

2016 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

I have included a few of the bills that passed out of the Hawaii House of Representatives up to First Crossover, or the midpoint of the 2016 Regular Session. Since the legislative session is still in progress, the status of the measures in this report will continue to evolve, but I encourage you to weigh in on these issues as the bills move over to the Senate.

Supporting Our Kupuna

Kupuna Care (HB1878 HD1): Appropriate funds for the Kupuna Care Program; the Aging and Disability Resource Center; Fall prevention and early detection services for the elderly; the Healthy Aging Partnership Program; and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia for staff and public awareness.

Long-Term Care Facilities (HB1943 HD1): The purpose of this measure is to preserve access to health care for Medicaid recipients by providing an inflationary adjustment to the long-term care reimbursement methodology used to reimburse facilities for Medicaid recipients.

Workforce Development

Special Minimum Wages (HB2010 HD1): Requires the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations to approve First Job Training Programs.

Agriculture (HB1997): The purpose of this measure is to implement the recommendation of the Hawaii agriculture workforce advisory board that the State should create an agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative to conduct training on all islands for

teachers and school administrators in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Education

Cooling Hawaii's Schools (HB2569 HD2): The purpose of this measure is to accelerate the goals of the DOE to cool Hawaii's schools, reduce energy costs, meet Hawaii's clean energy goals, and provide all students with better classrooms in which to learn.

Technology in Schools (HB2267 HD1): Defines curricular materials to include both printed and digital material and clarifies that moneys for curricular materials can be used for digital formats.

Early Learning (HB2266 HD2): The purpose of this measure is to ensure that the Executive Office on Early Learning has staffing and support to ensure a solid foundation for Hawaii's young children.

University of Hawaii (HB1608 HD1): Appropriates moneys for the UH Graduation Pathway System.



Rep. Jordan with students from Waianae High School.

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Housing/Homelessness

Mixed-use Developments (HB2293 HD1): The purpose of this measure is to enable the HHFDC to partner with state and county departments and agencies to develop mixed-use developments to ensure that affordable housing will be in close proximity to jobs, shops, and other services.

Low Income Rental Subsidies (HB1958 HD1): The purpose of this measure is to incentivize the renting of units to Section 8 holders by exempting rental subsidy payments for Section 8 and Housing First Programs from the state general excise tax.

Homeless Outreach (HB1774 HD1): Appropriates additional funds to outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Homeless (HB1773 HD1): Appropriates funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing and to continue to administer Housing First Programs for chronically homeless.

Human Services

Oral Health (HB1772 HD2): Appropriates funds to the department of human services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees.

Office of Youth Services (HB1346 HD1): The purpose of this measure is to require the office of youth services to coordinate a positive youth development program to provide after school and school break programs for middle and high school students focused on prevention and intervention.



Rep. Jordan with the Women's Legislative Caucus.

Support for Women

Pay Equity (HB1909 HD1): The purpose of this measure is to encourage equal pay between men and women.

Office of Veterans' Services (HB2489): The purpose of this measure is to address the various problems and needs of all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans who served on active duty for the full period they were activated.

Hawaiian Affairs

DHHL (HB1932 HD2): Ensures the legislature fulfills its responsibility under article XII, section 1, of the state constitution by appropriating sufficient general funds for reimbursement of administration and operating expenses of DHHL for the current fiscal year.

Hawaiian Language (HB2736 HD2): Requires that Hawaiian language ballots be made available in each election upon voter request. <

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