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BERTRAND KOBAYASHI STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 19 – DIAMOND HEAD,
 KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street, Room 403 Honolulu, HI



April 2016

Housing and Homelessness Legislative Update

At the mid-way point of the legislative session, housing and homelessness legislation is still alive. Bills include: (1) increasing the availability of funds for affordable rental housing development; (2) helping public housing residents to become self-sufficient; (3) funding rent subsidy for working homeless people; and (4) establishing the Work a Day pilot program with the City.

[HB2166 HD1](#) expands the low income-household renter's income tax credit based on adjusted gross income, filing status and the Consumer Price Index.

[HB2647 HD2](#) establishes a *Work for a Day Pilot Program* to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities.

[HB1774 HD1](#) appropriates funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.



HOMELESSNESS HOTLINE

Residents have voiced concerns about an increase in homeless individuals in our neighborhood. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness can dispatch outreach teams to assess the situation and provide services. Please call:

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness — 586-0193

If you come across a homeless issue, you can contact the City Department of Facility Maintenance at 768-3343.

Abandoned vehicles can be reported to 768-2530.

Aloha,

The 2016 Legislative Session has passed the mid-point and the House and Senate have vetted more than 2,200 bills. A surviving 708 bills introduced during 2016 crossed over to each of the respective bodies for further work and this does not include the 300+ bills still alive from 2015 session. Final deliberation for all bills is April 8th.

I want to thank those of you who have taken the time to share your thoughts and concerns with me on this session's important issues affecting our state and community. Session is typically busy and I am working hard to find solutions to improve our state. As always, please contact my staff and me at 586-6310 or repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can be of further service to you. It is a privilege to serve you.

With Warmest Aloha,

Bert Kobayashi

Bert Kobayashi
 State Representative
 19th District
 Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu



Rep. Kobayashi with Wrayna Fairchild, 2015 VOYA *Unsung Heroes* Award Recipient and Jan Kamiya, 2015 Public Librarian of the Year.



Michael W. Perry and Larry Price were honored for their achievements to Hawaii for over 35 years.

KALANI WINS FIRST EVER OIA BOYS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

A crowd of over 300 soccer fans were at Kapolei Stadium to see the Oahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) East top-seeded Kalani Falcons capture their first-ever league title over the Kaiser Cougars, 1-0, on February 13, 2016. The Falcon Boys registered their second straight shutout to complete an undefeated run through the OIA at 13-0.

Both teams represented the OIA in the Queen's Medical Center/Hawaii High School Athletic Association Division I Boys Soccer Championship held on February 24th. The Falcon Boys last won the State Championship in 2013 over Punahou School.



Liholiho Elementary School Teacher, Alicia Chang, Named 2016 Honolulu District Teacher of the Year

Liholiho Elementary School teacher, Alicia Chang, was named 2016 Honolulu district Teacher of the Year. This annual award is part of a prestigious national program that honors teaching excellence. Winners represent the best teaching practices in each of the seven statewide school districts after a rigorous selection process.

Ms. Chang has collaborated with her colleagues and community organizations to develop a cohesive enriched curriculum that helped her with student academic growth. She introduced and promoted the *UH Stomp Program*, the Honolulu Museum of Arts' *Art to Go*, Chaminade University's *I am a Scientist*, and other noteworthy programs. Ms. Chang believes that a teacher's role is finding a starting point to motivate, intrigue and assist students on their journey of knowledge and discovery.



FREE Smoke Alarms for Seniors

No smoke alarms in your home? Are your smoke alarms over 10 years old? Have you tested your alarms this month? Do you need new batteries in them?

The American Red Cross of Hawaii, Honolulu Fire Department, and other area partners are working together to install FREE Smoke Alarms in the homes of seniors in Hawaii.

If you would like to be a part of this **free program**, please **call the Red Cross at 739-8111**; leave your name, phone number and address. We will call you back to schedule an appointment to install the smoke alarms.

“On average, 7 people die every day in a home fire in the USA. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%.”

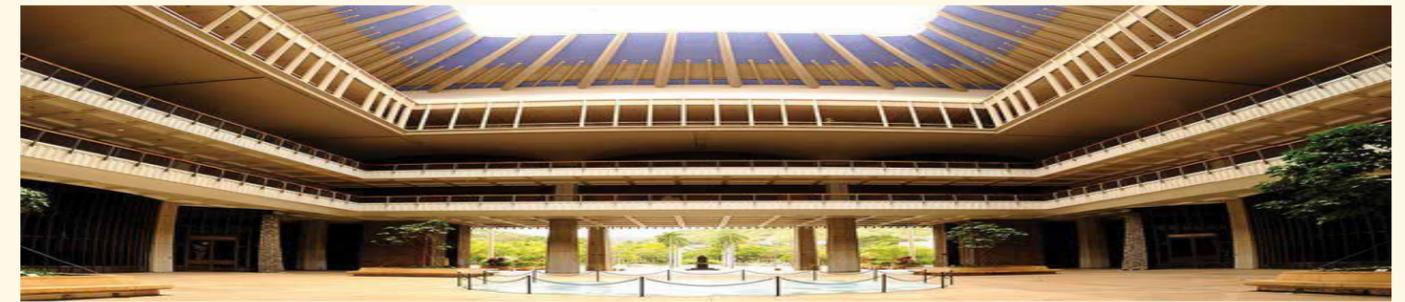
The Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Campaign’s goal is to reduce home fire fatalities by installing smoke alarms, teaching residents how to test them monthly, and helping you create and practice a fire escape plan to get out of your home in 2 minutes or less.



*Become a Red Cross Volunteer with the **Home Fire Preparedness Campaign** and help our community and seniors' be fire safe. We have Home Fire Preparedness Basic Training each month; a 2 hour training that equips you to join a Smoke Alarm Response Team that hold month installation events. We welcome new volunteers.*



American Red Cross
Hawaii State Chapter



2016 Mid-Session Legislative Highlights

As the 2016 Legislature reached its midway point, the House passed over 350 bills to the Senate including measures to implement a heat abatement program in Hawaii's public schools and to allow teachers to accept "gifted" support when traveling with students.

HB2569, HD2 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund the Green Infrastructure Loan Program that implements cooling measures in public school classrooms, and requires the Department of Education (DOE) to expedite the cooling of all public school classrooms. The bill also requires the department to produce as much renewable energy as it consumes by 2035.

DOE currently spends approximately \$62 million a year on electricity, gas, and water services. By installing more efficient lighting, using natural ventilation, and integrating innovative renewable technologies such as solar panels and batteries to help power schools, the state could reduce electricity costs and improve student performance from cooled classrooms.

Another school-related measure passed to the Senate, **HB1713, HD2**, exempts school employees who travel with students from the State Ethics Code rules relating to gifts, gift reporting, and conflicts of interest, if certain conditions are met.

Last year, the State Ethics Commission ruled that teachers could no longer accept "free travel" to accompany students on educational trips across the state and to the mainland. The bill allows teachers serving as chaperones on non-publicly funded trips to accept gift support.

Other bills passed by the House and sent to the Senate include:

HB2186, HD1 directs and appropriates funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide workforce development, worker training and retraining, and other dislocated worker assistance programs for workers affected by the cessation of sugar production on Maui.

HB1839, HD1 expands the sources of funds and authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the planning, design and construction of a visitor and interpretive center at the Diamond Head State Monument.

HB1878, HD1 appropriates funds for the Kupuna Care Program, Aging and Disability Resource Center, fall prevention and early detection services for the elderly, the Healthy Aging Partnership Program; and funds an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position and an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public awareness program.

HB1773, HD1 appropriates funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing. Also funds Department of Human Services to continue to administer Housing First Programs for chronically homeless individuals.

HB2632, HD2 requires firearms owners who have been disqualified from owning a firearm and ammunition due to mental illness including emergency hospitalization, to immediately surrender their firearms and ammunition to the chief of police.

HB1753, HD3 requires registration, inspections, and number plates for mopeds, requires all persons driving a moped to wear a safety helmet securely fastened with a chin strap.

A complete list of bills passed by the House this biennium to date is available on the Capitol website at:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/advreport.aspx?year=2016&report=deadline&active=true&rpt_type=firstCross&measuretype=HB&title=House%20Bills%20Crossed%20Over%20to%20the%20Senate