



People First

A Newsletter from State Representative Ryan Yamane

House District 37 • Mililani • Waipi'o Gentry • Waikale

2015 Session

REP. YAMANE'S BILLS BECOME LAW

Protecting our Homeowners

In response to Mililani residents' problems in obtaining building permits, I introduced a bill (**Act 224**) which successfully passed through the legislature to protect homeowners of homes which are 50 years or older from an existing and unnecessary bureaucratic system. This new law exempts homeowners with older homes from a time consuming "historical review" process when they apply for a building permit to modify their home.



Governor Ige signs Rep. Yamane's bill into Law to protect Hawaii's homeowners.

I wrote this bill specifically with many of our Central Oahu homeowners in mind. For example, Mililani homes are around 47 years old. If this law was not amended by my bill, homeowners would experience a massive bureaucratic delay from the State government in order to renovate or modify their homes. I am very pleased that this bill passed the Legislature to exempt residential homeowners from the State's time-consuming "historic review" process and directly help our community's homeowners.

Water and Land Committee Legislative Accomplishments

I am happy to share with our community the many improvements the House Committee on Water and Land was fortunate to achieve in my first year serving as its Chair:

Act 117: Beach and Park Restoration, a bill I introduced successfully passed the Legislature to appropriate \$6 Million to begin a statewide beach and park restoration and preservation effort. This legislation and funding will greatly assist our eroding beaches throughout the State by using money from Hawaii's tourism tax to restore our beaches from erosion.

Act 121: Turtle Bay Conservation Easement, a bill my office vigorously worked on, protects and preserves 664 acres of Oahu's North Shore land located near the Turtle Bay Resort and Kawela Bay with a "conservation easement". This conservation easement will forever protect, in perpetuity, all 664 acres from any future development made by the land's owner. Beside purchasing the development rights for this 664 acre conservation easement, the law also purchases 55 acres fronting Kawela Bay which will be owned and protected by the State of Hawaii.

Aloha,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me to serve our community for the last 11 years. My family and I are truly honored to be able to work on behalf of our community.

This year I began serving as the new House Chair of Water and Land, and also serve on the House Committees of Consumer Protection, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Ocean Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs.

My top priority as the Chair of Water and Land this year was to pass urgent legislation to protect our Central Oahu homeowners from an existing law which required homes that were at least 50-years-old to undergo a "historic review" by the state government whenever the homeowner intended to renovate or modify their existing property. I am very proud to share with you that I successfully amended that time consuming and frustrating Law by exempting all residential homes and townhomes from this "historic review" process. As the Water and Land Chair, I also focused on balancing urban development while conserving our rural, agricultural, and natural resources by protecting 664 acres of Turtle Bay lands in Oahu's North Shore from future development.

As the area Representative of our Central Oahu communities, I continue to be involved in exploring job growth, improving public safety, and investing in our community schools. I am proud to announce that our community will receive over \$47 Million in repair and maintenance projects for our schools, roadways, neighborhood infrastructure and other community projects. Thank you for all your support and your willingness to work together to make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

With my warmest aloha,

Rep. Yamane worked and authored the law which protects 664 acres of Oahu's North Shore near Kawela and Turtle Bays.

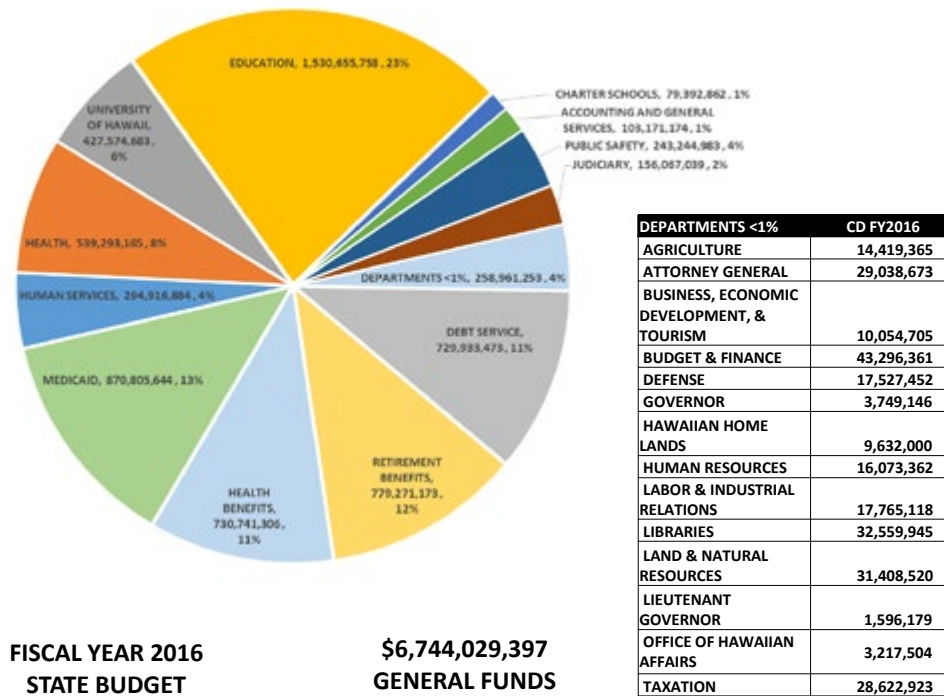
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BUDGET SOLUTIONS

ACT 119- Hawaii's 2015-2017 State Budget

The economy is still the number one concern for many of our residents. The Legislature also crafted a responsible budget (ACT 119) that addresses the state's long-term obligations while taking care of its immediate social services needs and capital improvement requirements. The budget is not just about expenses and revenues. Together with our long-term strategic financial plan, a thoughtful budget will also help fuel, direct and shape a healthy and sustainable economy.

The State Budget funded nearly \$6.58 Billion in general funds for this year and \$6.83 Billion in general funds for next year. Collectively, our goal was to be fiscally conservative with our tax dollars and build a "better budget" in four ways, by: (1) limiting expenditures in the budget, (2) fueling economic growth through selective tax credits, (3) investing in people who need help the most, and (4) reducing the state's unfunded liabilities and building up its Rainy Day funds.



EDUCATING OUR KEIKI

Act 191- Supporting the Preschool Open Doors Program

This year, the Legislature appropriated \$6 Million for the Preschool Open Doors Program. The program promotes school readiness by providing child-care subsidies for the year prior to kindergarten for low to moderate income families.

Act 116- Transition Plan for Multi-Track Schools

Requires the Department of Education to develop a transition plan to end multi-track schedules in public schools and report to the Legislature regarding the plan and any proposed legislation. This also funds to the Department of Education for the purpose of developing a transition plan to end multi-track schedules in public schools.

Act 113- Expanding Dual-Credit Programs for High School Students

Expands opportunities for high school students to earn both high-school and college-level academic credit simultaneously by broadening the Dual Credit Program to allow public or home-schooled ninth and tenth graders to participate in the Program and exempting participants in the program from paying tuition and fees.

Act 107- Incentivizing Teachers

Improves public education in Hawaii by authorizing an additional per year bonus for teachers who maintain current National Board certification under the Teacher National Board Certification Incentive Program and teach at a school in a focus, priority, or Superintendent's Zone, as determined by the Department of Education. This Law also applies the bonuses retroactively.

CARING FOR OUR 'AINA

Act 97- Launching the Statewide Clean Energy Initiative

Hawaii became the first state in the nation to set a goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045.

This Law further reduces Hawaii's dependence on imported fossil fuels and promotes the growth of the State's renewable energy industry by raising renewable portfolio standards for electric utilities to 30% by December 31, 2020; 70% by December 31, 2040; and 100% by December 31, 2045.

Act 99- Beginning the University of Hawaii Net-Zero Energy Initiative

Hawaii also became the first state in the nation to require a state university, our University of Hawaii, to establish a goal of becoming net-zero in energy use,



Meeting with the Waipahu complex area school principals.



Supporting the Hawaii Army National Guard at the Pohakuloa Training Area in the Big Island.

producing as much energy as UH consumes system-wide, by January 1, 2035.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FOR HAWAII

Act 122- Raising the Smoking Age

Hawaii again became the first state in the nation this year by raising the smoking age to 21 in an effort to prevent our children from nicotine addiction. The law prohibits the sale to, possession, or consumption of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, in public places by persons under 21 years of age. This law will take effect on January 1st, 2016.

Act 19- Regulating Electronic Smoking Devices

Prohibits the use of electronic smoking devices in places where smoking is already prohibited.

Act 235- Providing Insurance Coverage to Autistic Children

Ensures the provision of quality health care by requiring health insurers and HMOs to provide insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism

to individuals under 14 years of age.

Act 186- Prohibiting Powdered Alcohol

Ensures public safety by prohibiting the consumption, purchase, possession, sale, offer for sale, or distribution of powdered alcohol in the State.

Act 213- Providing Insurance Coverage to Newborns with Facial Birth Defects

Promotes access to quality health care procedures in the State by requiring health insurance coverage for medically necessary orthodontic treatment of orofacial anomalies resulting from birth defects or birth defect syndromes.

Act 212- Requiring Birthing Facilities to Test for Heart Defects in Newborn Children

Improves the detection of critical, life-threatening congenital heart defects in newborns that would otherwise go undetected by current screening methods by requiring birthing facilities to perform on newborns a pulse oximetry test for critical congenital heart defects or other medically accepted test that measures the percentage of blood oxygen saturation.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

Act 223- Increasing the Local Family Food Tax Credit

To support working families in Hawaii, the Legislature increased the tax credit on food, raising the gross income ceiling to \$30,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for households.

Act 143- Strengthening Hawaii's Resilience and Sustainability Strategy

Promotes the State's resilience and sustainability strategy by appropriating funds for statewide broadband infrastructure, energy efficiency and grid operations, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Act 215- Establishing the Manufacturing Development Program

Creates a vibrant, sustainable economy and provides for opportunities for growth in the manufacturing industry in Hawaii by establishing a manufacturing development program through which the High Technology Development Corporation will distribute grants to Hawaii manufacturers for various activities.



Congratulating Mililani Uka teacher, Jana Fukuda, for winning the "Oscar of Teaching," the national Milken Family Foundation award for her excellence in education.



Honoring the original crew of the Hokulea on the 40th anniversary of its first voyage.



Recognizing the Mililani High School Boys and Girls State Soccer Champions at the State Capitol.



Visiting with students from Waikele Elementary School

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Over \$47 Million in Projects Supporting Our Community

I am proud to announce that our community will receive over \$47 Million in repair and maintenance projects for our schools, roadways, neighborhood infrastructure, and other community projects.

Collectively our Mililani, Waipio, and Waikele schools will receive a combined total of \$5.8 Million in school improvement projects through Hawaii's State Budget. These projects are vital to support our children's education, our families' safety and maintaining the special beauty of our Central Oahu communities.

Mililani, Waipio, and Waikele Projects in the State Budget

Kanoelani Elementary School

Irrigation System Replacement near outdoor stage \$92,000

Waikele Elementary School

Rewire fire alarms campus-wide \$13,000
Replace Kitchen walk-in boxes \$300,000

Mililani Uka Elementary School

Reroof C Building \$61,000
Reroof 5 portables \$90,000
Construction to complete a school-wide electrical upgrade \$500,000

Kipapa Elementary School

Reroof P-3, P-4 classrooms \$30,000
Reroof the library \$264,000

Mililani Waena Elementary

Reroof P7, P11, P12 classrooms \$54,000

Highlands Intermediate School

Replace light fixtures \$47,000
Install ceiling fans \$65,000

Mililani Middle School

Plans and Design of a 15-classroom building \$1,500,000

Waipahu Intermediate School

Replace metal roof \$275,000

Mililani High School

Relocate power line..... \$30,000
Repair fire alarms campus-wide \$70,000
Replace stadium light fixtures \$300,000
Reroof kitchen..... \$325,000

Pearl City High School

Reroof H Building \$43,000
Replace A/C unit \$203,000
Resurface driveway and parking lot..... \$525,000

Waipahu High School

Culinary Academy \$350,000
Replace stadium light poles..... \$677,000

Kipapa Bridge, Kamehameha Highway, Waipio/ Mililani

Land Acquisition and construction for the rehabilitation or replacement of Kipapa Gulch Bridge \$17,250,000

Filipino Community Center

Technology center upgrades \$50,000

Hawaii Okinawa Center, Waipio Gentry

Renovations for the performing arts facilities ... \$140,000

UH West Oahu

Construction of the Allied Health and Administration Building \$24,000,000

**Total Funds for our communities
in this year's State Budget \$47,254,000**