



Representative Feki Pouha

House District 47 - Waialua-Kahuku-Waiahole

REPOUHA@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV 808-586-6380



2015 Legislative Overview

Aloha mai Kākou,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Representative. This report reviews some of the bills that the Legislature recently considered and passed.

Almost 3,000 bills were proposed this past January but by July less than 250 bills were signed into law. Even against those odds, our district still saw some significant success.

Senate Bill 284 (SB284), regarding the Turtle Bay conservation easement funding, was one such success. This measure was critical to publicly conserving hundreds of acres of pristine land from Kawela Bay to Kuilima, while also paving a pathway to more local jobs, peace and opportunities.

But SB284 suddenly died, mid-session, when a House Committee deferred it. SB284 needed emergency resuscitation. In doing my part, I met with several key members of our House of Representatives and other Stakeholders to listen to their concerns and invite their support to revive this bill. It also helped that I served in two House committees that eventually heard SB284: Water & Land and Finance.

Fortunately, SB284 was revived when more favorable terms were reached, with the State paying \$5 million less than anticipated, and even the Kahuku High School Golf team formally receiving practices at Turtle Bay free of charge. This great “win-win-win” outcome was the result of many hands working together for a great cause.

As I continue to tour our communities in the coming months, I look forward to receiving your mana‘o and thoughts on some of our greatest challenges and solutions. Please feel free to contact me any-time by phone call or email:

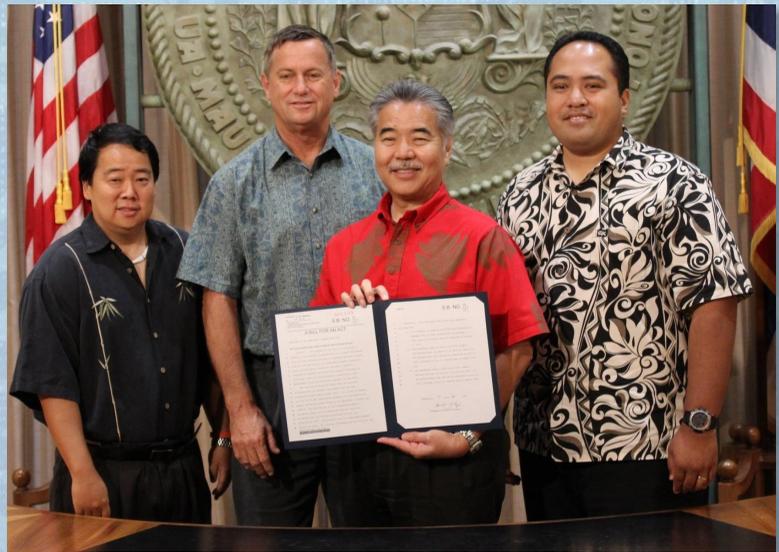
808-586-6380

reppouha@capitol.hawaii.gov

With Aloha,



Above L: Kawela Bay; Above R: Rep. Pouha advocates for SB284.



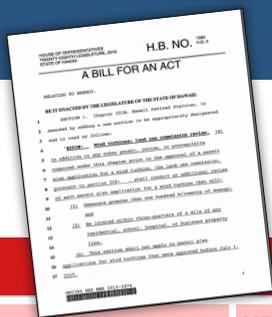
Rep. Pouha at Senate Bill 284's (*Turtle Bay easement funding*) bill signing ceremony with Rep. Yamane, Sen. Riviere and Gov. Ige.



Rep. Pouha recognized the Kahuku High “We The People” State Championship Team during a House Floor session at the State Capitol before the team’s trip to the National tournament. The Kahuku Film Club accompanied the team to document the day’s event.



See more at: www.facebook.com/housedistrict47



SELECTED 2015 LEGISLATION

By the numbers: 2,894 Bills Introduced – 252 Bills Passed – 243 Bills Became Law
 Search “Bill Status” at CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV with specific bill name like “SB284” or “HB1384” for more information and background. You can also search by keywords.

EDUCATION

Teacher Incentives	HB11: Additional bonus for teachers who maintain current national board certification and teach at a school in a focus, priority, or Superintendent's Zone.
Pre-K Program	HB820: Establishes a publicly funded, voluntary prekindergarten program for 4-year olds administered by DOE.
Dual Credit Program	SB374: “Running Start” renamed “Dual Credit” program and includes ninth and tenth graders incl. home school.
Sexuality Education	HB459: DEFERRED. Mandated that sexuality health education be required in every DOE school, starting in elementary school. Would have required that parents “opt-out” of having their child participate instead of having them “opt-in.”

ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Rail Tax Extension	HB134: Extends the 0.5% county surcharge end date by 5 years to December 31, 2027. Authorizes other counties to establish a surcharge related to mass transportation. Intended to fund only the completion of the Honolulu Rail Project.
Vacation Rentals	SB519: Mandates vacation rental owners to list tax ID numbers on web ads to curb illegal vacation rental activity.
Historic Homes Review Reform	HB830: Exempts certain privately-owned single-family detached houses or townhouses from DLNR historic review for proposed project work. Intends to reform needless historic reviews of many properties.
Food Tax Credit	SB555: Increases the Food/Excise tax credit for low and moderate income taxpayers.
Cesspool Tax Credit	HB1140: Temp. income tax credit for upgrades or converting qualified cesspool to septic, aerobic unit or sewer.

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries	HB321: Establishes a licensing system for medical marijuana production and retail dispensaries. Specifies application requirements, rules of operation, and penalties for violations. A maximum of 8 licenses with two production and two retail locations allowed per license to begin no sooner than July 15, 2016.
Smoking Age & E-Cig Use	SB1030: Increases the minimum age for sale, possession, consumption, or purchase of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices from 18 to 21 . HB940: Prohibits use of electronic smoking wherever smoking is prohibited.
Maui Medical Ctr.	HB 1075: Enables Private Public Partnerships to be explored for transfer of the Maui Regional Medical Centers.
Sex Designation Change on Birth Certificates	HB631: Allows individuals to change their sex designation on their birth certificate. Requires such individuals to have undergone clinical treatment for gender reassignment, but does not necessarily require surgical treatment.
Mandatory Autism Health Coverage	SB791: Mandates autistic diagnoses and treatment health coverage for autistic children only up to age 14.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

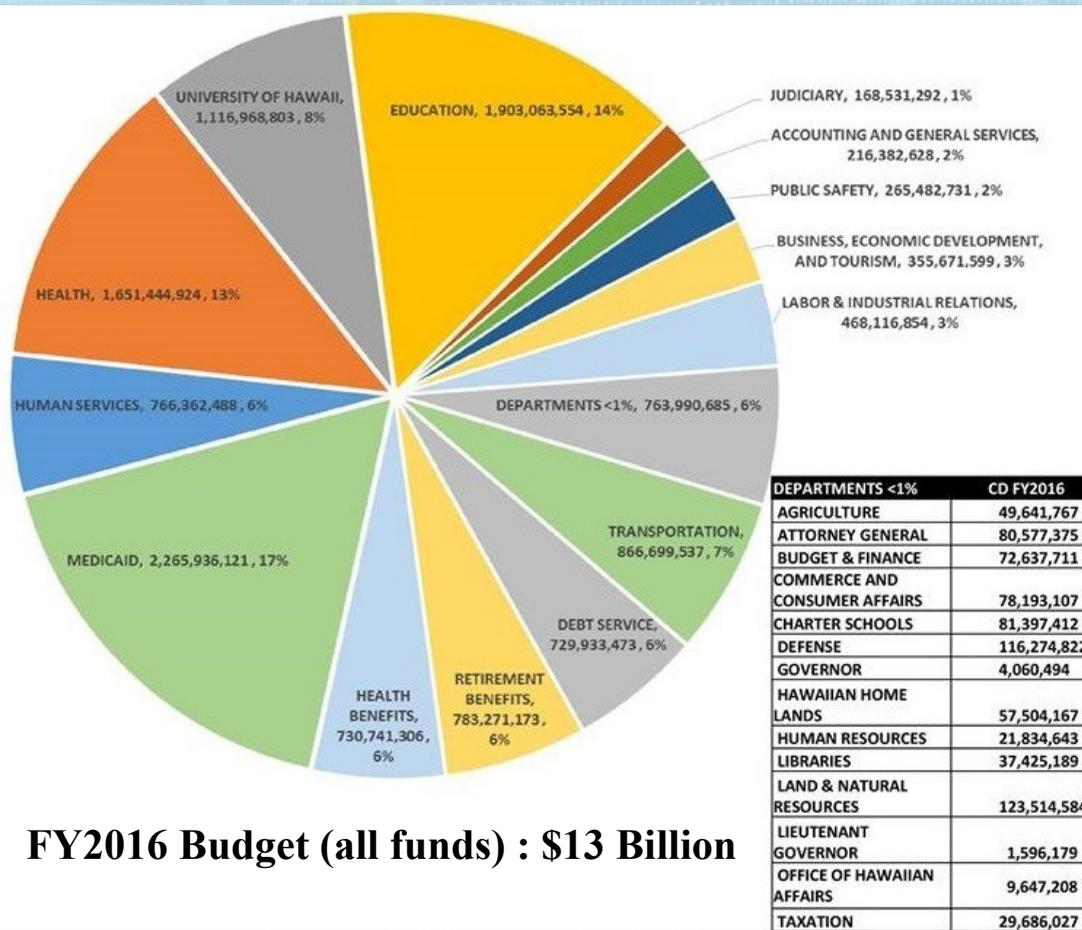
Clean Energy Initiative	HB623: Requires Hawaii to use 100% renewable energy by 2045.
Farm to School Coordinator	SB376: Creates a Coordinator position to help schools and other state institutions use local produce for meals, as well as coordinate educational efforts about agriculture and farming.
Wind Turbine Review & Buffer Zones	HB1384: DEFERRED. Would require Land Use Commission review for industrial wind turbine project applications and imposed buffer zone distances for residences, schools, hospitals, and business properties.
Turtle Bay Conservation Purchase	SB284: Finances the preservation of 660+ acres of undeveloped shoreline lands owned by Turtle Bay Resort on the North Shore of O’ahu for the public’s enjoyment. Also helps to spur economic opportunities within the district and state.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Loko i’a - Fishponds	HB393: Streamlines the process for fishpond permitting by waiving water certification requirements.
Hawaiian Farming Systems	SB434: Promotes Hawaiian farming and culture by including traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming to the Hawaii State Plan objectives and policies for the economy.
Traditional Hawaiian Burial Practices	HB1297: Traditional Hawaiian cultural preparation, burial or cremation of a human corpse will not constitute an abuse of a corpse offense according to the penal code.

FINANCE, BUDGET & PLANNING

The Legislature enacts laws that direct the State Budget through the Senate Ways & Means and House Finance committees. Rep. Pouha is an active member of the House Finance committee. For detailed Budget (HB500) info visit: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/HB500_CD1_.pdf



The two-year budget appropriated \$6.6 billion in general funds for FY 2015-16 and \$6.8 billion in FY 2016-17, which include:

- \$40 million for the Rental Housing Trust Fund
- \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors Program
- \$3 million for the Kupuna Care Program
- \$408 million for the State's unfunded liabilities



A Hau'ula resident testifies in a Finance Committee hearing on Agriculture and Housing bills.

Capital Improvements & Grants related to District 47:

FISCAL YEAR 2016

\$800,000	Ka`a`awa Elementary School: New Portable Administration building.
\$240,000	Waialua High and Intermediate School: Campus Drainage Improvements.
\$5,250,000	Kamehameha Highway, Ho`olapa (Nanahu) Bridge: Land acquisition and rehabilitation for replacement.
\$2,500,000	Kamehameha Highway, Kawela Stream Bridge: Replacement with larger bridge.
\$186,000	KEY Project: Renovation and facility improvements for Kahalu'u Multi-purpose Community Center.
\$4,250,000	Kahekili Highway: Acquiring land and design for highway widening.
\$180,000	Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center, Inc.: Temporary Financial Operations Assistance.

FISCAL YEAR 2017

\$600,000	Kamehameha Highway, Makaua Stream Bridge: Rehabilitation and/or replacement.
\$1,000,000	Kamehameha Highway, South Kahana Stream Bridge: Rehabilitation and/or replacement.
\$1,000,000	Kahekili Highway: Acquiring land and designing for highway widening.

Representative Feki Pouha



House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania Street, #319
Honolulu, HI 96813



SELECTED DEFERRED BILLS

The legislative process is deliberative and full of ideas for laws. Here are some of the bills that were proposed but were not passed in the 2015 legislature. Deferred bills are typically re-introduced.



HB1384 Wind Turbine Buffer Zones and Permit Plan Application - The intent of this measure introduced by Rep. Pouha was to ensure the more responsible placement of wind turbines at a prudent distance from schools, homes, businesses and places frequented by residents and the public. This bill passed through the House but unfortunately was not heard in the Senate.

HB1383 Preferential Electricity Rates - Introduced by Rep. Pouha, would have required the Public Utilities Commission to establish preferential rates for ratepayers that lived one mile or less from a wind energy facility and was also adversely impacted by the facility's operation.

HB415 Inter-Island Ferry System EIS - Rep. Pouha co-sponsored and urged colleagues to support an Environmental Impact Statement to be done by the DLNR to facilitate an inter-island ferry system.



HB1385 & SB204 North Shore Beach Management Plan - Companion House and Senate bills that would have provided funding for a North Shore beach management plan to address coastal erosion and flooding in conjunction with the UH Sea Grant Program. SB204 passed the Senate but unfortunately was not heard in the House.

Other bills of possible interest (search at capitol.hawaii.gov):
HB124; HB419; HB417; HB406; HB874; HB888; SB1280; HB849; HB1514; SB737; HB418; HB423; HB509; HB1482; HB379; HB103; HB692; HB819; HB1294; HB285; HB549; SB768; HB584; HB459; HB1354; HB600; HB446; SB979; SB675; SB133; HB756; SB451; SB476; HB511; HB1478; SB1377; SB193; HB365; HB133; HB999; SB1155; HB1408; HB715; HB508; HB1005; HB805; HB1119; HB837; HB438; HB440; HB301; HB1467; HB621; SB841; SB591.

State Legislative Resources:

1. Public Access Room - LRBHAWAII.ORG/PAR
2. Legislative Reference Bureau - LRBHAWAII.ORG
3. State Legislature - CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV



ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

The Work of Government is not complete without State Agencies and Departments. The DOT, DOE and DLNR are examples of State departments and agencies. Working collaboratively with administrative agencies is important.

For example, Rep. Pouha works with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) on projects such as the Laniakea barriers and the Ka'a'awa/Kahana emergency road repairs and contraflow, to name a few.

DOT Deputy Director Ed Sniffen joined Rep. Pouha and Rep. Keohokalole to discuss several highway related projects stretching from Haleiwa to Kaneohe. You can view this on YouTube at: [HTTP://GOO.GL/6PG65Q](http://GOO.GL/6PG65Q) & [HTTP://GOO.GL/TWSBFM](http://GOO.GL/TWSBFM).



Rep. Pouha is also working with the Dept. of Education to help with school facilities needs. A lot of collaboration and partnership is needed, even in forming working groups and connecting needs and resources.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Emergencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 911

Potholes: 536-7852 or 768-7777

Streetlights out: 831-6714 or 768-5300

Power outage: 1-855-304-1212 (Toll Free)

Facebook Groups:

(facebook.com account needed)

- "Kam Hwy Closures, North Shore & East Oahu"
- "Crime Watch Kahuku Laie Hauula"
- "The North Shore Community Hub"
- "Kaaawa Community Association"
- "Stolen Stuff Hawaii"



Facebook group image.