



Joy A. San Buenaventura

State Representative

District 4, Puna

Legislative Session Newsletter

March 2020



We Want to Hear From You

The 2020 legislative session has kicked into high gear and decisions made now will shape the future of our community. Over the next few weeks we will be calling residents of Puna to ask what issues that are important to them. Contact us toll-free at 808-974-4000 and press 66530# after the recording to share any comments, concerns or ideas.

\$30 Mil for Hwy 130 in Proposed Budget

The House recently proposed a two-year construction budget that includes \$30 million in matching funds to widen Highway 130 to four lanes. Gov. Ige recently released an additional \$847,000 for the ‘Āinaloa roundabout, building on ongoing improvements since 2015. The Dept. of Transportation designated \$25 million for 2019-2024 to help Hawai‘i County set up and manage a rural bus program. We are working hard to improve transit for Puna residents.



Initial Funds Released for Boat Ramp

Gov. Ige recently released \$500,000 for a boat ramp feasibility study following a joint letter we sent him in January. The proposed state construction budget for next year includes \$1.6 million in matching funds for the boat ramp at Pohoiki. We are working with the offices of Senator Brian Schatz and Representative Ed Case in Washington, D.C. to secure federal funds for the project and ensure our lawai‘a (fishermen) get convenient access to the ocean as soon as possible.

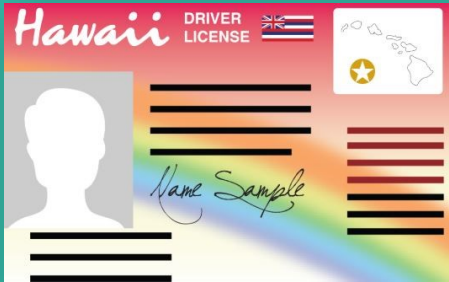


Mid-March | Households will receive official Census Bureau mail with detailed info on how to respond to the 2020 census. **Early April** | Households will receive a yellow notice from the Office of Elections with a form to verify and update voter info. **April 1** | Census day is observed nationwide. By this day, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 census. **May 26** | Hawai‘i Island legislators public panel event in Hilo (tentative).



What is a REAL ID?

Beginning October 1, 2020, only federal compliant REAL ID driver licenses and state ID cards will be accepted to get on a domestic airline flight and to enter certain federal buildings and military bases. Residents who do not have the federal REAL ID-compliant gold star marking on their current driver's license are encouraged to renew their licenses prior to October 2020.



Go to Pahoia Driver License Station (walk-in only) at 15-2615 Kea'au-Pahoia Road, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Arriving before 8 a.m. is recommended. Duplicate ID fee is \$6. Cash or check only. Don't forget to bring: original birth certificate, original Social Security card, two proof of principal residence such as a bank statement, water bill, etc. Additional documents as needed. For example, marriage certificate for a name change. For more info, contact Hilo Driver's License & PMVI at 808-961-2223.

Improving Healthcare with Broadband

On February 15, dozens of Puna residents gathered at Hawaiian Paradise Park Activity Center for a town hall meeting we hosted on the topic of telehealth and broadband connectivity. Speakers included members from the Department of Health, Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center, Hilo Medical Center, Spectrum and Hawaiian Telecom. To watch the Na Leo TV broadcast of the town hall meeting, visit bit.ly/punatownhall or go to naleo.tv. With potential for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) spread, telehealth is needed.



State Funding Released for Puna

In February, Gov. David Ige released funds budgeted in 2019. Some of the projects impacting Puna include: **Pahoia High & Intermediate** - \$1,000,000 for covered walkways connecting the cafeteria to the upper portables. **'Ainaloa Boulevard** - Additional \$847,000 for Keaau-Pahoia Road intersection improvements. **Habitat for Humanity** - \$265,000 to construct affordable housing for low-income families on Hawai'i Island. **Hilo Medical Center** - \$2,000,000 for design and construction of a telehealth unit.



I regularly send out e-newsletters to keep you informed about issues facing Puna and latest developments in the Legislature.

Sign up online at bit.ly/repjoynewsletter or email me at repсанbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov.



repjoydistrict4



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Mid-Session Legislative Wrap-Up

This year, I introduced more than 40 bills that aim to create solutions for a variety of challenges we face in Puna and in our state. Below are some bills I introduced this session that are still alive. To learn more about them, visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov and use the "bill status" search box on the left side of the screen.

Community Associations

HCR – Creating a task force to determine how best to regulate pre-statehood Puna subdivisions.

Cannabis

HB1843 - Legalizing sale of cannabis seeds and clones.

Domestic Violence

HB2067 - Creating a process to expedite domestic violence cases.

Civil Asset Forfeiture

HB2069 – Banning civil asset forfeiture, except for felons.

Mental Health/Homelessness

HB1842 – Diverts mentally ill from criminal justice system to community treatment.

HB2522 – Establishes non-forensic short-term stabilization beds for mentally ill.

HB2524 – Establishes mental health first aid training program for law enforcement.

HB2707 – Establishes the behavioral health social worker scholarship program at UH.

Why Census 2020 Matters for Puna

The federal government will distribute about \$675 billion dollars to communities across America based on 2020 Census data. When Hawai'i residents aren't counted, we miss out on funding for our schools, hospitals, roads, and other vital programs. By April 1, 2020, every home will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the form arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. Please ensure your 'ohana is counted.



Census Job Opportunities \$21.50+/hr

Help our community while getting paid. Jobs for the 2020 Census offer competitive wages that are paid weekly. Authorized expenses, such as mileage, are reimbursed for employees doing fieldwork. Pay rates and work hours can vary by position and location. Temporary positions for the 2020 Census feature flexible hours - a perfect fit if you are looking to earn money, even if you already have other commitments. Apply at 2020census.gov/jobs



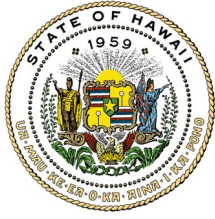
Notice of Voter Registration and Address Confirmation Postcard



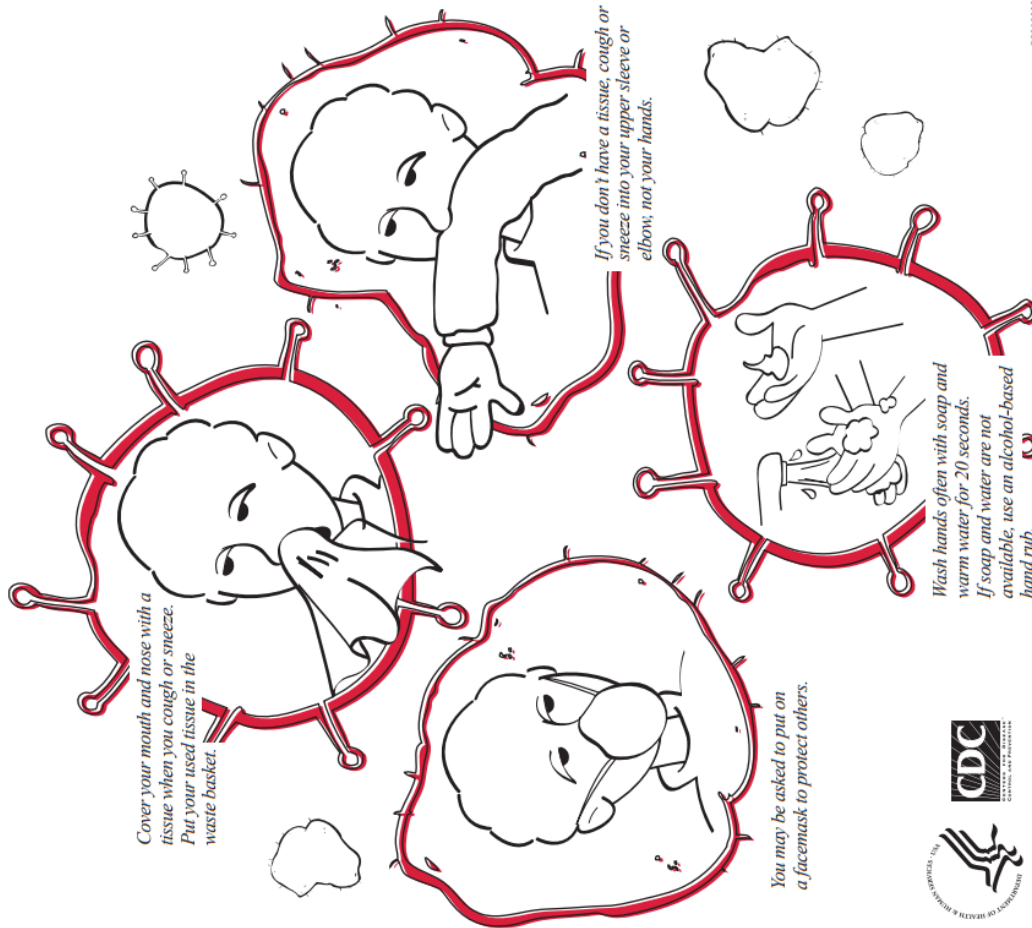
In April, all registered voters statewide are mailed a yellow postcard to update their voter information and send it back to the Elections Division Office to be properly registered before Election Day. If you do not receive this postcard by mid-April, you may not be properly registered to vote. Please contact the Elections Division in Hilo at 808-961-8277.

Cover your Cough

— Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick! —



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While there are no cases of COVID-19 identified in Hawaii as of Feb. 27, 2020, the Department of Health is advising people to take steps now to prepare should the risk of community spread of COVID-19 increase. Prepare a kit similar to those used during hurricane seasons that include a 14 day supply of food, water and other necessities. To sign up for COVID-19 email updates visit health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/