



SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

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WAILUKU · WAIHE'E · KAHULUI

A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kākou,

We are halfway through the Legislative session, and many of the bills introduced, heard, and approved by the Senate have crossed over to the House of Representatives for further consideration. The Senate will now be hearing and deliberating on bills that passed over from the House. This session, the Senate introduced over 1300 bills. Of those, only 384 were approved by the Senate.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor (JDL), which I chair, also completed the confirmation process for four judges. The Senate consented to Derrick Chan being elevated to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and Todd Eddins, Catherine Remigio, and Keith Hiraoka to the First Circuit.

I will continue working together with the rest of the Maui delegation on projects and bills important to Maui County. As always, serving the people of Central Maui is my top priority. Please feel free to contact my office at the Hawaii State Capitol with your questions and concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mahalo,

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JUDICIARY CONFIRMATIONS



With Judge Derrick Chan, the most recent appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.



The new appointments to the Court of the First Circuit. From left to right: Judge Katherine Remigio, JDL Vice Chair Karl Rhoads, Keith Hiraoka, Todd Eddins, and myself.

RECENT VISITORS



On February 3, 2017, the US State Department invited 10 journalists from prominent news outlets in the Philippines to talk story with Hawaii state legislators and then observe a Senate floor session. We discussed a wide range of topics, from US immigration reform to how being Filipino American has affected legislators' perspectives and policymaking.



The Pukalani Elementary Imagineers Robotics Team visited the Capitol and was recognized by the Senate.



It's always a pleasure to meet with HSTA retirees.

UPDATE ON 2017 SENATE BILLS

The following bills made it through their standing Senate committees, were approved by a full Senate vote, and crossed over to the House of Representatives for further deliberation.

- SB 316**
SD 1 **Restitution for Victims of Crime**
Clarifies that reimbursement to crime victims includes lost wages, mental health treatment, counseling, and therapy.
- SB 334**
SD 2 **Voting by Mail**
Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020 and establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots.
- SB 340**
SD 1 **Urban Agriculture**
Requires the counties to incorporate urban agriculture principles and policies in land use planning and to allow urban agriculture as a residential use in a residentially designated zone.
- SB 423**
SD 1 **Student Meals**
Prohibits denying a student a meal for the first \$50,000 of income earned by farmers whose gross income is \$200,000 or less.
- SB 424**
SD 1 **Public Disclosure of Police Misconduct**
Requires police departments to disclose to the legislature the identity of an officer upon the officer's second suspension in a five-year period or discharge.
- SB 1129**
SD 2 **Relating to Health**
Establishes a regulatory process for terminally ill patients to obtain a prescription for medical aid in dying.
- SB 1162**
SD 2 **University of Hawaii Promise Program**
Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The state legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov is the place to start. There you can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. When you register for an account using your email address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing and electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room website at www.lrbhawaii.org/par/ or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or email us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

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