

FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 1 WAILUKU • WAIHE'E • HAHULUI

A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kākou, It remains a great privilege to serve the people of Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate. Together with my colleagues from Maui, Senator J. Kalani English and Senator Rosalyn Baker, along with the six Maui House members, we will work to address your community concerns.

January marked the opening of another legislative session, which means new bills, new issues, new challenges, and new opportunities. This is also my first session serving as Vice Chair of Ways and Means. As a member of the Government Operations Committee, I will be participating in the oversight of HI-EMA in the aftermath of the Ballistic Missile Warning snafu.

This session I introduced a number of bills to encourage discussion on a college savings program tax credit, amending the liquor license statutes, and bills to provide more funding to parks, trails, and small boat harbors.

As always, I welcome input from the people of Central Maui in any of the issues being discussed this year. Your concerns are important and can hopefully be reflected in meaningful and timely ways as legislation moves forward.

Mahalo in advance for taking the time to contact my office at the State Capitol. Our ability to represent you depends on hearing from you as the session continues.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Keith-Agaran

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Enjoying lunch and a talk story session with Secondary Student Conference attendees from Maui High School, Baldwin High School, and Hana High School.



Attending the annual Hawaii Cattlemen at the Capitol event on January 17.



Listening to the Gyongsido Assembly Delegation from the Republic of Korea with my fellow Senators.



Maui legislators Representative Lynn DeCoite, Representative Joe Souki, myself, and Representative Angus McKeelvey meeting with the Maui Chamber of Commerce to discuss the organization's legislative priorities this session.



Attending a joint hearing with the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs, Higher Education, and Judiciary to require courts to allow use of the Hawaiian language.



Members of AARP Hawaii visited my office at the State Capitol.



Senators participated in National Wear Red Day on February 2 in support of Go Red for Women, an initiative of the American Heart Association that brings awareness to women's cardiovascular health.

OPENING DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE 2018

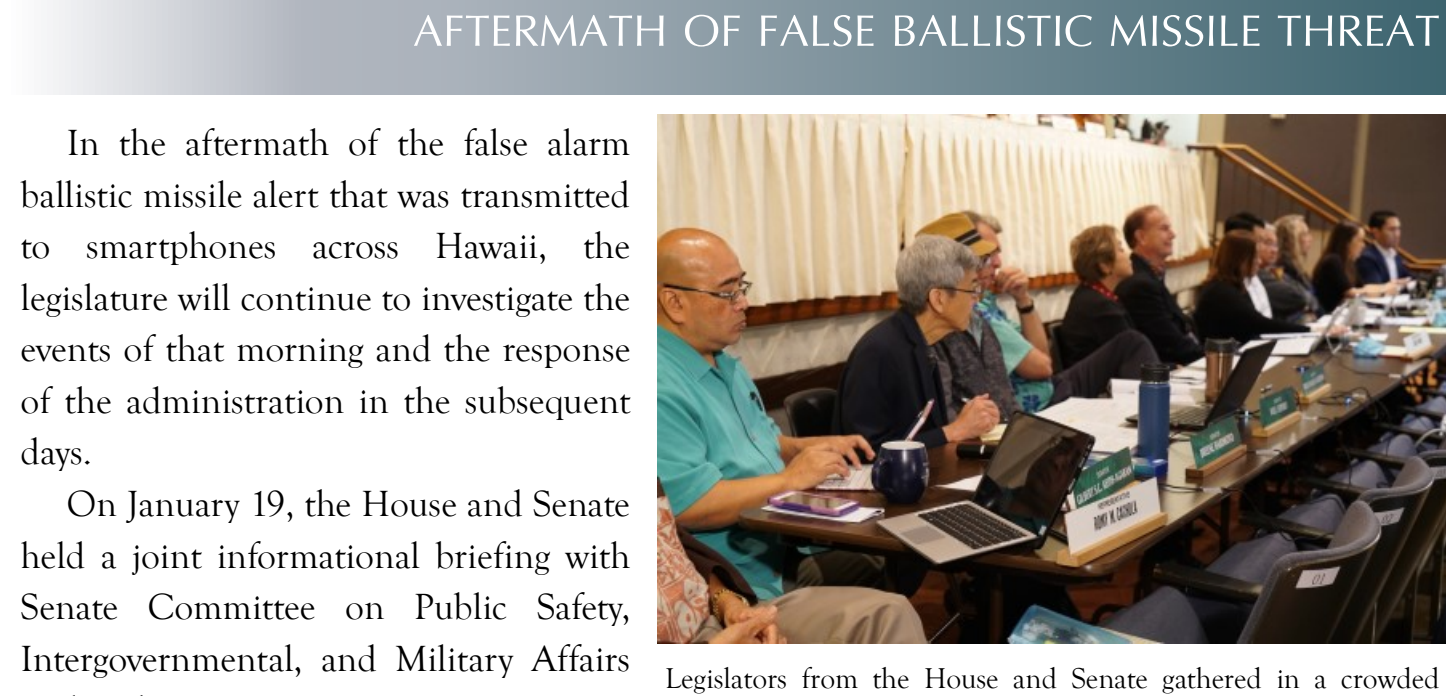
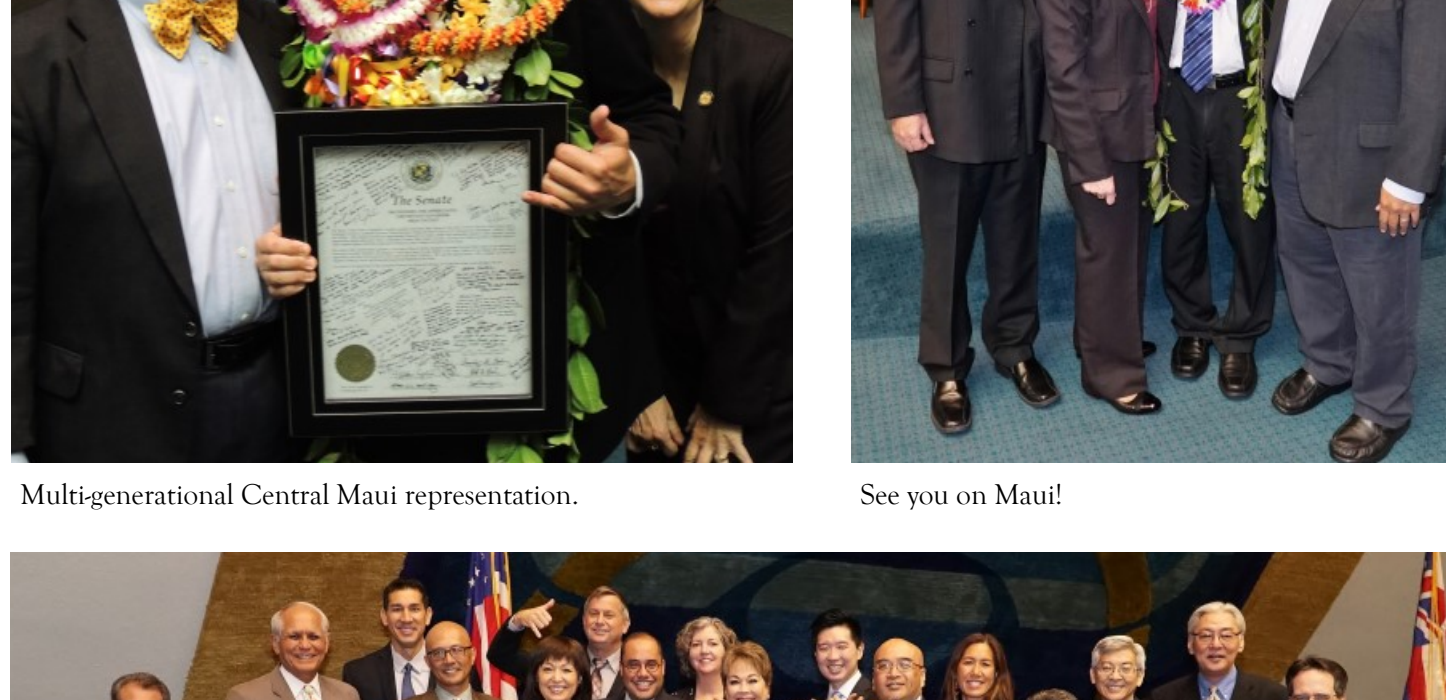
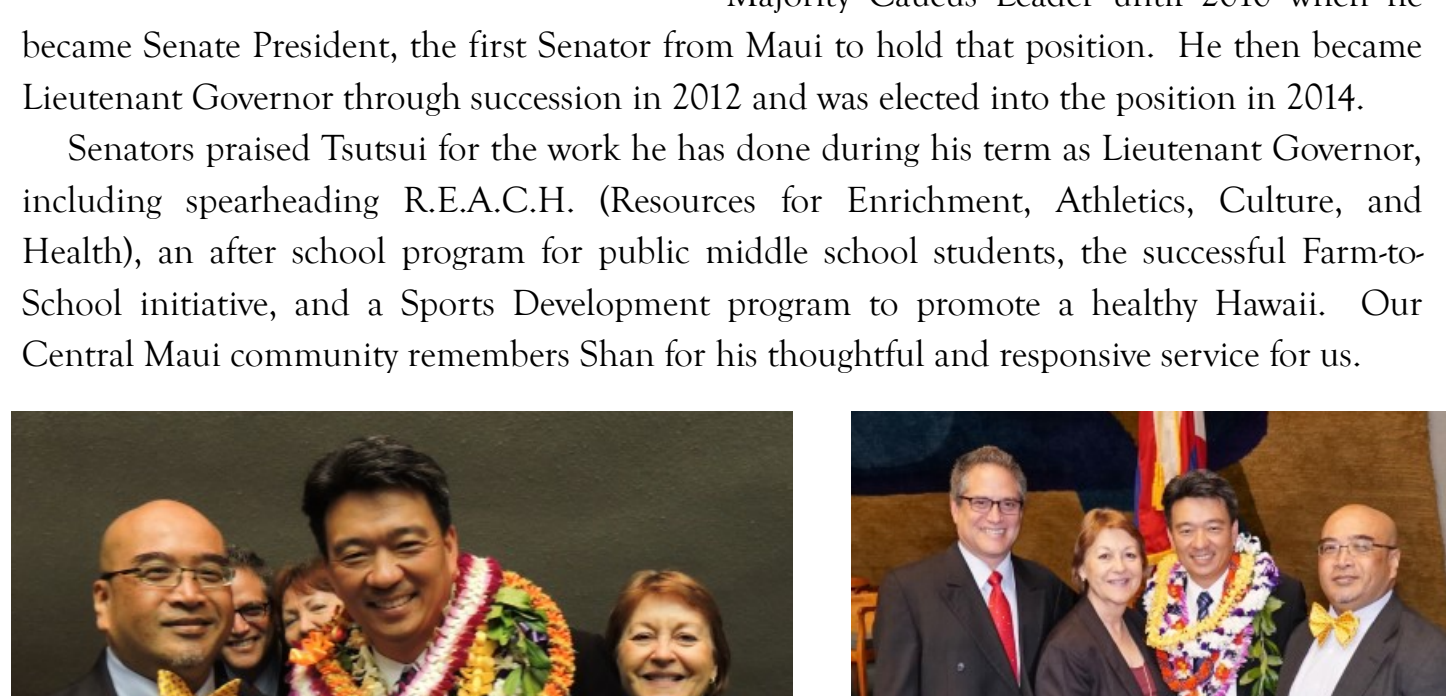
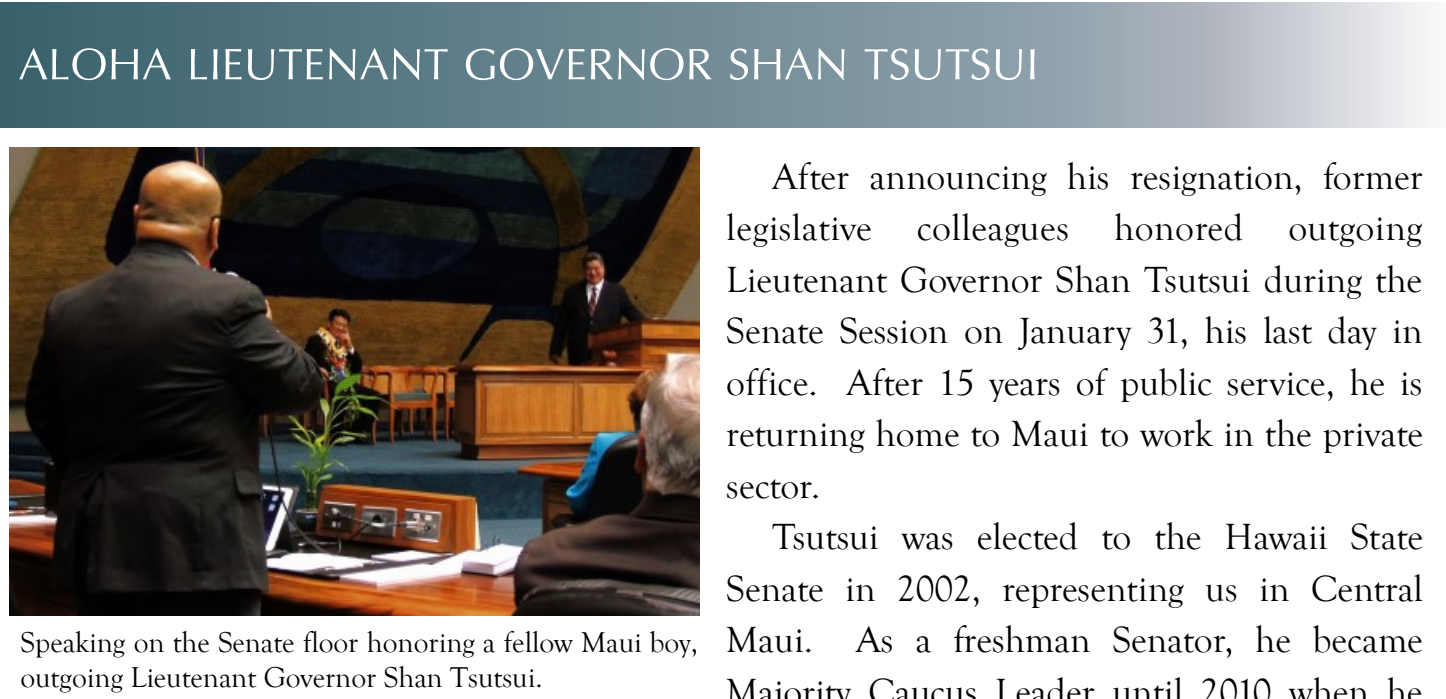


With my Maui colleagues Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator J. Kalani English along with Senator Jill Tokuda on the Senate chamber floor.

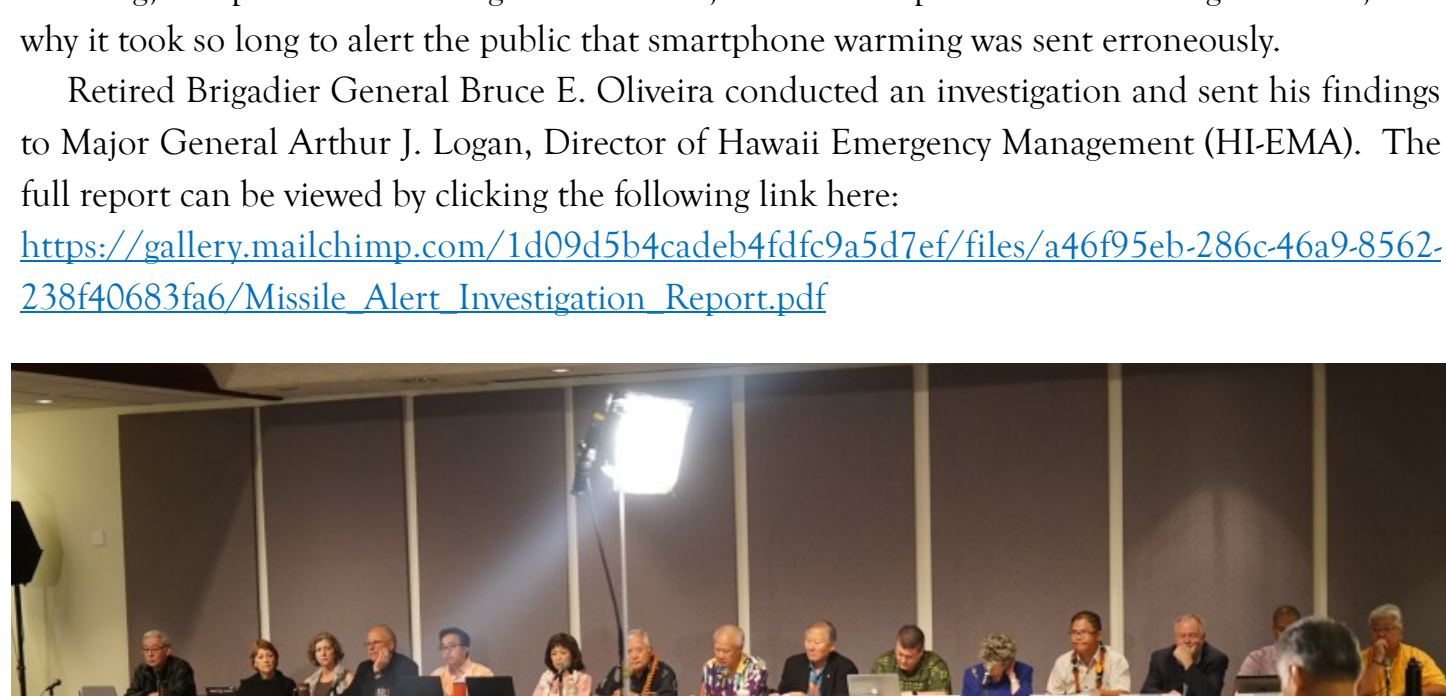


Sharing a moment with Ways and Means Chair Donovan Dela Cruz.

OPENING DAY VISITORS

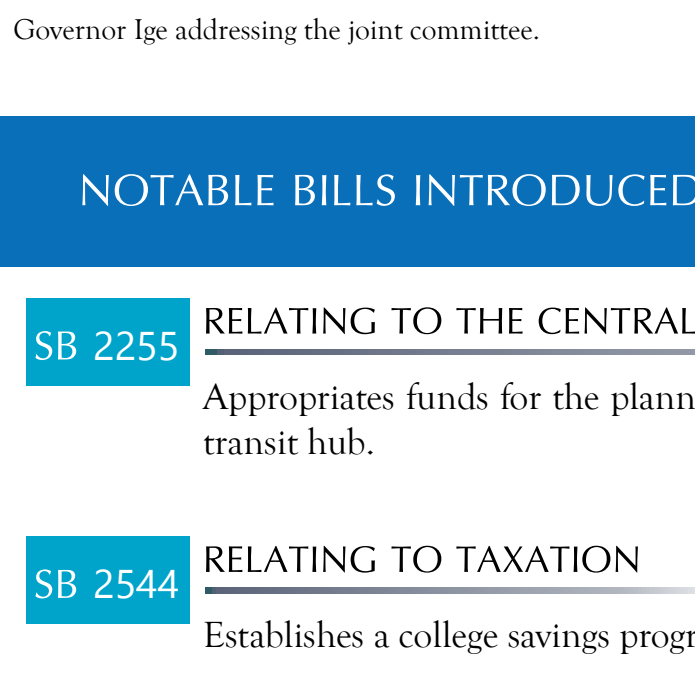


STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS



The Governor addressing a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives during the State of the State Address on January 22, 2018.

ALOHA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHAN TSUTSUI

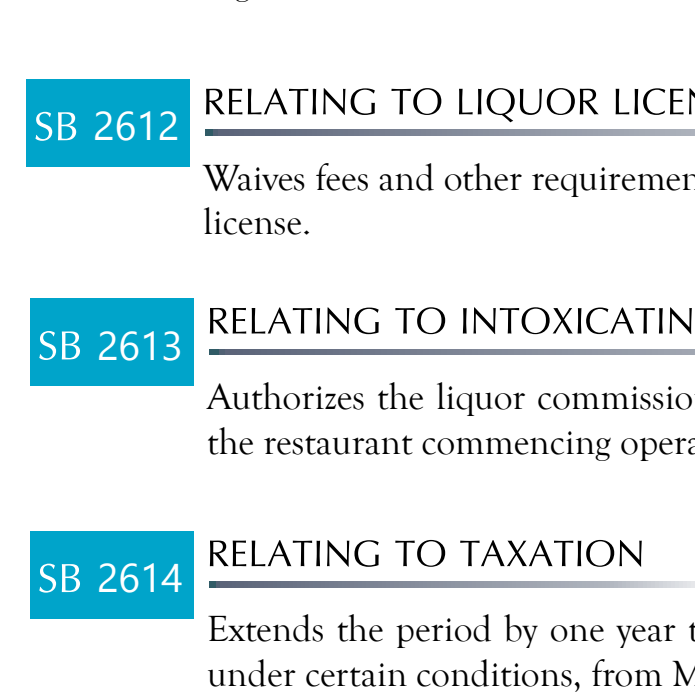


Speaking on the Senate floor honoring a fellow Maui boy, outgoing Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui.

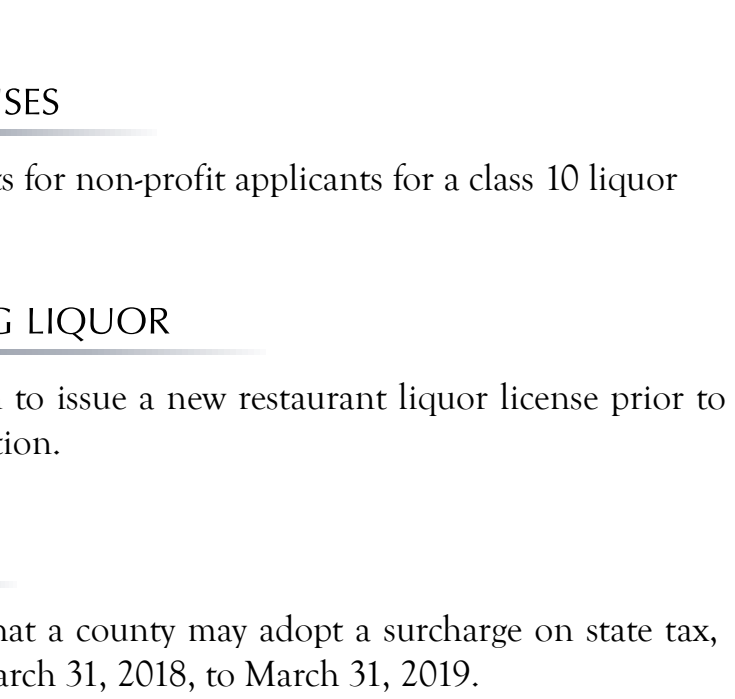
After announcing his resignation, former Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui during the Senate Session on January 31, his last day in office. After 15 years of public service, he is returning home to Maui to work in the private sector.

Tsutsui was elected to the Hawaii State Senate in 2002, representing us in Central Maui. As a freshman Senator, he became Majority Caucus Leader until 2010 when he became Senate President, the first Senator from Maui to hold that position. He then became Lieutenant Governor through succession in 2012 and was elected into the position in 2014.

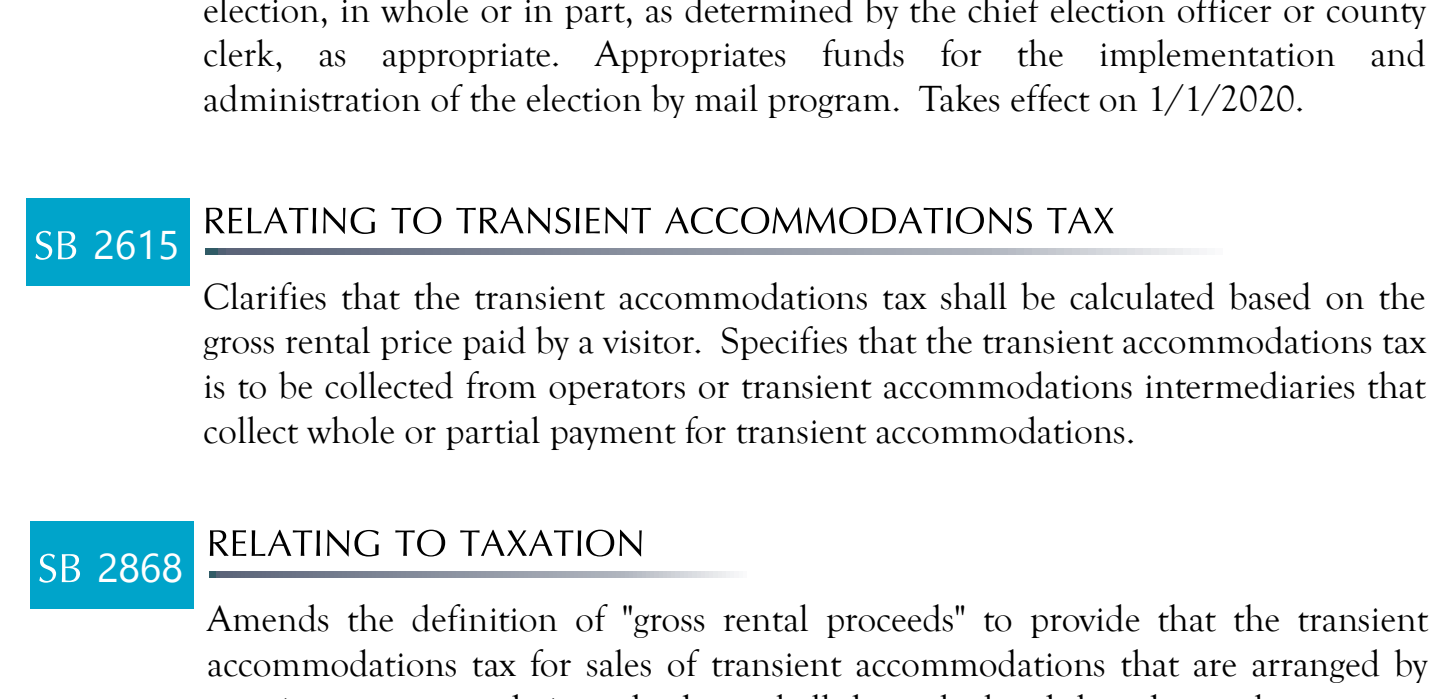
Senators praised Tsutsui for the work he has done during his term as Lieutenant Governor, including spearheading R.E.A.C.H. (Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health), an after school program for public middle school students, the successful Farm-to-School initiative, and a Sports Development program to promote a healthy Hawaii. Our Central Maui community remembers Shan for his thoughtful and responsive service for us.



Multigenerational Central Maui representation.



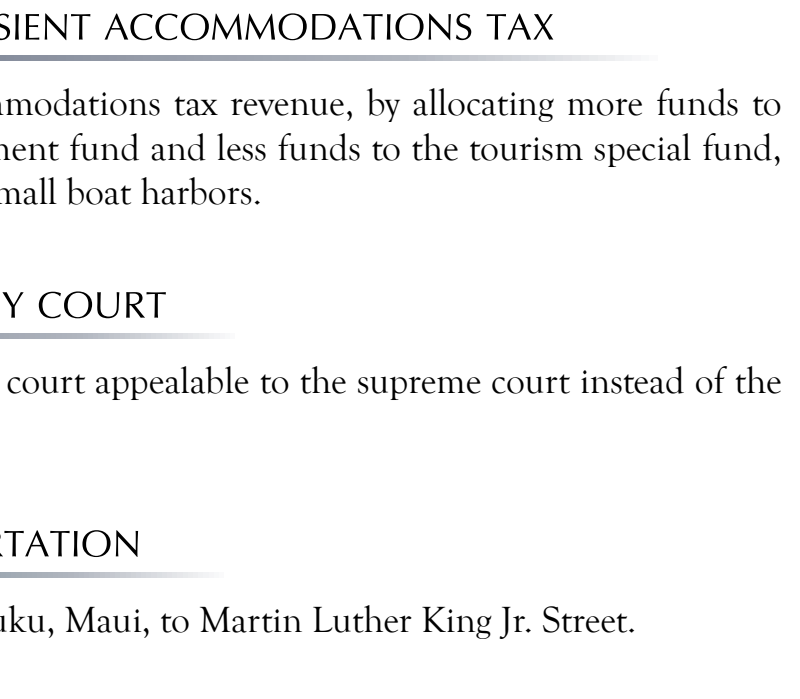
See you on Maui!



The Senate giving their best shakas in honor of their former colleague. Aloha 'oe Lieutenant Governor Tsutsui!

AFTERMATH OF FALSE BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT

In the aftermath of the false alarm ballistic missile alert that was transmitted to smartphones across Hawaii, the legislature will continue to investigate the events of that morning and the response of the administration in the subsequent days.



Legislators from the House and Senate gathered in a crowded Capitol Auditorium on January 19 to question the Governor and Department of Defense in an Informational Briefing regarding the ballistic missile threat false alarm.

On January 19, the House and Senate held a joint informational briefing with Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations in the Capitol Auditorium. The joint committee questioned Governor Ige and the State Department of Defense on the exact chain of events that morning, the protocol following a false alarm, who was responsible for sending the alert, and why it took so long to alert the public that smartphone warning was sent erroneously.

Retired Brigadier General Bruce E. Oliveira conducted an investigation and sent his findings to Major General Arthur J. Logan, Director of Hawaii Emergency Management (HI-EMA). The full report can be viewed by clicking the following link here: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/1d0915b4cdeb4fd1c9a5d17ef/files/a46f95cb-286c-46a9-8562-238f40683fa6/Missile_Alert_Investigation_Report.pdf



Governor Ige addressing the joint committee.

NOTABLE BILLS INTRODUCED BY SEN KEITH-AGARAN IN 2018

SB 2255 RELATING TO THE CENTRAL MAUI TRANSIT HUB
Appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of the central Maui transit hub.

SB 2544 RELATING TO TAXATION
Establishes a college savings program income tax credit.

SB 2549 RELATING TO LIQUOR LICENSES
Requires the liquor commission to streamline procedures to provide for the issuance of one-day liquor licenses for fundraising events by nonprofit organizations.

SB 2612 RELATING TO LIQUOR LICENSES
Waives fees and other requirements for non-profit applicants for a class 10 liquor license.

SB 2613 RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR
Authorizes the liquor commission to issue a new restaurant liquor license prior to the restaurant commencing operation.

SB 2614 RELATING TO TAXATION
Extends the period by one year that a county may adopt a surcharge on state tax, under certain conditions, from March 31, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

SB 2616 RELATING TO ELECTIONS
Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020, and allows or in part to be conducted by mail prior to the 2020 primary election, in whole or in part, as determined by the chief election officer or county clerk, as appropriate. Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the election by mail program. Takes effect on 1/1/2020.

SB 2615 RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX
Clarifies that the transient accommodations tax shall be calculated based on the gross rental price paid by a visitor. Specifies that the transient accommodations tax is to be collected from operators or transient accommodations intermediaries that collect whole or partial payment for transient accommodations.

SB 2868 RELATING TO TAXATION
Amends the definition of "gross rental proceeds" to provide that the transient accommodations tax for sales of transient accommodations that are arranged by transient accommodations brokers shall be calculated based on the amount charged by the transient accommodations broker, rather than the amount received by the operator of the transient accommodations.

SB 2871 RELATING TO TAXATION
Requires marketplace facilitators, referrers, and remote sellers that meet certain requirements to remit general excise or use taxes or report sales information. Applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SB 3038 RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX
Redistributes transient accommodations tax revenue, by allocating more funds to the special land and development fund and less funds to the tourism special fund, to improve parks, trails, and small boat harbors.

SB 3041 RELATING TO THE FAMILY COURT
Makes decisions of the family court appealable to the supreme court instead of the intermediate court of appeals.

SB 2254 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION
Renames High Street in Wailuku, Maui, to Martin Luther King Jr. Street.

Other notable bills introduced by myself this session include measures relating to highway beautification, amending the offense of theft to include reckless disregard for risk for the value of stolen property, allowing counties to place stricter limitations on passengers riding in a pickup truck, eliminating the need for a federal tax clearance certificate for temporary liquor licenses, and appropriating funds for an international study pilot program at the University of Hawaii. For a full list of measures I introduced this session, please visit http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov

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 e-mail 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 you can 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 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 e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

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