



Session 2016...

The Twenty-Eighth Legislative Session is off to a busy start. The Transportation and Energy (TRE) committee received a large number of referrals so hearings have ranged from 6 – 9 bills each, sometimes lasting for four hours. We made it through the first lateral deadline, so things should ease up until crossover, then pick up again through the last day - sine die—on May 5th. Besides chairing TRE, I am also a member of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs (HWN), Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM), and Ways and Means (WAM) committees.

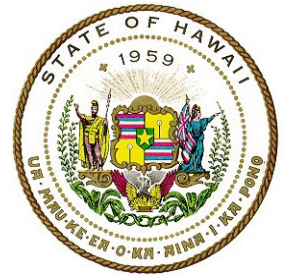
Our staff has increased in size to manage our workload – adding a committee clerk, Skip Bethea (Hilo); another legislative assistant, Ernie Freitas; and a student intern, Jennifer Belon. Angela Thomas (Waimea) and Kaala Coleman continue with me again this year.

My colleagues and I were saddened by the sudden death of Senator Gil Kahele, but can now celebrate the appointment of his son Kaiali'i to take his place. I look forward to working with the younger Senator Kahele as a member of the Hawaii Island delegation.

I hope this newsletter will give you a glimpse into this session at the capitol. Please get involved by voicing your opinions on bills, letting our office know of specific concerns for our district or stopping by if you are at the capitol.



Clockwise from L: Senator congratulating Senator Kaiali'i Kahele after his swearing-in; Senator's 2016 office staff—Ernie Freitas, Angela Thomas, Jennifer Belon, Kaala Coleman, and Skip Bethea; with DOT Director and deputies from harbors, airports and highways; and with Waikoloa School's Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance advocating for funding for construction of J Building on their campus.



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2016 CIP Requests for District 4



Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School

CIP requests were submitted to benefit three schools in our district.

Laupahoehoe School, originally founded in 1904, became a Community Public Charter School in 2012. The leadership team is implementing a community vision for their students. Our CIP proposal is asking for construction and equipment funding for four projects—the creation of a school farm, the furnishing of a technology and video lab, the construction of an outdoor learning environment and the purchase of more classroom furniture.



Honokaa High and Intermediate School

Honokaa High and Intermediate School (HHIS) was founded in 1889 and is located directly across the street from the Elementary School. Besides the community of Honokaa, HHIS serves students from as far as Kawaihae, some 20 miles away. The student population has only one three-stall restroom on the main campus for each gender and a student population of 600. Our CIP request is to provide funding for the construction of additional multi-stall restrooms in the auditorium building.



Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School

In 2007 Waikoloa Elementary School initiated a Middle School beginning with a sixth grade and adding another grade each year housed in portables and trailers. There are currently eight teachers using non-classroom spaces to conduct their lessons. The school desperately needs a permanent building, so our CIP request is for the construction of J building—a middle school classroom building. J building will provide students with science and art classrooms as well as additional computer space and a special education classroom.

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature

- There are 25 State Senators—24 Democrats and 1 Republican.



The Senate welcomes Senator Kaiali'i Kahele to the Capitol.

In 2016, there are 14 Senate Committees:

- Commerce, and Consumer Protection and Health
- Economic Development, Environment and Technology
- Education
- Government Operations
- Hawaiian Affairs
- Higher Education and the Arts
- Housing
- Human Services
- Judiciary and Labor
- Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
- Tourism and International Affairs
- Transportation and Energy
- Water, Land and Agriculture
- Ways and Means



Senators Inouye, Galuteria and Dela Cruz listen to testimony in a WAM hearing

- This year there were 1,127 bills introduced in the Senate and 1,260 in the House, for a total of 2,387. This number is lower than last year, but these bills get added to the carry-over bills still alive from 2015—1,244 from the Senate and 1,398 from the House.
- Senator Inouye drafted and introduced 32 bills herself, and co-introduced another 120, for a total of 152.
- The work of the Legislature is done through the committee process, where colleagues and advocates can exchange ideas and provide testimony to help shape, amend and defer legislation.
- In addition to creating new legislation, the Senate also holds confirmation hearings for the Governor's departmental appointments.
- Resolutions are due March 11th. Resolutions are an action by the Legislature that does not have the force of law but expresses the will of the Legislature.
- Recess days are days when the House and Senate do not convene in chambers. Instead, they participate in committee hearings, informational briefings, caucus meetings or can return to their communities to provide updates on the session so far.



Senator Inouye presenting a certificate to Benny Uyetake, here surrounded by some of his family.

- Legislative certificates extend the Senate's or House's congratulations to individuals or organizations to recognize an achievement, accomplishment, or certain status during their lifetime; or recognize an occasion which has historical or cultural significance.

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Senator Inouye at her Chamber desk.



Clockwise: Visitors to the Capitol—East Hawaii Region of HHSC board and staff and HMC Foundation; Operating Engineers representatives, Mokupuni O Keawe Homestead Alliance and Representatives from HSTA.

