



REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ONISHI

2017 Mid-Session Newsletter

March 2017

Session Highlights

I want to thank you again for the privilege and the opportunity to serve you in the Legislature. This year I have taken on a new role as Chair of the Tourism committee. I am also serving on Higher Education; Education; Intrastate Commerce; and Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts Committees. I again have my outstanding support staff who are born and raised in Hilo but are currently living in Honolulu, they are Tracy (Chang) Weidie – Office Manager, Derek Inaba – Legislative Aide, Isaac Goya – Committee Clerk. We are joined this session by new comer Alina Tasano - Clerical Support.

As Chair of the Tourism Committee, we will be focused on maintaining Hawaii's position as the premier tourist destination in the world. I have introduced two bills (HB1310 and HB1469) to support the redevelopment and improvement of the Banyan Drive area. And two bills (HB1470 and HB1471) to address the growing problem with unpermitted vacation rentals and the unpaid taxes due to the state. Other bills that I have introduce continues to focus on helping Agriculture; addressing the funding for our problems with invasive species; and continued improvement of our school facilities and state highways.



Realtors Day at the Capitol



Rep trying out the local honey on AG day



Rep with the Big Island HSTA Teachers



Rep speaking at Tourism Day at the Capitol



Rep. Onishi with his staff

Important Onishi 2017 Bills

(see back for more info)

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House Bill 478

Public Safety; Kulani Correctional Facility Agriculture Operation; Appropriation (\$)

Appropriates funds for a full-time agricultural management position and equipment for the Kulani correctional facility agriculture operation and a full-time agricultural management position for the Waiawa correctional facility agriculture operation.

House Bill 1310

Waiakea Peninsula Redevelopment District, Planning Committee and Revolving Fund

Establishes the Waiakea Peninsula Redevelopment District, Planning Committee, and Revolving Fund.

House Bill 480

University of Hawaii at Hilo; Hawaii Community College; Agriculture Program; Appropriations (\$)

Makes an appropriation for equipment for the Hawaii Community College's agriculture program. Makes an appropriation for a farm coordinator for the College's instructional activities at the University of Hawaii at Hilo's agricultural farm

House Bill 1469

Public Lands; Redevelopment; Redevelopment Districts; Boundaries; Planning Committees; Powers and Duties; District Redevelopment Plans; Designated Redevelopment District Revolving Funds;

Establishes procedures for designating public land redevelopment districts, planning committees, district redevelopment plans, and designated redevelopment district revolving funds. Establishes powers and duties of planning committees. Modifies public land lease restrictions. Appropriates funds.

House Bill 481

Little Fire Ant; Appropriations (\$)

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project and a little fire ant site map for the county of Hawaii. Requires report to the Legislature on project implementation. Appropriates funds

House Bill 1472

Rapid Ohia Death; Ceratocystis; Trees; Research; Study; DOA; USDA; Appropriation (\$)

Appropriates funds for research to combat rapid ohia death.

Other Bills Introduced:

**HB 477, HB 479, HB 482,
HB 483, HB 484, HB 485,
HB 959, HB 960, HB 961,
HB 1311, HB 1470,
HB 1471, HB 1473**