

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ONISHI

DISTRICT 3 | SOUTH HILO | WAIAKEA UKA | PANAEWA | KEA'AU | UPPER PUNA |
KURTISTOWN | MT. VIEW | GLENWOOD | VOLCANO | PAHALA | HONU'APO



Bill Highlights

HB2013

HB2606

HB1828

HB2012

Mid Session Newsletter

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the 2018 Legislature. This is my second year as the Chair of the Tourism committee and I have continued to tackle ongoing issues and questions in our State's number one industry. I also serve on the Higher Education; Education; Intrastate Commerce; and Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts Committees. I am supported by my long-time office manager, Tracy (Chang) Weidie, along with my Committee Clerk and Legislative Aide, Alina Tassano and Matthew Nickel.

As your representative from Hawaii Island I always strive to listen to the community and bring forth legislation that would benefit everyone. I introduced two bills that directly supports Hawaii Island; HB2013 and HB2606. Both of these bills seek to address safety concerns that have been brought to my attention.

Maintaining Hawaii's position as a premier tourist destination throughout the world is one of our goals, but so is mitigating the effect tourism has on our beautiful island state. Two tourism bills that I want to highlight are HB1828 and HB2012. One will address the growing impact tourists have on our state and the other is intended to address homelessness within tourist and resort areas.

HB 2013

Initiates legislation that will continue the efforts to combat crime by funding the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to upgrade their current fleet of trucks.

With these newly provisioned trucks, DLNR will have the ability to enter areas previously inaccessible with the current equipment.



Representative Onishi enjoying some Ka'u Coffee from Aikane Plantation, Ag Day 2018

HB 2606

Appropriates funds for the Tropic Care program of the United States Department of Defense to provide free medical care to individuals in rural areas by military reservists.

This bill includes such services as physical examinations, dental treatment, eye examinations, as well as free transportation so that individuals are able to access these medical services.



Representative Onishi supporting our local cattle industry



Representative Onishi being honored as a Hilo High Foundation Distinguished Service Award Recipient



Representative Onishi discussing agriculture on Ag Day 2018



Representative Onishi with the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii

HB 1828

Impact to our local communities is always on the top of everyone's mind. Continued use of Hawaii's beautiful hiking trails need help to be maintain for tourist and kama'aina alike. Initiatives such as this are one of many that could benefit from this allocation of funds.

This bill seeks to reduce the impacts on communities caused by tourism activities, by allocating, through the transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues, funds to the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to support these initiatives.

HB 2012

Allocates funds from the transient accommodations tax revenues to the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to implement initiatives, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, addressing homelessness in tourist and resort areas.

Ideas range from working with local nonprofits to fund outreach programs, short term housing solutions, workforce training, and repatriation to home state.



Representative Onishi with students and staff from UH Manoa's School of Travel industry Management



Representative Richard Onishi
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Other Bills Related to Tourism:

HB2007

Amends the definition of "aircraft" under section 237-24.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include helicopters. Exempts amounts received for the servicing and maintenance of helicopters and the construction of helicopter service and maintenance facilities, from the general excise tax.

HB2010

Forgives the paper debt owed to the State by the Hawaii Tourism Authority for the convention center construction costs and related interest. Reduces the transient accommodations tax revenue allocation to the convention center enterprise special fund. Establishes a convention center repair and maintenance special fund and a convention center emergency special fund and allocates a portion of the transient accommodations tax to those funds. Increases the minimum fund balance of the tourism emergency special fund. Requires annual reports.

HB2008

Imposes transient accommodations tax on the share of the proceeds by travel agencies and tour packagers who enter into arrangements to furnish transient accommodations at non-commissioned negotiated contract rates.

HB2011

Increases the revenue threshold for the tax administration special fund and allocates the additional moneys to the special enforcement section for the enforcement of the transient accommodations tax.

HB2009

Amends the definition of transient accommodations for tax purposes to expressly include accessory dwelling units, single family homes, and multi-family homes. Adds a definition of accessory dwelling unit.

HB2605

Provides that a county shall be eligible to receive \$1,000,000 from the State for the purpose of enforcing all applicable laws and ordinances relating to transient accommodations, provided that no funds shall be released to a county until it has satisfactorily complied with specified conditions. Makes an appropriation from TAT revenues.