in dying act that establishes a regulatory process under which an adult resident of the State with a medically confirmed terminal disease may Obtain a prescription for medication to be self-administered to end the patient’s life.

SB 602— Repeals requirement that a disabled veteran be in receipt of disability retirement pay in order to be exempt from the payment of annual vehicle registration fees.

HB 961— Excludes for income tax purposes a portion of income earned by farmers who grow or raise food or value-added food products within the state and whose annual gross income does not exceed a certain amount.

HB 1594— 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. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

HB 932— Gradually increases the credit amounts and amends the income brackets of the refundable food/excise tax credit. Repeals the sunset date of Act 223, SLH 2015, which amended the food Excise tax credit.

HB 1436— Appropriates funds to the Department of Accounting and General Services to update statewide standards for hurricane mitigation and secure a reimbursement grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

HB 475— Extends the sunset date of Act 39, SLH of Hawaii 2015, which requires certain motion picture theaters to provide open movie captioning and audio description for certain motion pictures at certain times. Requires DBEDT to conduct an impact survey.

SB 1178— Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the initial staff necessary to develop and manage the He’eia National Estuarine Research Reserve and its programs.