



Summer 2015

Community Update

Representative Justin Woodson

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2015 Legislative Session was very productive. Meaningful action transpired. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Here is a quick look at some of the activities that took place this session and what we can look forward to in 2016.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff. We are more than happy to assist you. Mahalo,

Justin Woodson

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Community Solar - SB 1050 CD1. This bill will ultimately allow individuals and families who do not own homes, or who live in condominiums, to take advantage of solar energy and the savings that come with it. This legislation established a community-based renewable energy tariff through the Public Utility Commission. In the future, combined with emerging technologies, these types of community solar projects can potentially serve to counterbalance the high cost of traditional power sources.



Kupuna Care - SB 964 CD1, appropriates \$3 million for various Kupuna care programs around the state.

Maui Memorial - HB 1075 CD1. This bill helps address growing concerns regarding the financial viability of our only acute care hospital, Maui Memorial. This bill inspires to increase and improve services for our community. Representative Woodson has pledged to continue to work with stake holders to better ensure worker protections are in place. Governor David Ige signed this bill into law which authorizes the Maui Region of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to enter into negotiations for a public-private operational and management agreement, subject to approval by the Governor, the HHSC and the Maui Region Board of Directors.



Kulia's Bill - HB 782 CD1;

This legislation will bring increased awareness and education for mothers regarding cytomegalovirus (CMV), the leading cause for birth defects in the United States.

HB 500 CD1. The Legislature approved a fiscally responsible budget this session that increases transparency and efficiencies. **Central Maui Capital Improvement Accomplishments \$79 Million**

Maui High School	
Band and Choir Room	2,000,000
Gymnasium Floor	215,000
Weight Training & Wrestling	2,700,000
Central Maui Regional Park	6,000,000
DLNR Annex Building	4,000,000
Hale Mahaolu (GIA)	200,000
Kahului Airport	19,600,000
Kahului Baseyard	650,000
Kahului Harbor Improvements	21,000,000
NDWP Kahului Harbor	17,000,000
Raceway Park	2,000,000
TOTAL	79,365,000

BILL PROPOSALS FOR 2016

Community State Bank: This state bank would offer lower interest small loans to individuals who do not qualify for traditional financing. This institution would also assist with financial literacy.

Innovation Zone Small Business Tax Free Zone: Small business create most of our new jobs. The proposal would allow for small businesses the option of adhering to certain criteria in exchange for having state tax free operations in designated areas.

Teacher Housing Subsidy: This proposal will be first considered by the House Committee on Education next year to provide housing subsidies for public school teachers.

Increased Worker Protection: This bill will be first considered by the House Committee of Finance next year. The bill will increase employee safety in the construction industry by allowing construction business agents to enforce worker protection violations more effectively and efficiently.

For more information, please call Representative Justin Woodson's office at (808) 586-6210.



Representative Woodson during a joint committee hearing.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Maui Lani Parkway and S Kamehameha traffic light - As traffic continues to increase at the intersection of Maui Lani Parkway and South Kamehameha Ave, Representative Woodson continues to converse with county officials to incorporate a much needed traffic light at the intersection.

Central Maui Sports Complex highway entrance - Representative Woodson is working with stakeholders, including the Department of Transportation, in an attempt to bring the primary entrance of the park off the Kuihelani Highway as opposed to S Kamehameha Ave, in the first phase of the project. This alteration will not only dramatically decrease traffic congestion, but also increase pedestrian and children safety within the area.

Public Bathroom Kahului Harbor - Kahului Harbor is the only boating and recreational harbor without public restroom facilities. Representative Woodson is consulting with the boating and fishing community and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to bring about a bathroom to that area.

Lihikai Elementary Trailer Removal - At the request of the Principal of Lihikai Elementary, Representative Woodson is coordinating with the Department of Education's Facilities Branch to safely remove a potentially hazardous trailer on campus.

Woodson helps support public education - The Central Maui Community is growing at a rapid pace. Our two Central Maui public intermediate schools are at full capacity. A new middle school will be needed for the area soon. Through recent efforts, funding for design and planning have been secured. Representative Woodson is now working with the Department of Education and fellow Maui Legislators to secure funds for the construction of a **brand new Central Maui middle school**.

Representative Woodson is also collaborating with the DOE to secure funding for a new Student Information System. The system will be implemented statewide to support students and teachers through new and innovative technologies.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

More effort is needed to move forward with some of the primary concerns of the community. There is still a need for more **affordable housing**. Representative Woodson is working with the Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation on a fresh concept to substantively address the issue. Construction of a micro home project will start on Oahu shortly. This will be the first of its kind in Hawaii. If the project is successful on Oahu, similar projects can ensue on Maui. Micro unit homes are built at the fraction of cost, significantly reducing the cost to home renters and buyers. Other initiatives are also being considered to address this important issue now.

Our community continues to struggle with high **energy costs**. Besides the Green Energy Market Securitization Act, which will allow homeowners to obtain photovoltaic systems to reduce energy costs, Community Solar will ultimately allow for everyone to do the same by taking advantage of similar renewable energies. Representative Woodson will continue to liaise with stakeholders to bring this possibility to reality.

While we must continue to support our current local industries, **diversification of job opportunity** is needed. Representative Justin Woodson will introduce legislation to help stimulate new industries such as film production and small businesses focusing on clean energy technologies.

United States Secretary of the Department of Education, Arnie Duncan, recently stated, "Hawaii is a model for the rest of the country", regarding the progress our educators have made in preparing our children for the future. In recent years, Hawaii has been improving its **public education** system faster than any other jurisdiction in the nation. We can leverage our success in attempt to aggregate more federal funds for public education not with additional commitments from our DOE, educators, and administrators, but potentially just by sharing our practices with other jurisdictions. Representative Woodson will be exploring this potential opportunity.

UPCOMING LAWMAKERS LISTEN

We are planning another Lawmaker's Listen in early January 2016. We want to hear your concerns. Please plan on joining us.



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