

2017 Legislative Update



State Representative Gregg Takayama • District 34 • Pearl City • Waimalu • Pacific Palisades



Aloha Neighbors:

We are now almost halfway through our 2017 legislative session. Many issues remain to be decided, and most important among them is our budget. How we prioritize our tax dollars is one of the prime decisions made by your legislators.

Now is the time to let me and your other elected officials know how you feel about issues before us. Now is when we need to hear from you about your priorities and concerns.

Mahalo,

Gregg Takayama



▲ Pearl City Library's **Vicky Bowie** was honored Feb. 16 as Hawaii State Librarian of the Year, in recognition of outstanding customer service, dedication, enthusiasm, and excellence. She was joined by Friends of the Pearl City Library officers **Andrew Itsuno**, **Mitsuko Hayakawa**, **Kelsey Poaha**, **Rep. Takayama** and **Senator Breene Harimoto**.

BILL UPDATES:

Sunset Memorial Cemetery:

HB 1245 directs the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to develop a plan for the management of Sunset Memorial Cemetery and provides liability waivers to cemetery volunteers. It passed the House Water & Land Committee and the House Consumer Protection Committee and is now pending before the House Finance Committee.

Its companion bill, SB 1113 has not been acted upon.

State identification cards:

HB 463 would allow all Oahu Satellite City Halls – including the one at Pearlridge Mall - to issue State ID cards. The current law allows State ID cards to be issued only at driver license offices. For Pearl City residents, this means the closest ID offices are in Kapolei or Kalihi. This bill has passed the House Judiciary Committee and will be voted on by the full House.

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▲ **State Rep. Lynn DeCoite** (Molokai), **Rep. Matt LoPresti** (Ewa Beach) and **Rep. Takayama** visited the Waiawa Correctional Facility's farm, which produces enough fresh vegetables for all of Oahu's four correctional facilities and provides job training for prison inmates.



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Bill Updates:

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Zipper Lane use:

HB 148 would allow single-occupant vehicles to use the Zipper Lane for a \$1 fee, to maximize use of the Zipper Lane, alleviate traffic congestion on other freeway lanes, and raise funds for the State Highway Fund. Unfortunately, this bill was not heard by the House Transportation Committee and is dead for this session.

Prison bill advances:

As Chair of the House Public Safety Committee, I've proposed a measure to explore the possibility of bringing back to Hawaii the 1,400 prison inmates we have in Arizona and also move the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) out of Kalihi.

HB 462 suggests the State Public Safety Dept. obtain cost estimates for building a single facility that can accommodate the 1,200 inmates at Halawa Correctional Facility plus those in Arizona. This would enable OCCC inmates to be moved to the vacated Halawa Correctional Facility.

We spend more than \$40 million yearly to house inmates at a privately-operated prison in Saguaro, Arizona.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee and Finance Committees and now goes to the full House for passage.



▲ **Rep. Takayama** spoke at a **Kupuna Caregivers** rally Feb. 7 at the Capitol sponsored by community groups supporting legislative measures to assist family caregivers.



▲ 6th graders from **Waimalu Elementary** visited the Capitol to learn about government from **Rep. Takayama** and other area legislators.



◀ 2017 Legislative Staff for **Rep. Takayama** (left to right). **Green Richardson** - UH West Oahu Intern, **Kaui Lucas** - Legislative Aide, **Karen Kawamoto** - Office Manager (carrying **Bandit**), **Sheldon Galdeira** - Committee Clerk, and **Aristotle Santa Cruz** - Legislative Aide.