



Joy A. San Buenaventura

State Representative
District 4, Puna

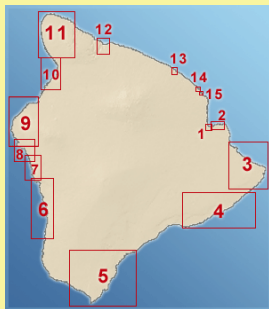
2017 Legislative Interim E-Newsletter March 2017

Tsunami Evacuation Maps

With the recent seismic activity near Hawai'i island. It is important that you review tsunami evacuation maps and plan ahead in case of an emergency.

Access tsunami evacuation zone maps for the State of Hawaii at the Pacific Disaster

Website: <http://static.pdc.org/tsunami/index.html>



Find out if you work, live, or go to school in a tsunami evacuation zone.

Pahoa Village Beautification Project

Current Events:

- Trash Into Treasure Project submissions due **April 1st, 2017** (applicants must be under 18).
 - Community Garden Work Party, **2nd Saturdays, 8:00am-1:00pm. Across Napa.**
- Please bring, tools, refreshments, and plants.

Please show your support and get involved by contacting: Musterthegusto@gmail.com

-or-
call: (808) 747-3117

You can also follow their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StewardsofParadise/>) for more updates and event info.

Legal Aide Society of Hawai'i

If you have questions or need legal assistance in the following areas: Family, Public Benefits, Consumer, Immigration, or Housing, please check out the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i.

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Pahoa Music & Art Walk

Second Saturdays on Main St

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The event will be taking place from 5pm - 10pm on **Saturday, March 11th**. This event will feature free entertainment throughout the downtown area, including a special opening performance by Dan Nix, aka "Pahoa Elvis." Artists are invited to join us and create live works during this monthly event.

For more information about Second Saturdays Art & Music Walk, email LaulimaPahoa@gmail.com.



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Please join the BIISC for the volunteer workday, Saturday, April 1st, from 9:00am-12:00pm. Volunteers will meet at 9:00am in the Lava Tree Park parking lot. No experience necessary.

Volunteers will learn, among other things, how to manage and remove Albizia trees.

It is recommended that you come prepared in long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy, closed toe shoes. Bottled water and hats are recommended. All other equipment will be provided. For more information on this event and others, please visit the [BIISC website](#) or call 933-3340.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to Offer Free Admission on 10 Days in 2017

Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i – There are 10 more reasons to enjoy Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park in 2017! The park will offer free admission to all on 10 days in 2017.

The remaining 2017 entrance fee-free days are:

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For more information check out:

https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/news/20161130_pr_2017feefree.htm

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Projects & Events include:

- Second Saturday Art & Music Walk
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- Community Gardens
- Concerts in the Park, and More.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laulima Paho at LaulimaPaho@gmail.com.


Highways Division Hawaii Update



Highways Division – Hawaii

Keaau-Paho Road

Intersection Improvements at Old Government Road

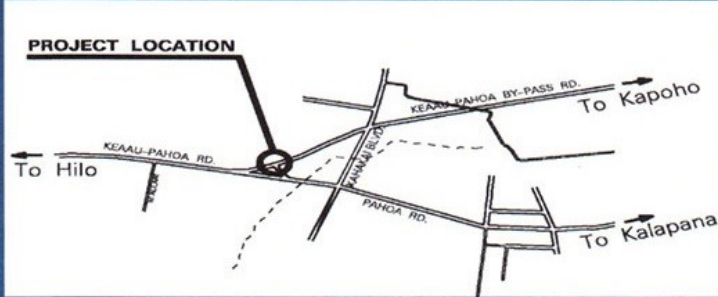



SCOPE
Operational and safety improvements.

EST. CON COST
\$4.9 Million

SCHEDULE
Work substantially completed in July 2016

PROJECT LOCATION

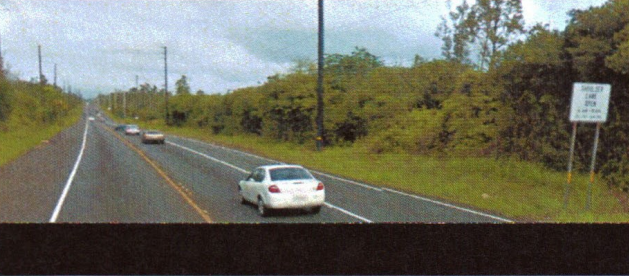




Highways Division – Hawaii

Keaau-Paho Road

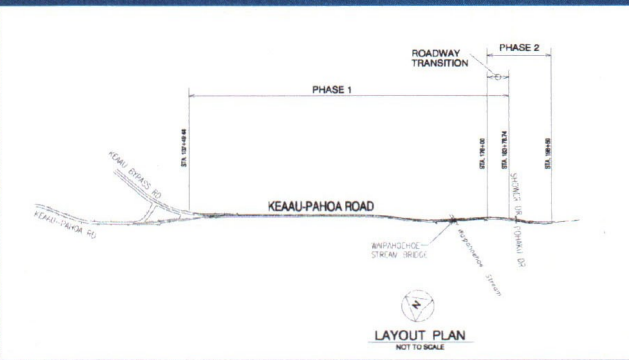
Shoulder Lane Conversion (Phases I & II)




SCOPE
Provide northbound shoulder lane conversion and paved shoulder. Provide new southbound afternoon shoulder lane in the Paho bound direction and paved shoulder. Traffic signal at intersection of Keaau-Paho Road and Shower Drive.

Phase II:
Cost: \$4.72 Million
Work began: January 2017


LAYOUT PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



Highways Division Hawaii Update (cont.)




Highways Division – Hawaii
Keaau-Paho Road
Keaau to Pahoia Improvements



SCOPE
 Improve traffic capacity, circulation & safety along Route 130. Improve travel for alternative modes of transportation including bicycles and pedestrians.

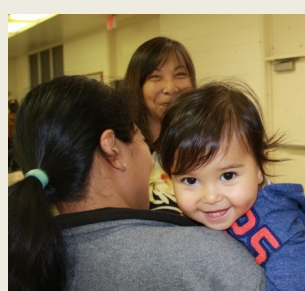
EST. COST
 \$140 Million

EST. SCHEDULE
 Projects vary



2017 Townhall –Puna, HI

It was great to see everyone who came out to participate in this year’s joint townhall meeting. It was a nice opportunity for Senator Ruderman and I to discuss some of our legislative priorities for this session and address some of your questions & concerns. I would like to give a special thanks to Frankie Stapleton, and Phil Matlage for their help. Mahalo to everyone for making this event a success!



2017 Rat Lungworm Disease Briefing at the Capitol

The rat lungworm disease is a serious problem to our community as it threatens our health & safety as well as certain parts of our agricultural industry. Like my fellow legislators I also encourage education as a means of prevention and urge everyone to thoroughly wash produce before consumption, however, at this meeting I raised the issue with the Department of Health as to why we do not also consider eradicating the slugs that carry the parasite. I truly believe that exploring the possibility of eliminating the slugs (many of which are invasive) is a more effective solution to this problem. I also questioned the Department of Health about what is being done to improve early diagnosis of this disease as many people who exhibit symptoms of infection are not immediately diagnosed, which can delay proper treatment.



Hawaii Aviation Caucus, February 21, 2017



Senator Kai Kahele hosted the first meeting of the Hawaii Aviation Caucus at the Capitol. Attendees included members of the commercial flight industry, aviation enthusiast, and a bipartisan group of legislators from the House and Senate. Aviation plays a very crucial role in our state's economy and this caucus gives legislators a chance to discuss issues while getting input from those directly involved in the industry.





With members of Lau Ola LLC at a 2017 Medical Marijuana Working Group meeting.



On the cover of The New Leaf magazine (from left-to-right): Rep. Della Au-Bellati, Senator Gil Riviere, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Senator Will Espero, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, and Senator Russell Ruderman.



Please visit: http://olelo.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=25 to watch coverage of previous Act 230 working group meetings.

HB1501-Relating to Drug Paraphernalia passed the Judiciary committee and has been recommended for passage on third reading. If passed, **HB1501** would reclassify drug paraphernalia possession from felonies to civil violations. Passing this bill would help to avoid further congestion of our crowded prisons and ensure that those patients who are prescribed Medical Marijuana are not at risk of being charged with a felony. With licensed medical dispensaries receiving the go-ahead to begin cultivation, it is especially important that this bill be passed into law. Thank you to everyone who provided testimony for this bill. I encourage everyone to track this bill as it moves to the Senate.



A big 'Mahalo' to everyone who provided testimony in support of **HB 172**. **HB 172** passed the committees on Energy & Environmental Protection, Water & Land, and Judiciary.

If passed, **HB 172** would make it easier for property owners to remove hazardous Albizia trees from neighboring properties under certain conditions.

Please continue to support this bill as it moves through the legislative process.



top right photo fr: left-to-right: WAL Vice Chair Sam Kong, WAL Chair Ryan Yamane, EEP Chair Chris Lee, EEP Vice Chair Nicole Lowen, and Representative Cindy Evans preparing to vote on HB 172- relating to Albizia and private property.

Around the Capitol



Rep. Cindy Evans and I discussing legislation and other concerns regarding airport regulation with the DOT.



HSTA Rally at the Capitol



Councilwoman Kimberly Pine stopped by.



With district 4 Senator Lorraine Inouye



With former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann.



With Senator Donna Mercado-Kim at the HTLA luncheon.

Art at the Capitol 2017 Art Challenge-Landscapes



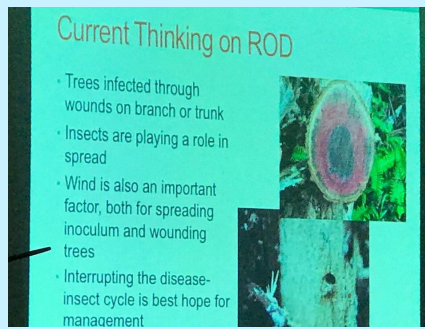
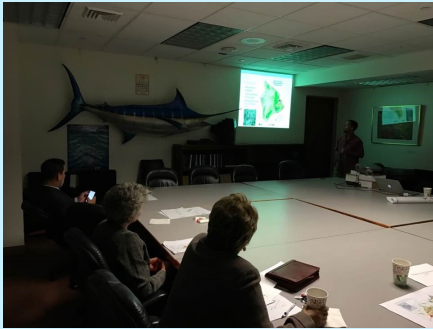
With Rep. Kong, Rep. Morikawa, Rep. Au-Belatti, Rep. Nakashima, Rep. Choy, Sen. Thielen, Rep. Matsumoto, and Senator Taniguchi.



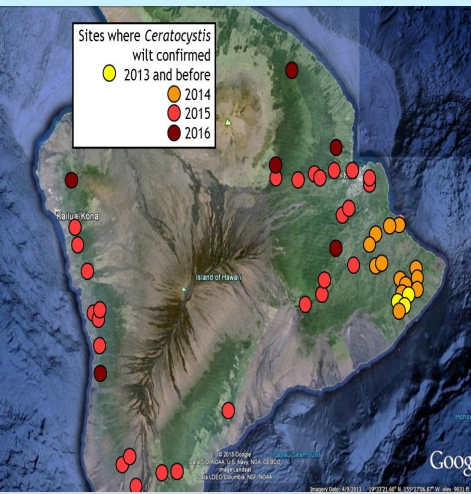
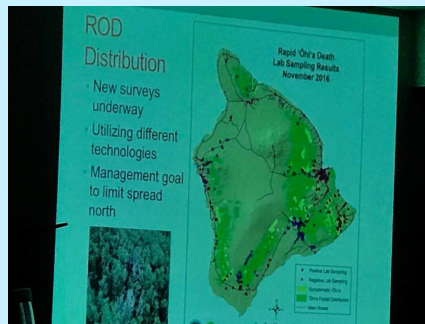
Working on our base sketch as our instructor watches over.

With Rep. Della Au-Belatti, Rep. Lauren Matsumoto.

Big Isle legislators being given updates on Rapid Ohī'a Death and forest management by the DLNR. R.O.D., caused by a fungus, is spread to an ohī'a tree when there is an open wound on the tree. DLNR explained the dangers of transporting ohī'a logs from infected areas to non-infected areas.



For more information about Rapid Ohī'a Death:
 DLNR, Hawaii Invasive Species Council
<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/species/rapid-ohia-death/>
 UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
<http://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/rod/Home.aspx>



Some quick tips to help combat the spread of Rapid Ohī'a Death:

- Sterilize footwear and clothing before and after leaving forested areas.
- Avoid transporting or moving Ohī'a wood if you do not know where it is from. If you are not sure of it's original location, it is best to just leave it where it is.
- Clean/sterilize tools after exposure to Ohī'a with 70% alcohol solution. This solution is capable of killing the Rapid Ohia Death fungus.
- Wash your vehicle (especially after off-roading). Thoroughly remove mud and other foliage picked up during travel to avoid the possibility of transporting the fungus to areas along your commute

Photo: www.rapidohiadeath.org

Relating to Rapid Ohī'a Death

Rapid Ohī'a Death is a threat to one of Hawaii's most culturally important trees. Ohī'a trees are an essential part of Hawaii's eco-system and Watershed areas.

This year I was a co-introducer for the following bills relating to Rapid Ohī'a Death. Please click on the bill number for a status update and a full version of the bill:

[-HB1004](#), Appropriates moneys for implementation of the Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan.

[-HB1247](#), Appropriates funds for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death.



Hawaii Public Access Room

If you are in Honolulu, I encourage you to visit the Public Access Room (PAR) located in the Hawaii State Capitol, room 401. The Public Access Room is open from M-F, 7:45am-6:00pm (Public Access Room hours will change after May4th).

Learn about the legislative process and get tips on topics such as:

- Effective lobbying
- Submitting testimony
- Understanding the legislative process
- Navigating the Legislature’s website
- Measure tracking



If you are interested in arranging an informational workshop for a group, please call (808) 587-0478 or email: par@capitol.hawaii.gov. Please visit the Public Access Room’s website at <http://lrbhawaii.org/par/>.

Would you like to learn more about the legislative process?

The House Majority Staff Office and Hawaii State House of Representatives, with contributions from the Senate Majority Research Office Hawaii State Senate have put together a “Citizen’s Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process.” The document can be found at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/citizensguide.aspx>.

Learn about How a Bill Becomes Law, Types of Bills and Resolutions, Legislative Timetables and Process, Committee Testimony, Leadership and Standing Committees, Legislative Resource and Reference Centers, and the Citizen Participation Factsheet.

If you have a community event that you want featured in my newsletter/e-newsletter e-mail us at b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov. No guarantee that it will be included; however, we will do our best.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter!

This allows me to send out more information about what’s going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov

Please FOLLOW my Twitter and Instagram!

<https://twitter.com/rejoydistrict4>

<https://www.instagram.com/rejoysanbuenaventura/>



Be sure to LIKE my page!

<https://www.facebook.com/rejoydistrict4>

E-mail Address: repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Visit my capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2017>

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Housing and Transportation

Contact Information:

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.



Notes:

Possible honorees:

-Bodacious Ladies of Puna

-George Yokoyama, <http://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/george-yokoyama-dies-90>

-

Content for review:

-Townhall meeting must be in Feb edition. Date pending

-Big Island Tribune Herald article re: Albizia Bills (link article and provide status update of Rep's bill)

-Provide update on bills

-Prepare list of conference committees that Rep will be on. (indicate status, Chair, Co-chair, etc.) see 2015 enewsletter for details.



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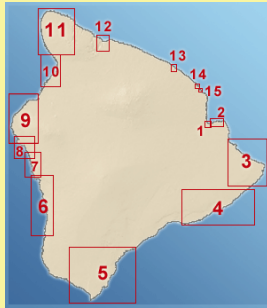
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02/08/2017 Committee on Transportation hearing

This year, I sought a seat on the Committee on Transportation to ensure that Puna's interests were represented during the legislative session. At this committee hearing, I made it very clear that I would be weary of supporting highway projects in other districts, unless I can be assured that these projects would not be given priority over the highway 130 alternate route.

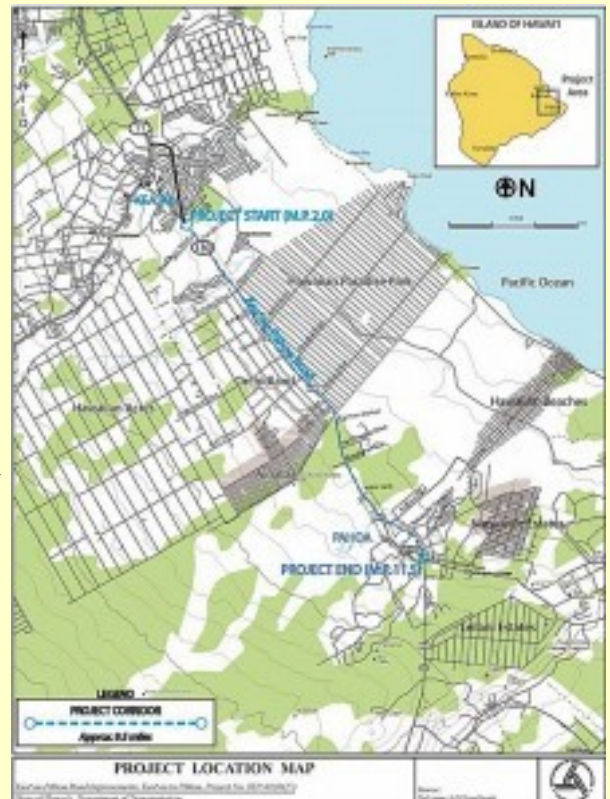


Highway 130 Update

Lately, many have asked why it is not possible for the Hawaii DOT district office to schedule all improvement projects at the same time as a means of consolidating congestion into one period.

While this would be an ideal situation, combining/scheduling all improvement projects during the same time frame would not be viable in this, or any county.

While I have fought hard to secure funding for improvement projects, the state releases the money as it becomes available. With over 200 million+ dollars in funds secured for Puna improvement projects, the money cannot feasibly be released at once, which means that improvement projects, such as the Shower Drive traffic light installation, cannot commence in congruence with the widening project. This presents a difficult situation as deferring projects for the sake of coinciding with other projects will put the funding at risk of being taken by other projects. To put a project on hold would jeopardize its prioritization, which, is why it is in our best interest for the HDOT to commence with these projects as soon as the money is allocated in order to avoid further delay of much needed improvements. This year, it just so happens that the ~~~ was able to get funding released for various projects in Hawaii County. We understand that this has resulted in longer commute times and we empathize with the inconvenience that this has caused you. The HDOT respectfully requests your patience with the hope that you understand that this will ultimately benefit the long term interests of the Puna district.



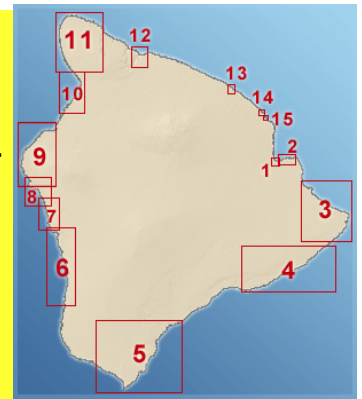
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Questions about Zika Virus?

If you have questions about Zika Virus, please call Hawaii 2-1-1:



Or [click here](#) to see the State Department of Health's FAQ

If you would like to report a possible case, contact:

Disease Investigation Branch: 808-586-4586

*If you have questions or concerns about mosquitoes, contact Vector Control:

On the Big Island:

East Hawaii: [808-974-6001](tel:808-974-6001) or

West Hawaii: [808-322-4880](tel:808-322-4880)

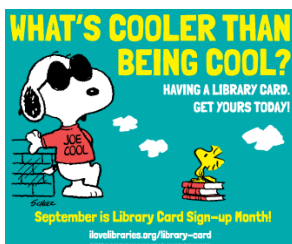
Save the date for KWXX's 23rd Annual Ho'olaulea

When: Saturday, September 24, 2016

5:00p.m. - 10:30p.m.

Where: Downtown Hilo

Enjoy live music with local bands performing on 4 stages, ono food, vendors and crafts.



September is library card sign-up month and once again, SNOOPY is the Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-Up Month.

With a library card not only can you borrow books, but you can download ebooks and audiobooks.

For more information click on the following website: <http://hawaii.sdp.sirsi.net/client/default> or visit your local library.