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

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

January 2019

Aloha!

It is a new year and the start of a new biennium (2-year legislative cycle) here at the state Legislature. That means the bills we are considering are all new and can carry over into the next session if they do not pass this year.

As part of my preparation for session, I have been meeting with many community members and State Departments. I have visited, along with Senator Keith-Agaran, every school in our district, along with meeting on issues such as the status of Maui Memorial Medical Center. I have also been attending Finance Committee briefings on the governor's budget proposals amounting to more than \$30 billion over two fiscal years.

Some of the bills I have been working on address issues like short-term rentals regulations, coastal protections, affordable housing development, Medicare eligibility, and ensuring our district receives its fair share of capital improvement projects. One would allow you to testify remotely during the hearings we hold in Honolulu.

As always, if you would like to share your thoughts on what we are working on here, please do not hesitate to contact me. And remember to submit testimony on any of the bills being heard that interest you. The Legislature's website has information on how to do so, or someone in my office would be more than happy to help.

I also have moved offices at the Capitol and am now located in Room 332. Please come and visit anytime if you are on Oahu!

I am honored to have been elected to represent our district, and I look forward to serving you this session here at the Legislature.

Mahalo,



Troy attending a briefing about transit-oriented development on Maui and other neighbor islands with (L-R) Rep. Richard Onishi, Sen. Rosalyn Baker, and Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran.



Troy with new House colleagues, (L-R) Representatives Stacelynn Eli, Rida Cabanilla Arakawa, Scot Matayoshi, Speaker Scott Saiki, David Tarnas, Dale Kobayashi, Tina Wildberger and Lisa Kitagawa.



Troy touring the Honolulu fish auction with (L-R) Rep. Tina Wildberger, Rep. Mark Nakashima, Speaker Scott Saiki, Rep. Dee Morikawa, and Rep. Amy Perruso.



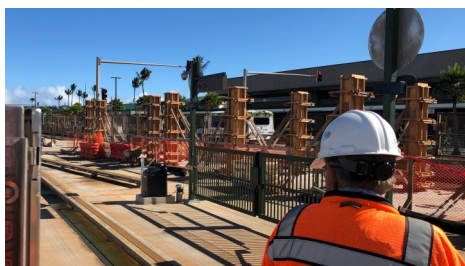
Troy on site visits of public schools with (L-R) Wailuku Principal Beverly Stanich, Rep. Kyle Yamashita and Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran.



Troy touring the site for Maui College's Food Innovation Center with Maui College Director Karen Hanada and Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran



Troy touring the new monorail at the Kahului Airport.



Troy touring the Kahului Airport Consolidated Rental Car Facility.



Visit me at the Capitol in room 332!



Troy at Mayor Michael Victorino's inauguration with (L-R) First Lady Joycelyn Victorino, Sen. Roslyn Baker, Mayor Victorino, Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran.

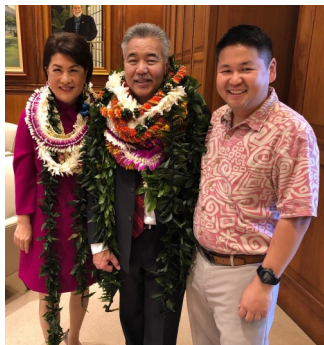
Victorino inaugurated

During his inauguration on Jan. 2, Mayor Michael Victorino stressed the importance of working for all people to make Maui a better place, and said that his administration would be "customer-service-oriented."

"It's not about me; it's about we the people," Victorino said.

He also thanked his wife of 43 years, Joycelyn, for sticking with him and being the pillar of their family.

Members of the Maui County Council were also inaugurated. For the first time in its history, women make up a majority of the Council.



Gov. Ige's inauguration



The 66th Chrysanthemum Festival with Baldwin High School student Kara Nakahashi



Waikapu Community Association Meeting



Kaisahan Christmas Party



Japanese Cultural Society mochi making



Maui Farm Bureau Christmas Party



Outgoing Office of Economic Development Director Teena Rasmussen

Mahi Pono, LLC land purchase

Representative Hashimoto met with Mahi Pono, LLC and is optimistic about the company's plans to preserve agriculture on Maui.

Mahi Pono plans to grow non-GMO food on 41,000 acres of land it recently bought in central Maui from Alexander & Baldwin. In addition to land used to grow sugar until 2016, when A&B shut down operations, the purchase includes Kūlōlio Ranch and Central Maui Feedstocks. The company will offer jobs to A&B's current agricultural staff and does not plan to use the land for nonagricultural purposes.

"With our purchase of this fertile land, we want to help ensure that Maui's residents can produce agricultural products for future generations," Mahi Pono President Ann Chin said in a statement.

Mahi Pono's plans also include offering training and educational programs for local employees; making land and water available for small, local farms, and offering them other resources; and a joint venture to own and operate East Maui Irrigation Company.

Mahi Pono is a joint venture between California-based Pomona Farming, LLC and Canada's Public Sector Pension Investment Board. Its local team is lead by former Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui.

Central Maui solar project

AES Distributed Energy was chosen for a solar-plus-storage project on a site east of Kuihelani Highway near Waikapu. The solar farm will generate enough energy to power approximately 18,000 homes and use lithium-ion batteries for storage. Construction is planned for 2020 with commercial operation planned for 2021 or 2022.

The project will help the state reach its 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2045.

Approximately 200,000 panels will take up 500 acres of type-D or type-E agricultural soil. A 25-year Power Purchase Agreement is being negotiated with Maui Electric Company.

A community meeting was held last November. AES will announce future meetings at a later time. In the meantime, questions and comments about the project can be sent to KuihelaniSolar@aes.com.

Legislative calendar deadlines

January

16—Opening Day
24—Bill Intro Cutoff

February

7—Triple Referral Filing
Bills referred to 3 committees must have passed out of its first committee.
15—First Lateral
Bills with multiple committee referrals must be on their way to their final committee.

March

1—First Decking
All bills that still need to go through a third reading must pass their final committee.
7—Crossover
The House and Senate exchange their remaining bills for consideration.
13—Budget Crossover
The House and Senate exchange their versions of the state budget for consideration.

April

11—Second Crossover
The House and Senate send back each other's bills after they have gone through their own committees. If they made amendments, the bills have to go through another round of hearings to work out the differences.

May

2—Adjournment Sine Die
The last day of the 2019 Session, and the deadline for bills to pass before the second half of the biennium.

Community events

WAILUKU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ELECTION AND REPORTS

The WCA will hold the election for its 2019 board on Feb. 20 at 5 p.m. at Wailuku's Promenade Lobby Plaza at 2050 Main Street.

Featured speakers will also provide reports. County of Maui Planner Erin Wade will give an update on the Wailuku Civic Hub Project. Kathleen Dimino, Complex Area Superintendent for the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex Area, will also make a presentation.

The WCA urges members and potential members to attend.