



Representative Lynn DeCoite

Hawaii House District 13: East Maui (Pa'ia, Haiku, Keanae, Nahiku, Hana, Kipahulu, Kaupo), Moloka'i, Lana'i, Kaho'olawe and Molokini

Aloha District 13,

It is a true honor to return to the capitol this year to represent ALL of you!

I return to the Capitol energized and ready to work. My new role as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture has already been rewarding. In early January I was invited to attend the '2017 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit' in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where I participated in workshops and attended lectures focusing on endangered and invasive species, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), climate change and local food production to name a few. This summit helped me clarify the need for some bills that I've been working on and also gave me some new ideas to work on.

On the next two pages of this newsletter you'll see the 21 bills I have introduced for this session. Amongst these bills you will see focuses on:

- ◆ **Protecting our Youth** by aiming on anti-bullying and suicide prevention in our schools.
- ◆ **Education funding** for our schools by exempting our rural schools from the Weighted Student Formula.
- ◆ **Environment** looking at effect of sunscreen and sewage on our coral.
- ◆ **Hawaiian Affairs**. Revisiting reducing the blood quantum for DHHL successors to 1/32, which was the original request of Prince Jonah Kuhio to congress in 1920. And appropriating funds to the University of Hawai'i to translate the Hawai'i State Constitution into the Hawaiian language.
- ◆ **Agriculture** focusing on Invasive Species Prevention, Pesticide Use, Local Food Production and Food Safety.

I will also be continuing work on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for our district. Working with the Governor to get funds released and also getting new project funds awarded. Amongst these projects the priorities are upgrades for our schools across the district (on all 3 islands) along with safety improvements for our roadways.

My staff and I work hard to make sure you are all informed of what is going on here at the Capitol. We post updates to social media (Facebook and Twitter) and also send out Email Updates highlighting public events in the district, news and opportunities that may be of interest to you, along with notices of public hearings that are taking place at the State Capitol that directly affect District 13.

If you would like to be added to the "**District 13 E-mail Update**" list, please call the office at (808) 586-6790 or send your email to decoite2@capitol.hawaii.gov with "District 13 E-mail List" in the subject line.

This session is already proving to be exciting. I look forward to working with all of you for the betterment of the communities across our district and for the entire State of Hawaii. Please know that my door is always open and I am never more than a call or an email away.

Mahalo,

Rep. DeCoite's Committee Assignments

- Vice Chair, Agriculture (AGR)
- Finance (FIN)
- Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs (OMH)
- Public Safety (PBS)



Rep. DeCoite's Ohana

Parents: George and Linda Mokuau
Sisters: Loyna Kamakeeaina and Lisa Kahue
Husband Russell, and Kids: Dillon, RJ and Carrie

Rep. DeCoite's 2017 Legislation

HB450 RELATING TO CORAL.

Coral Reefs; Sunscreen; Report; Appropriation

Requires UH to conduct a study on the effects of sunscreen on Hawaii's coral reefs. Appropriates funds. **Committee Referral:** HED, FIN

HB451 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT.

Hawaiian Home Lands; Successors; Blood Quantum

Reduces the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement of certain successors to lessees of Hawaiian home lands from one-quarter to one thirty-second. **Committee Referral:** OMH, JUD, FIN **Senate Companion:** [SB849](#)

HB452 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Agricultural Products; Organics; Labeling and Advertising; Requirements; Penalties

Requires that all agricultural products labeled or advertised as organic shall be certified as organic by a qualified certification agent pursuant to the federal National Organic Program. **Committee Referral:** AGR, JUD

HB453 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

DOA; Grant; Certification Costs; Special Fund; Appropriation

Requires DOA to provide grants to farmers to assist them in paying for the costs of compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and state food safety laws. Appropriates funds. **Committee Referral:** AGR, FIN

HB454 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Invasive Species; Private Property Entry

Authorizes departments that are members of the invasive species council to require landowners with land that contains invasive species to control or eradicate the invasive species if the landowner does not permit the department to enter the land. Imposes fines for noncompliance.

Committee Referral: EEP/AGR, JUD

HB455 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

DOA; Fees; Food Safety Certification Activities

Prohibits the DOA from charging agricultural producers for the costs of food safety certification activities conducted by the department.

Committee Referral: AGR, FIN

HB673 RELATING TO CHILD CARE FACILITIES.

Child Care Facilities; Inspections; Reports; Oversight; Appropriation

Requires DHS to publish reports of child care facility inspections and complaint investigations on DHS's website. Creates an oversight committee for implementation of and compliance with publication requirements. Requires annual reporting to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

Committee Referral: HUS, FIN **Senate Companion:** [SB511](#) **Package:** *Women's Legislative Caucus*

HB889 RELATING TO PESTICIDES.

Pesticides; Licensing; Fees; Pesticide Use Revolving Fund; Appropriation

Increases the pesticide licensing fee and requires annual renewal of the license. Amends authorized uses for moneys in the pesticide use revolving fund. Requires memorandum of understanding between the department of agriculture and the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources regarding the expenditure of funds from the pesticide use revolving fund and a report to the legislature. Establishes an environmental toxicologist position within the department of agriculture and a pesticide extension specialist, through a contract with the department of agriculture, within the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources. Appropriates funds out of the pesticide use revolving fund for specific purposes. **Committee Referral:** AGR, FIN

HB890 RELATING TO BULLYING.

Bullying; Cyberbullying; Education; Public School

Requires the Department of Education to establish policies to prohibit bullying. Requires those policies to include anti-bullying classes for students found to have engaged in bullying and the parents or guardians of those students. Requires suspension of any student found to have engaged in bullying until the student and the student's parent or guardian have successfully completed an anti-bullying class at the parent's or guardian's expense. **Committee Referral:** EDN, JUD

HB891 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture; Increased Local Food Production; Strategic Plan; Board of Agriculture; Governor

Requires the board of agriculture, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to develop a strategic plan to double local food production and exports by 2020. Requires the board of agriculture to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2018 in order to codify the strategic plan and benchmarks. **Committee Referral:** AGR/EDB, FIN **Senate Companion:** [SB624](#)

HB892 RELATING TO MOLOKAI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

Sports; Molokai High School; Athletics; Student-Athletes; Appropriation

Appropriates funds for Molokai High School athletics to account for increasing travel costs and other expenses. Appropriates funds.

Committee Referral: EDN, FIN

HB893 RELATING TO HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

Hunting on Private Lands; Written Permission

Requires hunters to obtain prior written permission from landowners, occupiers, or holders of private lands to hunt on private lands. Does not affect Native Hawaiian gathering rights. **Committee Referral:** WAL/OMH, JUD

HB1300 RELATING TO CORAL.Environment; Coral Reefs; Raw Sewage; Appropriation

Requires UH Environmental Center to conduct ongoing studies of the environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs. Requires UH Environmental Center to submit an annual report to the legislature prior to the convening of regular sessions. Appropriations.

Committee Referral: EEP/OMH, HED, FIN

HB1301 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.HISC; Invasive Species; Introduction; Liability

Provides that a person or entity that is determined by HISC to have introduced an invasive species into the State is financially liable (strict liability) for the eradication of the invasive species. **Committee Referral:** AGR, JUD

HB1302 RELATING TO PESTICIDE USE.Pesticide Use

Prohibits the use of any pesticide unless the user is certified by DOA. Requires DOA to include an educational component to the pesticide use certification process. Requires DOA to adopt rules to carry out the purposes of chapter 149A, HRS. Effective 1/1/18.

Committee Referral: EEP, AGR, FIN

HB1303 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.UH; Appropriation; Hawaiian Language Interpretation of State Constitution

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to translate the Hawai'i state constitution into the Hawaiian language.

Committee Referral: OMH, HED, FIN

HB1304 RELATING TO MARINE EVENTS.Boating Law; Regattas; Marine Parades; Permits; Cancellation

Requires the submission of permit applications for regattas or marine parades to DLNR at least 1 year and 30 days before a proposed event. Requires DLNR to grant or deny permits no less than 1 year before a proposed event. Allows DLNR to assess cancellation fees.

Committee Referral: OMH/WAL, FIN

HB1451 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE THIRTEENTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT.CIP; 13th Representative District; Appropriation

Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates moneys for capital improvement projects in the 13th representative district.

Committee Referral: FIN

HB1452 RELATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.Jason Flatt Act; Suicide Prevention Training; Teachers; Principals; Education

Requires teachers and principals training to include suicide prevention. Allows the training to be conducted through self-review.

Committee Referral: EDN, FIN

HB1453 RELATING TO PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.Tourism; Visitors; Conservation; Special Land and Development Fund; Transient Accommodations Tax; Hotel; Condominium

Imposes a \$20 per guest tax on users of transient accommodations for the purposes of funding conservation efforts.

Committee Referral: TOU, FIN

HB1454 RELATING TO EDUCATION.Education; Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools; Appropriations

Exempts remote schools from the weighted student formula. Provides that remote schools will be funded based on categorical allotments that guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional and support staff positions to ensure that at least minimum course requirements are maintained. Defines "remote school." Makes appropriations. **Committee Referral:** EDN, FIN

3 Steps to Advocating for bills!

1. **Request a Hearing:** The first step in advocating for a bill is to write to the Chair of the committee and request a hearing for the bill(s) you're advocating for.
2. **Submit Testimony:** The next step is if/when the bill gets a hearing, submit your testimony to the committee or through the capitol website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov). You may also want to encourage your friends and community members to submit their testimony as well. If possible, come to the Capitol for the hearing.
3. **Rest and Repeat:** If the bill is referred to more than one committee than you need to request hearings and submit testimony for each committee as the bill moves forward. * Keep in mind once House Bills (HB) crossover to the Senate and Senate Bills (SB) crossover to the House the process starts over again.

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 Rep-Lynn-DeCoite

 @RepDeCoite

Opening Day– January 18, 2017



(Top) Rep. DeCoite with Rep. Nakamura and Rep. Tokioka waiting to be announced.
(left) Rep. DeCoite with her family on the House floor.



Rep. DeCoite with Maui friends; Rodney Kilborn, Jo-Anne Awohi, Mona Kapaku, Uncle Matthew, Rep. DeCoite and Kaeo Ornellas



Rep. DeCoite with District 13 visitors (top left). MEO members. (top right) Aunty Winnie from Lana'i. (Left) Helen Nielsen and Jonathan Starr of Kaupo



Rep. DeCoite with the Davis Ohana from Molokai



The ILWU Ohana from Maui. They come every Opening Day to bring their Aloha to all of the legislators.

