



REPRESENTATIVE DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI

Twenty-Eighth Legislature
House of Representatives, State of Hawai‘i
District 14: East and North Kaua‘i

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

MAY 2015



KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you want to share your concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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274-3141, then 6-8435#
after dial tone

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**Chair,
Economic Development
& Business**

**Committee Member of:
Judiciary
Consumer Protection & Commerce
Agriculture
Tourism
Veterans, Military, & International
Affairs, & Culture and the Arts**

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www.capitol.hawaii.gov**

Aloha Kakou!

Aloha Friends and Neighbors:

I want to once again thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve as your State Representative. This session was particularly exciting as I served as the new Chair of the Economic Development and Business Committee (EDB). The ability to bring some of my business background and experience to the Capitol was an honor and a responsibility that I eagerly embraced.

My colleagues in the EDB Committee provided a cross section of representation of the various industry clusters that was essential in the committee deliberations. It brought the necessary depth and experience to cover the responsibility to legislate private sector job creation, public-private business/investment ventures, technology, product development and promotion, financial and technical assistance for inter and intra state commerce and the procurement code. We reviewed over a 125 bills impacting small business regulatory reviews, contractor’s and liquor licensing, public accountants, manufacturing tax credits, creative media (film development), innovative research grants, enterprise zones, and technology employment. Other measures included high tech development, emerging aerospace sector, cottage food and motor sport industry. We were very successful to pass the Hawaii Resilience and Sustainability Appropriations bill (SB892) bringing tremendous benefits for economic development.



It is always a pleasure to host many of our Kaua‘i constituents who visit the Capitol during session as they bring the warm Kaua‘i Aloha. We welcomed visits from the Developmental Disabilities advocacy group, the Kaua‘i Farm Bureau, HSTA and Retirees, Kaua‘i AARP, Kaua‘i County Administration and County Council and other wonderful Kaua‘i residents who shared their mana‘o with my office. I am ever so grateful and appreciate their input.

As some of you may know, my passion for the martial arts stems from the discipline and core values it instills through the training and competition. I introduced HR124, a resolution to examine the feasibility of establishing Brazilian jiu-jitsu as a sanctioned sport in the Department of Education. Much like wrestling, our student athletes are exposed to hard work, self-awareness, and physical fitness. Most importantly, they are encouraged to uphold values of loyalty, integrity, humility, and compassion building a strong foundation for future leaders.



It is time to be home with my family and the community for which I am so honored to serve and absolutely enjoy as your State Representative. I hope this newsletter provides you with a glimpse of some of our accomplishments from the 2015 session.

With Much Aloha,

Bill appropriated for Higher Education for International Marketing and Recruiting

As Chair of the Economic Development and Business, Representative Kawakami successfully passed HB775 through the committee, a bill that would increase recruitment strategies and carefully structure future programs that would encourage and market Hawaii's institutions of higher education to international students. Promoting Hawaii's unique history, optimal geographic location, strong and diverse State University Program, and successful private institutions of higher education is a responsible way of increasing Hawaii's economic opportunities through education.



Recognition of U.S. SBA Hawaii Awardees

In recognition of Hawaii's small business industry, Representative Kawakami introduced HR177 to recognize the achievements of Hawaii's small business owners and leaders who practice the highest levels of entrepreneurial spirit as outlined by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Among the State awardees, Representative Kawakami was especially pleased to congratulate Jerry Ornellas of Kapa'a as the Small Business Advocate for Home Based Business as one of the nine recipients of the annual awards.




Representative Kawakami Honored by NFIB

Representative Kawakami received the Small Business Leadership award recently. Honored by fellow Representatives and presented by National Federation of Independent Business HI State Director, Melissa Pavlicek, the Small Business Leadership award honors those who actively advocate as the voice for small business at the State Capitol and who understand small business concerns and the role of small business in promoting a sound economy.



Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to District 14 (FY 16)

- ◆ **Ho'omana**– Construction renovations for the training center facility for special needs clients (Wailua, Kaua'i) as a result of a long term property lease between OHA and DLNR. **\$80,000**
- ◆ **Hanahanapuni Firing Range Project**– Plans and design for a firing range; to be used as match for \$1.2 million of Federal funds. **\$424,000**
- ◆ **Waiakea Canal Boat Ramp (Lih) Improvements**– Plans and design for reconstruction and renovation of trailer and vehicle parking lot, boat wash down area and pavilion; dredge of canal; removal and replacement of navigational aids. **\$500,000** (First Phase)
 
- ◆ **Moloa'a Well and Post-Harvest Facility Project**– Plans, land acquisition, design and construction for a water well, alternative energy to power the well, and an on-site, post-harvest facility to comply with Food Safety Modernization Act. **\$3,000,000**
- ◆ **CIP OPERATING PROJECTS IN DISTRICT 14:**
 - ◆ **Guardrail and shoulder improvements** on state highway, island wide- **\$300,000**
 - ◆ **Kapa'a Elementary School**– Replace Fire Alarm System- **\$500,000**
 - ◆ **Kapa'a High School**– Roofing, Fire doors, Repairs - **\$1,065,000**
 - ◆ **Kilauea Elementary School**– Repair waterline and install ceiling fans- **\$46,000**
 - ◆ **Kapa'a Library**– AC Replacement- **\$398,000**
 - ◆ **Samuel Mahelona Hospital**– Renovations, improvements, replacements, repairs- **\$2,182,000**
- ◆ **COUNTY OF KAUA'I:**
 - ◆ **Sheltered Bus Stops, Kaua'i Bus**- **\$1,500,000**
 - ◆ **Motorola 800 MHZ Upgrade**– **\$2,100,000**
 - ◆ **Kaua'i Economic Development Board**– New Creative-Technology Center- **\$500,000**

Governor Released Funds

Governor David Y. Ige announced the release of \$1.6 million for Kapa'a High School to renovate the Career Pathways Classrooms and adjoining facilities. These funds were requested by Representative Kawakami in coordination with the Skills USA-Kapa'a Club and Principal Daniel Hamada. The estimated completion date is July 2017.





Legislative Accomplishments 2015 Hawai'i State Legislature

With the opening session of the Legislative biennium, the focus of the Legislature highlighted bills that would impact the state resources such as marijuana dispensaries, the privatization of Maui Hospital, and the rail tax.

In his inaugural year as the Chair of the Economic Development and Business Committee (EDB), Representative Kawakami pushed for the needs of the state's economy as well as ensuring a path to an advantageous business environment. Bills passing successfully through the EDB Committee included grants to businesses with a federal small business innovation research phase II or III award; continuing the procurement code task force; establishing a business recovery center; as well as allowing business technology employees the freedom to compete on the open market; and appropriations for international marketing and recruiting of higher education students. Below is a snapshot of highlighted measures; more information is available on the State Capitol website; www.capitol.hawaii.gov or call the Office of Representative Kawakami at 808-586-8435 or email: repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov.

RELATING TO MANUFACTURING: Authorizes the High Technology Development Corporation to make grants of up to \$100,000 per year to businesses engaged in manufacturing in Hawaii, or firms that are planning a manufacturing facility. Appropriates \$2 million to fund the grants. (SB1001 SD2 HD1 CD1)

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS: The purpose of this Act is to stimulate Hawaii's economy by prohibiting noncompete agreements and restrictive covenants that forbid post-employment competition for employees of technology businesses. (HB1090, HD2, SD2, CD1)

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY: Authorizes and appropriates funds for HTDC to provide grants to businesses with a federal small business innovation research phase II or III award. (HB1069 HD1 SD2 CD1)

RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Establishes a system of up to 16 medical marijuana dispensary sites for certified medical marijuana patients, with applications by potential dispensary operators accepted by the state starting in January. HB321 allows dispensaries to open for business as early as July of 2016. (HB321 HD1 SD2 CD1)

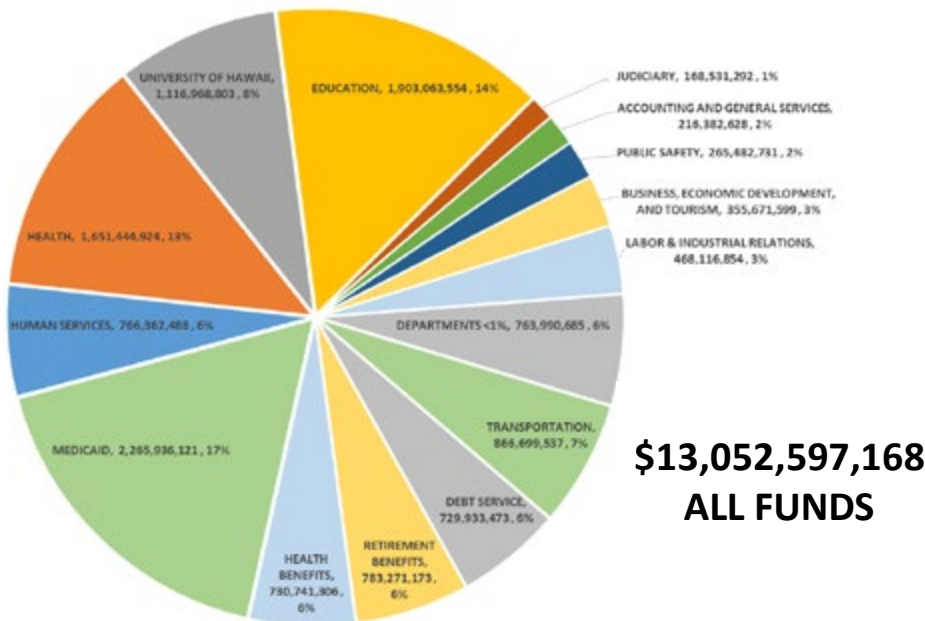
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES: Appropriates \$6,000,000 for the Preschool Open Doors Program. The program promotes school readiness by providing child-care subsidies for the year prior to kindergarten for low to moderate income families. (SB64 SD3 HD1 CD1)

RELATING TO AGING: Allocating \$3,000,000 to the Kupuna Care Program, which provides Hawaii's seniors with access to affordable and quality home and community based services, including hot meals, transportation, case management, and personal care assistance. (SB964 SD2 HD1 CD1)

RELATING TO TAX CREDITS: Increases the refundable food/excise tax credit. Raising the gross income ceiling to \$30,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for households, and removing the residency requirement to qualify for a tax credit. (HB134 HD1 SD2 CD1)

RELATING TO STATE FUNDS: Appropriates \$10,000,000 in the State's Rainy Day Fund. The legislature finds it preferable to increase the reserve fund at present to address possible emergencies and contingencies that may occur in the future when state revenues slow down. (SB1312 SD1 HD1 CD1)

Fiscal Year 2016 State Budget



DEPARTMENTS <1%	CD FY2016
AGRICULTURE	49,641,767
ATTORNEY GENERAL	80,577,375
BUDGET & FINANCE	72,637,711
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	78,193,107
CHARTER SCHOOLS	81,397,412
DEFENSE	116,274,822
GOVERNOR	4,060,494
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	57,504,167
HUMAN RESOURCES	21,834,643
LIBRARIES	37,425,189
LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	123,514,584
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	1,596,179
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS	9,647,208
TAXATION	29,686,027



**REPRESENTATIVE
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Anela Pa and Rowena Pangan discuss CIP funding for Ho'omana Inc. with Representative's Kawakami and Cullen.



Early Pre-school visitors to the State Capitol lobbying for critical school programs.



The Kaua'i Legislators with Nainoa Thompson, Kumu Hula Leinaala Pavao Jardin, and Jayna Shaffer recognize the 40th anniversary launch of the Hokule'a.



Representative Kawakami's Capitol staff, Kaua'i's very own, Gini Kapali, Ben Viernes Jr, and Polly Phillips.



Representative Kawakami with the 2015 Leadership Kaua'i graduates.



Congratulations to Kapa'a High School's Mainei Aloha Kinimaka on being a finalist for The Great American No Bull Challenge.