

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 332 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
 Phone: (808) 586-9444 | Fax: (808) 586-9499  
 Email: rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

Proudly serving District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihe'e, Waiehu,  
 Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapu, parts of Kahului

# NEWS AND UPDATES FROM

## Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

February 2019

### Aloha!

The past few weeks at the Capitol have been very productive as we discuss many bills important to our community.

The majority of my focus has been on the committee hearings of many bills. I currently sit on the Finance, Housing, and Transportation committees.

In the Housing committee, the focus has been on multiple funding mechanisms to spur the development of affordable housing. Traffic safety has also been a very important topic of discussion in-light of the recent traffic fatalities throughout the state, which has been my focus in the Transportation committee.

funding requests of Governor Ige and various State departments. The start of a new biennium, means a State budget must be passed for the next two years.

Finance Committee Chair Sylvia Luke is working on improving transparency and accountability by implementing a performance-based budgeting process and moving away from cost-based budgeting.

Under this new model, only the basic operations of each department start off funded. Various House committees then review any additional funding requests from the departments under their purview before the Committee on Finance makes any final decisions.

All spending is benchmarked and committee members request information on deliverables and how departments are improving. Departments can no longer expect to receive funding for programs just

because they received it in previous years.

The Legislature's First Lateral deadline was on Feb. 14. Bills must pass out of their second-to-last committee to ensure that there's enough time to schedule and hear them in their final committee. The next major deadline is on March 7 called First Crossover, when the House and Senate exchange their bills for consideration and the process starts all over again.

There is still a lot of work before us. If you have questions or concerns, please contact my office by calling (808) 586-9444 or by emailing me at RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,

### Performance-Based Budgeting

As a member of the Finance committee, I have been spending a lot of time in informational briefings to scrutinize the

## Opening Day of the 30th Legislature

Opening Day of the 2019 Legislative Session was held on Jan. 23 per the state Constitution. Speaker Scott Saiki opened with remarks on the need to address the state's low wages and lack of affordable housing.

Opening Day is when legislators can start introducing bills after working on them during the interim. Bills are then assigned to appropriate subject-matter committees. Representative Hashimoto introduced 16 bills this year to address issues like highway beautification, affordable housing, and funding for Maui College and schools in the district. Several have already been heard by and passed out of committees.



Troy visiting booths on Ag (agriculture) Day (above), Hawaiian Caucus Day (left), and Mental health Awareness Day (bottom).



Troy recognized on Opening Day (top right) and with the and the rest of the 30th Legislature (above).



# Bill Highlights

## HB 394

Removes the exemption that rental cars have from the vehicle registration fee to fund the disposition of abandoned vehicles and other highway beautification activities.

*Currently, rental vehicles are exempt from the fee to fund efforts to remove abandoned vehicles. This bill would ensure that rental vehicle owners pay the same fee that everyone else already pays. It passed out of the Committees on Transportation and Consumer Protection.*

## SB 337 (Companion of HB 395)

Establishes a program to create policies that allow the public to testify remotely during committee hearings.

*The Senate companion to HB 395 introduced by Representative Hashimoto, would improve the ability for neighbor island and disabled residents to provide comments and answer questions during committee hearings at the state Capitol in Honolulu. It passed out of the Senate Committee on Technology.*

## HB 398 HD 1

Requires the University of Hawaii to offer additional distance learning classes for education students.

*The bill is meant to help alleviate the teacher shortage in Hawaii by making it easier to take classes for an undergraduate degree in education. It passed out of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education.*

## HB 1457

Funds the development of the Wailuku-Kahului Transit Corridor Master Plan.

*The bill would help with the transit-oriented development and building along transportation corridors on Maui. It passed out of the joint Committees on Transportation and on Housing.*

## HB 318

Requires the Department of Education to study the implications of staggered school start times.

*The bill would require a study into adjusting schedules to better align with students' sleeping habits and the effect on student performance, help to alleviate traffic, and consolidate bus schedules. It passed out of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education.*

# Budget Priorities

## HB 1232

Capital improvement projects (CIPs) for the 8th district.

*The bill requests funding for various projects in Representative Hashimoto's district. The Legislature doesn't pass CIP bills. Instead, the requests they contain are integrated into the bill for the state budget.*

## HB 1455

Funds the International Office at the University of Hawaii Maui College. It passed out of the Committee on Higher and Lower Education.

## HB 1456

Funds staff to work at the Food Innovation Center's newly built facility at Maui College. It awaits its first hearing in the Committee on Higher and Lower Education.

## HB 888

Helps fund the operations of the Maui Health System. It passed out of the Committee on Health.

# Public Services from the Hawaii State Bar Association

The state's Bar Association would like to remind everyone of services they provide for the public:

- Lawyer Referral and Information Service will match people to two attorneys who can be hired to help them.
- Legal Line makes a pro bono attorney available to provide information (but not legal advice) over telephone every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 pm.
- Access to Justice Rooms makes a pro bono attorney available to give legal advice to self-represented litigants at certain locations. On Maui, this service is provided at Hoapili Hale in Wailuku from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call (808) 792-7342 or visit [hsba.org](http://hsba.org).

# Civic Engagement Tips

The state Legislature's website has the tools you need to keep track of and have a say in your government. Visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) to do things like:

- Look up bills using keywords
- Sign up to receive email alerts when there's a hearing
- Submit testimony
- Get a list of all members of a committee
- See how legislators voted
- Watch webcasts of hearings and informational briefings
- Read existing laws



For help with using the website, contact the Public Access Room by calling (808) 587-0478, emailing [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov), or by visiting the office on the 4th floor of the state Capitol. Guides, including a session walkthrough, are also available on [lrhawaii.org/par](http://lrhawaii.org/par).

# CIP Requests

*Capital improvement projects (CIP) are used to build or improve state facilities and other infrastructure. It is funded through the state budget. Here are some of the funding requests made on behalf of the district that Rep. Hashimoto will work to get incorporated into the budget.*

## Baldwin High School (Total \$2.2 million)

- \$2 million for new locker rooms
- \$200,000 for heat abatement in the gym

## Iao Intermediate School (Total \$10 million)

- \$4 million to renovate building C to create more classrooms
- \$6 million to renovate the band building

## Waihee Elementary School (Total \$110,000)

- \$110,000 for drainage and other flood mitigation efforts

## Wailuku Elementary School (Total \$3 million)

- \$3 million for air conditioning

## Wailuku Public Library (Total \$978,000)

- \$978,000 to replace windows and make other improvements



# Tired of waiting in line at the DMV?

People can now renew their vehicle registrations at self-service kiosks all across the state. The first was made available at the Maui Lani Safeway in Wailuku.

The kiosks have a touchscreen and accept payments from debit and credit cards. Users can renew an expired registration up to 10 months and two weeks after expiration.

For more information, contact the Maui County Division of Motor Vehicle call center at (808) 270-7363.



The Maui Lani Safeway kiosk.

# Ride Hailing at Kahului Airport

Since Feb. 1, ride hailing and other Transportation Network Companies like Uber and Lyft have been providing services at Kahului Airport (OGG) and other designated airports in Hawaii. Companies must meet certain requirements to be eligible. Transportation Network Companies have been operating at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL) since Dec. 1, 2017.



# Remedies for Bad Jam

The Waiale-Waiinu road intersection is a bottleneck for traffic coming from Maui Lani Parkway and Mahalani Street near Maui Memorial Medical Center, and traffic coming from Wailuku town to the north and from Maui Lani to the south, where new businesses and homes continue to be built. The county Public Works Department is completing a study on possible solutions before the summer.



Waiale-Waiinu road intersection on Google Maps Satellite Imagery

Currently, the Waiale-Waiinu intersection sees an average of 1,800 vehicles during a peak hour. Proposals to ease congestion include a traffic signal, roundabout, and an all-way stop. Another option is an extension of Maui Lani Parkway from the curve near The Church of Jesus Christs of Latter-day Saints to the Maui Lani Traditions area, which is currently a dead end.

Costs are estimated to be around \$2.6 million for a roundabout and \$2.2 to \$2.4 million for a traffic signal. There is \$300,000 in the budget for the design of the traffic improvements for the Waiinu-Waiale intersection. The county's contribution is estimated to be \$500,000 to \$1 million, depending on the final design and Maui Lani's contribution, with the federal government covering the remaining amount.

# KĀKOU, Civic Engagement in the Palm of Your Hand

The citizens of Hawaii now have a new, easy way to engage with the Legislature. KĀKOU is a mobile app developed by Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) that increases the accessibility for everyone to get involved in decisions that impact their lives and their communities.

The app is free and available for download from the App Store for Apple users and the Google Play Store for Android users. KĀKOU empowers their users by providing the means to easily do the following actions: contact federal, state and county elected officials, weigh in on hot button issues, submit testimony, register to vote, and track issues and bills of importance to community partners.

KĀKOU is the inclusive word for "we" in Hawaiian.



Troy being interviewed for KHON about KĀKOU.



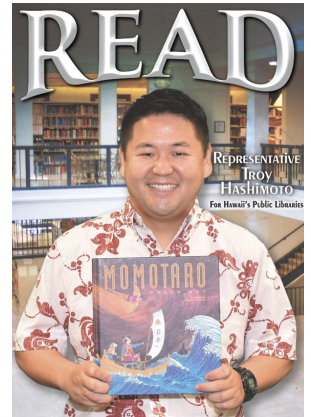
Troy at the KĀKOU Kickoff event with (L-R) Rep. Yamashita, Rep. San Buenaventura, and Rep. Hashem.

# Wailuku Public Library Information

The Wailuku Public Library hosts events like the upcoming "Paws" for Reading for children in grades 1-5 and Poetry Readings with the Maui Live Poets Society.

The library is also home to the state-of-the-art Holoholo Bookmobile, which offers a wide variety of books for all ages, DVDs, audiobooks, storytimes and free Wi-Fi. The bookmobile's stops include Hale Mahaolu Ehiku, Ha'iku Community Center, Kulamalu Hale, and Pukalani Community Center.

For more information visit [www.librarieshawaii.org/branch/wailuku-public-library/](http://www.librarieshawaii.org/branch/wailuku-public-library/)



Troy on a Hawaii Public Library Poster

Wailuku Public Library Hours		Address
Mon.—Wed., Fri.	Thurs.	251 S. High St.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	1 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Wailuku, HI 96793

# KOKUA LIFE App

KOKUA LIFE is a suicide prevention app created by Mental Health America of Hawaii that provides users with the tools to help themselves or someone else. Included in the app is general information about suicide prevention and access to our Hawaii resources directory. Go to [KokuaLife.org](http://KokuaLife.org) to download the app today.

**Representative Troy N. Hashimoto**  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 332  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**(808) 586-9444**

**RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov**

*If you would like to be added to our email list,  
Please email us, and we will gladly add you.*



## SAVE THE DATE for Lawmakers Listen

I will host a town hall to update our community about what is going on at the Legislature and answer questions.



**Monday, March 25, 2019**

5:30 p.m.– 7:00 p.m

Pa'ina Building (Culinary Arts Building)

University of Hawai'i Maui College

310 W. Kaahumanu Ave (enter through Wahine Pio Ave)  
with

State House Leadership

Members of the Maui Delegation

Councilmember Alice Lee

If you have questions, please call (808) 586-9444  
or email RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov



*Troy hosted Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows at the Capitol. The program helps young leaders in Maui address challenges in their communities.*



*Troy welcomed a lion dancer to his office for Chinese New Year.*