



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi Capitol Update

DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

March 2014

Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 304 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: 808-586-6310 repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha!

The 2014 Legislative Session is at its midway point. Please find attached a few key bills that are still alive in the House and Senate for further consideration.

Many of you have contacted me during the legislative session, and I truly appreciate your input and ideas.

I urge you to keep in touch with me about your concerns. Please feel free to call me at 586-6310, fax me at 586-6311, or email me at repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the House of Representatives.

Mahalo nui,

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
House District 19

State Budget: Downward Revenue Projection

On 3/11/14, the State Council on Revenues (which sets the tax revenue projections on which the State Budget is based) projected zero growth for the fiscal year ending on 6/30/2014, compared to the 3.3% tax revenue growth on which the Governor's budget was based. In short:

1. The Governor's budget request (from December 2013) is projected to have a negative \$118 million ending balance for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2015.
2. The House draft of the State Budget (from early March) has a \$68 million positive balance; it includes a \$53 million cut to the Governor's budget.
3. The Senate budget (now being prepared) will likely make further cuts of up to several hundred million dollars.
4. Expect a thin, skinny budget!



Major Bills Still Alive At The State Capitol

HB1700, HD1 – State Budget – Authorizes \$12.1 billion in state spending for fiscal year 2015, about \$53 million less than Gov. Neil Abercrombie requested.

HB1866, HD2 – HCDA – Places affordable housing, height limits, appeal rights and other requirements on the HCDA for development in Kaako.

SB2609, SD1 – Minimum Wage – Gradually increases the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour by January 2017, up from \$7.25 an hour. Provides an undetermined tip credit for businesses to deduct from the minimum wage for workers who earn tips.

HB1713 – Kupuna Care – Funds healthy aging programs and services and requires the Executive Office on Aging to create a public awareness campaign on long-term care.

SB2574, SD1 – Medicinal Marijuana – Enables certified pain specialists physicians, oncologists, ophthalmologists and palliative care physicians to prescribe medical marijuana starting in January.

HB2276, HD1—Early Childhood Education—Implements an early childhood education program if voters in November ratify a state constitutional amendment and allow public money to go toward private preschool.

SB2454, SD2—GMO Task Force—Mobilizes a task force to determine whether the state should regulate the agricultural use of genetically modified organisms.



Hawaiian Electric Residential Metering Program coming in April 2014

A smart metering electrical system will be introduced by Hawaiian Electric Company to 5,200 customers in **Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Waikiki**, Moanalua Valley & portions of Pearl City from mid-April to July 2014.

Key benefits include:

- When outages take place, the smart metering will generally make outages shorter.
- The smart metering will help customers better manage their electric bills by providing them with more information about their energy use.

Information for Customers

- There is no additional charge for the replacement of meters.
- Customers will be given more specific times for the meter replacements in their neighborhoods.
- Customers don't need to be home at the time of installation.
- The entire meter-replacement process will take less than 15 minutes, and customers will experience a brief one- to three-minute interruption of electrical service while the old meter is being replaced.

More information

- **Kaimuki/Diamond Head/Waikiki/Kahala Open House:**
Tuesday, April 8: 5:30pm-7:30pm; Kaimuki Middle School
- Go online at www.hawaiianelectric.com/smartgrid
- Call 808-440-4977

Who will be replacing the meter?

Technicians from Honeywell International and their subcontractor will install the meters in the neighborhood. They will wear a Hawaiian Electric contractor photo identification badge. The badge will include the contractor's name, photo and Hawaiian Electric's logo mark. The logo also will appear as a hologram. If you have any concerns, please call Hawaiian Electric's Security Command Center at 543-7685.

What if I or a member of my household is on essential medical support equipment?

Please contact Honeywell at 94-POWER (947-6937) to schedule an appointment if continuous power is necessary.

When will my meter be replaced? The smart grid communications infrastructure, including smart meters, will be installed from mid-April to the end of July.

How can I prepare for the replacement of my meter? Please make sure to provide safe access to your electric meter by clearing any obstruction like bushes, moving any items that are blocking access to the meter area, or unlocking cabinets/gates. Please tell people in your household about the meter replacement as there will be a brief electrical outage (usually 1-3 minutes) when your meter is replaced.

Will meter readers need to access my property after the smart meter is installed?

Yes, meter readers will need to continue and verify data from the new meters by accessing your property. Hawaiian Electric employees also may still need to access your property to investigate, change or repair meters in the future.