

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AQUINO

District 38 – Waipahu

March 2017

Chair: Transportation
Committee Member: Housing, Consumer Protection & Commerce



**REPRESENTATIVE
HENRY AQUINO**

**HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
415 S. BERETANIA STREET
ROOM 419
HONOLULU, HI 96813
OFFICE: 586-6520
FAX: 586-6521**

repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Neighbors!

We are more than halfway through session and have passed the first crossover period. During this time, we will start to receive and hear bills from the Senate chamber.

This month's neighborhood board report will provide some bills of interest up until this point in the session.

Students from Waipahu High School have the opportunity to get a head start in the field of cybersecurity. These courses are being offered in response to the need of more experts in this field.

Two schools in the Waipahu area have received funding for their upcoming construction projects. More information is on the last page.

I hope that you will find the information in this report informative. Please feel free to contact me at 808-586-6520 or at repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov.

With Warmest Aloha,



Representative Aquino congratulates Ai-Jen Poo after the floor presentation. She was recognized for her efforts in transforming working conditions and setting labor standards.

Mid-Session Highlights

This preliminary report summarizes some of the accomplishments of the Hawaii House of Representatives during the 2017 Regular Session thus far. **Please be advised that the status of the House measure listed will continue to change as the session progresses.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

HB975 HD1: Creates an Advisory Council for Global Economic Competitiveness to review existing laws and propose recommendations to help attract more foreign direct investment in the State and increase Hawaii exports abroad.

HB598 HD2: Authorizes and provides funding for the University of Hawaii to participate in and contribute funding for activities related to the development of a Hawaii cyber ecosystem and related aspects of cyber security.

EDUCATION

HB498 HD1: Broadens the scope of the Early Learning Program to include early childhood development beginning with prenatal care. Expands the function of the Early Learning Board beyond an advisory capacity and amends board composition and powers. Allows the Early Learning Board to appoint and evaluate the Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning. Adjusts the family-income threshold that determines Program eligibility for "at-risk children" and "underserved children" and sets a priority for families with income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

HB499 HD1: Limits priority for admission to the Pre-school Open Doors Program to four-year-old children who are underserved or at-risk and whose family income is at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

HB937 HD1: Makes an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third-party providers for family-child interaction learning organizations.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HB606 HD2: Authorizes the counties to enter private property to control or eradicate invasive species and pests after reasonable notice is given to the owner of the property.

FINANCE

HB141 HD1: Repeals and abolishes non-general funds of GOV, OHA, and DOE, as recommended by the Auditor in Auditor's report Nos. 16-09, 16-10, and 16-11, and transfers unencumbered balances.

HB471 HD1: Enhances state financial stability by prohibiting the Legislature from appropriating more than 50% of the balance of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund or an amount from the Fund that exceeds 10% of the total discretionary funds appropriated by the Legislature in a single fiscal year. Prohibits any appropriation from the Fund for a succeeding fiscal year unless the current fiscal year's tax collection is negative.

HB1414 HD1: Requires the Auditor to investigate and report on the problems of the tax system modernization project of the department of education.

HEALTH

HB672 HD2: Formally establishes the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program within the Department of Education. Establishes a dedicated special fund and positions within the Departments of Health and Human Services to support the program.

HB561 HD2: Called "Finley's Law," this bill requires dentists who administer general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate (conscious) sedation to post notice of contact information for verification of the dentist's licensure and authorization or permit to administer anesthesia and perform sedation.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB1276 HD1: Allows a deduction from gross income for income tax purposes for interest paid on qualifying postsecondary education loans.

HOUSING

HB488 HD2: Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for rental housing, mixed-use affordable rental housing, a multi-use juveniles services and shelter center, and public housing. Appropriates additional general revenue funds to the Corporation for public housing security improvements, renovation, and repairs.

HB1240 HD2: Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative, subject to certain conditions.

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HUMAN SERVICES

HB92 HD1: Applies an inflation adjustment factor to long-term care providers' annual costs or basic prospective payment system rates.

HB607 HD1: Expands the scope of services and options for service delivery under the Executive Office on Aging's Kupuna Care Program. Establishes the Kupuna Caregivers Program to assist caregivers by providing vouchers to secure certain care services from outside providers.

HB615 HD1: Empowers older adults to make healthy decisions and engage in healthier lifestyles by appropriating funds for the Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership Program to further the Program's important role in improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

HB1195 HD1: Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services.

HB432 HD2: Makes financial exploitation of an elder by a caregiver a felony.

INTRASTATE COMMERCE

HB206 HD2: Improves and sustains statewide enhanced 911 services by applying a surcharge for enhanced 911 services on consumers for prepaid wireless telecommunications service purchased, in a manner that is equivalent to the enhanced 911 surcharge applied to other cellular and telephone services.

HB651 HD2: Requires a consumer credit reporting agency to create a record for protected consumers, including minors under the age of 16 and incapacitated persons, who do not have an existing file. Permits a representative of a protected consumer to take a place a security freeze on the protected consumer's credit report or any record created for the protected consumer.

JUDICIARY

HB1401 HD2: Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020. Repeals and amends provisions relating to polling places, including absentee polling places. Establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots.

HB456 HD1: 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. Requires disclosure under the Uniform Information Practices Act

HB457 HD1: Establishes a community court outreach project in the City and County of Honolulu, subject to the availability of funds and memoranda of agreements from the Judiciary, Prosecuting Attorney, and the Public Defender.

LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

HB213 HD1: Permits an employee to take family leave in order to care for the employee's sibling with a serious health condition or upon the death of the employee's child, spouse, reciprocal beneficiary, sibling, or parent.

HB1382 HD1: Assists small businesses in the state procurement process by establishing a temporary small business assistance initiative, small business advisory group, small business office, and small business procurement coordinator position within the state procurement office.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HB462 HD2: Requires the Department of Public Safety to solicit proposals for a new correctional facility. Requires new facility to be operated by public employees. Temporarily suspends the current EIS process for potential sites for the proposed Oahu Community Correctional Center.

HB845 HD2: Requires the Department of Public Safety to assist inmates in obtaining the inmate's birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society. Requires the Department in collaboration with county and state agencies to inform inmates of the availability of such assistance.

TRANSPORTATION

HB306 HD2: Requires persons charged with operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant or habitually operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant to refrain from consuming alcohol and be fitted with a continuous alcohol monitoring device for at least 90 days if the person has a prior conviction within the past 5 years or is currently pending criminal investigation or prosecution for one or more prior charges of the same crime.

Community Update

Waipahu High students prepare for cybersecurity jobs

Stories about data breaches frequently make the news— which highlights the need of more experts in cybersecurity. Waipahu High School decided to take action by training the next generation of these needed professionals.

Some teens are getting a head start in the on the job market by taking coding courses for credit. A pioneering course on cybersecurity will begin in the fall. So far, there are four students who are on the track to work part-time at the National Security Agency's Hawaii office while they're seniors.

The first coding course was taught by instructors from Dev-League, a company that teaches computer programming, along with Cindy Takara, who directs the school's Information Technology Academy. The upcoming cybersecurity courses appear to be the first offered at any local high school.

August Ahrens Awarded Funding for Reroofing Project

A new construction project will soon be initiated at August Ahrens Elementary School. Certified Construction, Inc. was awarded \$178,000 to complete the reroofing project on building A.

A meeting will be set up with the school's Principal, Hanh Nguyen, to discuss matters such as access to the project, scheduling and the construction start date.

Please bear in mind that there will be disruption and disturbance during construction. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Construction Management Section at 784-5140.

Waipahu Elementary Receives Funding for Heat Abatement Project

The first phase of the heat abatement project will soon begin construction at Waipahu Elementary School. CC Engineering & Construction, Inc. was awarded over \$980,000 to complete this project.

The heat abatement program is an initiative to keep our state's classrooms cooler by using passive or mechanical means.

Air conditioning is a mechanical form of heat abatement. Passive means are techniques such as heat reflective paint and extending shading to remove direct sunlight from hitting a building.

Waipahu Elementary is among the list of "priority schools" for the heat abatement program. Schools on the priority list are usually located in warmer areas of the state.