



Joy A. San Buenaventura

State Representative

District 4, Puna

2018 Legislative Session Newsletter

January–February 2018

2018 Opening Day



Opening Day was on Jan. 17. Many marked the 125th year of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and my office welcomed new faces — and old friends. (R: Rep. San Buenaventura meets people from medical cannabis dispensaries).

My 2018 Legislative Staff

John Honda (left) is the office manager. He served as legislative aide to Rep. San Buenaventura in the 2017 session. He looks forward to 2018.

Lhened Mendigorin (intern; 2nd from left) is completing his BA at the UH Mānoa in Political Science and American Studies.



Jolyn Okimoto Rosa (right), legislative aide, is from Honolulu. She earned a BA in East Asian Studies at Stanford University and MSJ from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

The Representative: "I'm excited about working with colleagues to develop new ideas. Thank you for your continued support!"

Committee Clerk **Douglas Suffern** (center) was born and raised in Hilo. After earning a BA in Philosophy from UH Hilo. He is currently completing a MA in Public Administration at University of UH Mānoa.

Angelique Rael (intern; 2nd from right) grew up in California. She is pursuing a BA in Political Science at UH Mānoa. She attended the International College of Seville, where she studied the political systems of 8 European countries.

Where were you on January 13 for those 38 minutes?

That is the question on everyone's minds after the false alarm missile alert on Saturday, January 13 at 8:07 a.m. Rep. San Buenaventura quickly posted on Facebook at 8:29 that the alert was a mistake, and also reposted U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's tweet on it being a false alarm. Stay tuned for a Community Forum on Disaster Preparedness.

For more information, see Hawaii News Now on Gov. Ige and HI-EMA's presentation to state lawmakers on Jan. 19. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/37304445/lawmakers-to-grill-state-officials-about-missile-alert-mistake>

The false missile alert showed us that **NOW** is the time to prepare.

WATCH FOR: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FORUM in April.

Create a Disaster Plan. Identify the kinds of disasters could happen. Pick two places to meet: 1) Right outside home in case of a fire; 2) Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Have emergency numbers ready; teach children how and when to call 911.

- 1) **Create a Disaster Preparedness Kit.** Information on suggested items are available on-line. Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. Essential items include water, food, any medications, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, first-aid kit, whistle, special items for infants or elderly.
- 2) **Your Go Bag:** Every family member should have a Go Bag, which consists of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. Copies of important documents, an extra set of car and house keys, credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations.

Note: Be sure to maintain your disaster kit. It needs regular maintenance so that it will be in top shape for any disaster. Some steps include replacing the water every six months; replacing the canned food every year; and replacing batteries.

Additional Resources: State Civil Defense www.scd.hawaii.gov or (808)733-4300

American Red Cross (State Chapter): www.redcross.org/local/hawaii or (808)734-2101

Some Bills I Will Be Introducing This Session:

Condo Bylaws (HB1613):

Bylaws shall be construed in favor of the unit owner:

- In disputes between a condominium unit owner and a condominium association or its board involving activities occurring within the unit owner's unit.

Adult Dental Services (HB1615):

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for Med-QUEST coverage of adult dental services.

Emergency Medical Services (HB1616):

Appropriates funds for an ambulance to be based in Puna.

CIP 2018 (HB1617):

Capital projects include:

- Highway 130 road improvements to expand from 2 lanes to 4 between Keaau and Pahoia; bypass road;
- Creation of cafeteria and administrative office at Pahoia Elementary;
- playcourt at Pahoia Intermediate; covered courtyard at Pahoia High;
- Pahoia wastewater treatment plant.

Cesspool Tax Credit (HB2573):

To expand tax credit to areas that include Keaau. (See also Big Island Video News segment on cesspools.)

Homeowner Association (HB2034):

- Create a program for an Ombudsman to mediate disputes between homeowners and homeowner associations.
- Requires the County to create a department or agency to oversee homeowner associations, including audits and training.

Service of Process (HB2033): Allows property owners to be served notice or process with the address provided to the Real Property Tax Office in the county that property is located.

Medical Marijuana Transportation (HB2031): Allows for interisland transportation of cannabis for personal use and for testing.

Medical Cannabis Data Sharing: This resolution would prohibit data on legal medical cannabis from being shared with the federal government.

Net Neutrality: Resolution urging Congress to prevent FCC overturning net neutrality.

Mahalo for Attending Community Crime Forum On Crime & Drugs

January 6, 2018

Rep. San Buenaventura hosted a Community Forum on Crime at the Pahoia Community Center on January 6, 2018. See Hawaii Tribune-Herald: <http://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2018/01/08/hawaii-news/talking-crime-in-puna/>

There was a good turnout of community members. Here are a few take-aways from the forum:

- Although there was a slight increase in auto theft early in the year, overall crime is down.
- HPD also stated most violent crimes involve perpetrator(s) who know the victim, and can often involve domestic violence. Although they cannot discuss the recent headline stories, generally those violent crimes are not perpetrated on the general public.
- The rise in homelessness did **not** increase crime. In fact, the homeless are increasingly targets of criminals.
- Community involvement such as Neighborhood Watch and Recover Pahoia help reduce crime.
- While the Representative advocated for funds to reduce HCCC overcrowding (\$13 million in 2018), more effective and less costly alternatives include Big Island Substance Abuse Council, and Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (BIJAC), which she is also advocating.
- Prosecutor Mitch Roth says the recidivism rate of juveniles who participated in the intake and assessment program is about 6 percent, versus 75 percent for those who were imprisoned.
- Representative San Buenaventura advocates a Hawaii pilot program called LEAD (Law Enforcement Arrest Diversion) referred to by speaker Kat Brady that has been shown in mainland states to reduce crime & reduce jail overcrowding by immediate consequences in diverting those who committed minor crimes to immediate substance abuse facilities or other treatment programs.
- Here is a video of the forum: <http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2018/01/08/video-puna-crime-meeting-held-in-pahoia/>. For more info: see <http://www.hawaiipolice.com/community>
- **WATCH FOR: Rep. San Buenaventura's DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FORUM in April with Civil Defense and CERT.**



Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney Mitch Roth speaks.



HPD gives tips on how to be a good witness.



Representative Joy San Buenaventura

House of Representatives

State of Hawaii

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Rat Lungworm Support Group, Hilo Medical Center and Puna Community Medical Center.

Where: Neighborhood Place of Puna (Across the Humane Society)
16-105 Opukahaia St, Keaau, HI 96749

When: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 4:00-6:00 pm

Why: To gather and support survivors of Rat Lungworm and their caregivers. People who suspect they had Rat Lungworm are also welcome.

Speaker: Dr. William Herrera, Neurologist at Hilo Medical Center

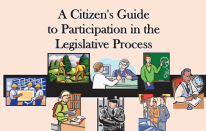
For more information: Elena Cabatu, Director of Public Affairs, ecabatu@hhsc.org; (808) 932-3160.

HAWAII NI3 BUSINESS MENTOR

Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative (NI3) Program : Convenient & No Cost, Ongoing Assistance for Next Stage of Growth

Free personalized business assistance provided on-site to small and early stage companies on the Island of Hawaii engaged in technology or innovation based products or services.

For more information: Contact TOM LEONARD, (808) 936-0222; Tom.ni3@htdc.org



Would you like more information on how to get more involved in the legislative process? Check out "A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process" Capitol link: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/citizensguide.aspx> for more information.

Stay up to date with the Hawaii State House of Representatives via the Hawaii House Blog!

Check it out at: <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/>



Be sure to LIKE my page!

<https://www.facebook.com/repjoydistrict4>

E-mail Address: repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Visit Joy's capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2018>