



Senator Roz Baker

Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
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Aloha!

The 2015 session of the Hawai'i State Legislature has adjourned. We passed 160 bills during this session. Some of them have already been signed into law by Governor Ige. This newsletter contains information about some of the significant bills we passed impacting our community's health and well-being. Also included is a breakdown of the \$143 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for various projects in Maui County. On the Legislature's website www.capitol.hawaii.gov is information about all measures considered this year and action by the Governor. Gov. Ige has until July 14 to act on bills sent to him. Mahalo for your interest in your State Legislature!

Although the Legislature has adjourned for the year, my capitol staff and I continue working for you. I can be reached at senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov and my office staff Peggy and Kelli-Rose at 808-586-6070. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you around Maui.

A hui hou,

Capital Improvement Projects in Maui County

Education

Lahainaluna High School	\$10,000,000
• Construction of a new 8 classroom building	
Maui High School	\$4,915,000
• Renovate - expand band/choir building	
• Replace - expand gymnasium floor	
• Construction of weight training & wrestling rooms	
Pukalani Elementary School	\$362,000
• landscaping	
Kula Elementary School	\$500,000
• Water filtration system	
Makawao Elementary School	\$2,000,000
• Design - construction for covered play court	
Waihee Elementary School	\$900,000
• Design - construction for new admin building	
King Kekaulike High School	\$1,000,000
• Design/construction/equipment for track/field facility	
Molokai High School	\$3,500,000
• Renovation of the gym/emergency shelter	

Health

Maui Memorial Medical Center	\$5,992,000
• Replace two chillers and air conditioning equipment	
• Clinical equipment and facility repairs	
• Upgrades for plumbing and fire safety	
Kula Hospital	\$2,900,000
• Energy efficiency projects	
• Air conditioning improvements	
• Repairs to exterior and ward room	

Maui Memorial Medical Center

HB1075,HD2,SD2,CD1 establishes a framework for Maui Memorial Medical Center and the Maui Region of Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation to enter into a public-private partnership in order to become financially viable and sustainable in today's challenging healthcare climate. As Maui's only hospital, without a significant infusion of new funds, MMMC runs the risk of closing needed services and laying off valuable staff. With a \$28M budget deficit looming, the contingency process has begun to prioritize services and prepare for reductions in force. The Legislature provided some emergency funding for HHSC hospitals and some CIP funding for the MMMC facility improvements, but not enough to cover the deficit. **HB1075,CD1** acknowledges that the status quo is not an option. This new operating model and infusion of private capital will allow Maui Memorial to continue providing high quality healthcare in our communities. The Maui delegation worked tirelessly with the Governor and various stakeholders to find an appropriate, balanced approach to ensure that the Maui community can continue to receive the critical medical care we deserve. Partnering with Hawai'i Pacific Health or Kaiser seems to be a viable option. I've urged Governor Ige to sign the bill quickly so negotiations to preserve jobs and services can commence.

Lanai Community Hospital	\$1,000,000
• Plumbing and facility improvements	
Recreation	
Maui Raceway Park	\$2,000,000
• General park improvements	
Central Maui Park	\$6,000,000
• Regional park construction	
Airports	
Kahului Airport	\$19,600,000
• Renovate restrooms	
• Replace sewage lift and pump station	
• Design - construction for holding room, security , ID office improvements, conference room	
Hana Airport	\$33,579,000
• New aircraft rescue/firefighting station	
• General improvements	
Molokai Airport	\$3,200,000
• General improvements	
Lanai Airport	\$1,500,000
• Construction of the airport road & improvements	
Waterways	
Lahaina Small Boat Harbor	\$2,250,000
• Emergency dredging	
• Replace buoys	
Kahului Harbor	\$38,000,000
• Expansion, improvements	
Other Public Works Projects	
Kaho`olawe Education Center	\$500,000
• Plans - design for education center in South Maui	
Maui Office and Annex Building	\$4,000,000
• Construction of various support buildings	
Kahului Baseyard	\$650,000
• Design improvements	
Molokai Irrigation System	\$1,200,000
• Design - construction for system improvements	
Roadways	
Lahaina Bypass Road Construction	\$8,500,000
• Construction of next phase	
Haleakala Highway	\$1,800,000
• Widening hwy section from one to two lanes	
Paia Bypass	\$300,000
• Traffic alternative improvements	
Hana Highway	\$9,000,000
• Road widening/realignment vicinity of mile 28.1	
• Safety improvements along Route 360	
Kahului to Wailuku	\$1,500,000
• Beautification of main corridor	
Makakupaia Stream Bridge	\$3,500,000
• Replace bridge along Kamehameha V Hwy	

Health Care, Wellness & Insurance

SB791,SD1,HD2,CD1 and **SB40,SD3,HD2,CD1** will greatly assist Hawai'i families coping with autism. **SB791,CD1** "Luke's Law" requires health insurance plans beginning Jan. 1, 2016 to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for children up to age 14. **SB40,CD1** provides appropriate licensure for applied behavioral analysts who want to treat autistic patients in Hawai'i. Applied behavior analysis is recognized as an effective, beneficial treatment for autism spectrum disorders especially when provided to young children. Early diagnosis and treatment can lower long-term costs and increase a child's chances of reaching full developmental potential. Licensure is required because health insurance plans in Hawai'i only reimburse for services provided by state licensed practitioners. Also, federal law requires behavior analysts to be licensed in order to participate in Medicaid. These bills will make a measurable difference with lasting, positive impacts on our community, especially Hawai'i's children and families affected by autism.

HB321,HD1,SD1,CD1 establishes a system to license and permit medical marijuana dispensaries, cultivation and manufacturing sites in the state. Hawai'i's medical marijuana law, enacted June 14, 2000, allows seriously ill persons to obtain a prescription to use marijuana for pain relief and other medicinal purposes but did not provide a convenient, regulated or legal way for those individuals to access medical marijuana or products like tinctures. Many patients who had a prescription lacked the ability to grow or produce their own supply. **HB321,CD1** was based on recommendations of the Marijuana Dispensaries Task Force. As a member of the Task Force, I worked with advocates, law enforcement, officials from the departments of health, commerce and consumer affairs, the attorney general and other stakeholders to create a balanced measure. Initially, eight dispensary licenses will be issued in the state, with two of them designated for Maui County. Each licensee will be allowed to operate up to two production centers and two dispensaries. Dispensaries must begin operations providing medical marijuana by July 15, 2016. Currently, there are over 13,000 qualifying patients who will be able to legally obtain their medicine at a licensed dispensary and have assurance of its quality and potency. The Department of Health may issue more licenses after October 2017 based on patient need. The DOH's and Legislature's websites have additional information.

Grants-in-Aid

Hale Mahaolu	\$200,000
• Adult personal care program	
Hui Malama Learning Center	\$150,000
• At-risk youth workforce transition program	
Hana Health	\$500,000
• Plans/construction of new health facilities	
Heritage Hall, Inc.	\$300,000
• Construction of facilities in Paia	
Kalamaula Homesteaders Association	\$500,000
• Redevelopment of Kiowea Park facilities	
Maui Youth and Family Services, Inc.	\$500,000
• Construction of a new administration facility	

HB174,HD2,SD1,CD1 requires health insurance plans to cover medically necessary orthodontic services needed to treat orofacial anomalies such as cleft lip and palate. This measure will ensure that quality care is given to infants and children who are born with these conditions and often need multiple surgeries and treatments as their facial structure changes over time. Without this type of care these young people can be left with lifelong impairment and their families with mounting debt for necessary treatments.

SB982,SD1,HD2 expands the Good Samaritan (medical amnesty) law to provide limited immunity from liquor, controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia possession charges when an individual calls for medical assistance during an alcohol or drug-related overdose emergency. This measure allows individuals to make potentially life-saving decisions promptly and without hesitation. It can improve outcomes from overdoses and drug poisoning episodes by encouraging witnesses and those involved in an overdose to immediately call 911 for medical assistance.

HB940,HD1 was signed into law April 23 as **Act 19**. It prohibits the use of electronic smoking devices (ESD), also known as e-cigarettes, in all places where smoking is prohibited under our clean indoor air law. ESDs are currently not regulated by the FDA; however, the U.S. Surgeon General has voiced strong concerns about the "vaped" contents, emissions of carcinogens including formaldehyde and the nicotine these devices deliver. Nicotine alone has been linked to heart disease and other maladies. Continuing to allow the use of ESDs in public places puts everyone at risk and renormalizes smoking behavior. **Act 19** eliminates any confusion in the enforcement of Hawai'i's smoke-free laws.

SB1030,SD1,HD2, enrolled to the Governor on April 24, increases the minimum age to purchase tobacco products and electronic smoking devices (ESD), from 18 to 21 years, effective January 1, 2016. Ninety-five percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they are 21. Nicotine is a highly addictive substance and with e-cigarettes clearly marketed to young people, new generations of nicotine addicts are being created. The Institute of Medicine scientific report issued in March 2015 concluded that increasing the age of sale for tobacco products to 21 will significantly reduce the number of teens and young adults who start smoking, reduce deaths caused by this use, and thus immediately improving the health of young people who will be deterred from smoking, vaping and other tobacco use. Hawai'i will become the first state in the US to raise the legal age to purchase, consume or possess tobacco products. Several localities including the County of Hawai'i have already raised the legal age.



Celebrating with advocates and supporters of SB1030 on the day the Senate voted to agree!
Thank you to all who worked hard on its passage!

Bills Protecting Consumers

SB464,SD1,HD2,CD1 enhances the regulation of automatic renewal and continuous service contracts. It requires acknowledgement and affirmative consent from the consumer so that there is a clear understanding of the contract and how to cancel the contract before automatic billing starts. **SB464, CD1** protects Hawai'i consumers from unknowingly entering into continuous service contracts. This measure was the result of a strong collaborative effort amongst the Senate, the House, Office of Consumer Protection and members of the community.

SB519,SD2,HD3,CD1 further clarifies transient vacation rental laws and helps create a mechanism ensuring that home-based vacation rentals are subject to the same transient accommodations tax that is levied on hotel rooms and time shares. This measure helps keep the transient accommodation operators and resort time share plan managers from circumventing the law and creating for themselves an unfair advantage over law-abiding transient vacation rental operations. It creates a fairer marketplace for all types of transient accommodations in Hawai'i.

Bills Protecting Families

One of this year's priorities of the Legislature's Women's Caucus was to promote policies to help stop domestic violence in our community by helping victims stay safe. The following bills address this issue in a positive way.

SB388,HD1 signed into law on May 5 as **Act 30**, requires each county police department to post on their official websites the department's internal policies relating to officer training for responding to domestic violence situations, procedures and discipline regarding officer-involved domestic violence and standards of conduct generally for any officer called to the scene of a potential DV incident. Having clear policies available online will provide accountability and transparency, and will help increase public confidence in our police departments.

HB448,HD1,SD1,CD1 amends the multidisciplinary/multiagency review process for domestic violence fatalities to include the review of near-deaths and suicides linked to intimate partner violence. By including the review of near-deaths and suicides, the additional information collected from the review process will help us understand the events leading up to these outcomes, which in turn can be used to reduce fatal and near-fatal outcomes of domestic violence. By quantifying the crimes, the Legislature and departments can make sure proper agencies have adequate funding to address domestic violence in our community.

HB538,HD2,SD1 requires wireless telecommunication service providers to release a victim of domestic violence from a shared wireless plan and receive a new number without accruing additional fees or penalties. It is important for DV victims to have the safety that a cell phone can provide. Having to stay in a contract shared with her abuser can make it even more difficult for a victim to leave. The charges associated with terminating a wireless contract can be costly for victims who are often under financial control of their abusers. Eliminating those costs means fewer barriers to overcome when leaving an abusive relationship.

HB858,HD2,SD2,CD1 is another measure that help provide DV victim safety. It permits the termination of a residential rental agreement in cases of domestic violence. The inability to end or exit a rental agreement without incurring penalties or fees creates an added barrier to the already difficult task of leaving an abusive relationship. Many victims, under the financial control of their abusers, may be unable to pay additional fees or other associated penalties that could come with ending or exiting a rental agreement. **HB858,CD1** helps protect DV victims by making it easier for them to leave their abusers.

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