



2016 Legislative Session E-Newsletter

January 2016



The 2016 Legislative Session begins January 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

You are invited to an open house at my office room 305 of the State Capitol for some pupus on Opening Day:

Wednesday January 20, 2016,

Noon - 1:00 pm.

You're invited!

While here check out the display out in the foyer on the chamber level. Featured are photographs by East Hawaii Artists: Ed Goldstein, Joe Ruesing, and Trudee Siemann.



My 2016 Legislative Session



Pictured from left to right: Tai Pa, Legislative Aide; Spencer Fong, Legislative Aide; Blyth Iwasaki, Office Manager; Valerie Dionne, Committee Clerk. Missing: Jack Koehn, Intern

Some Bills I Will Be Introducing This Session:

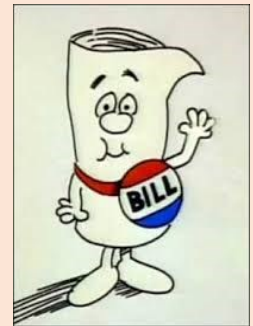
Property Forfeiture Reform: Prohibits the State from seizing cars, generators or other assets and property unless there has been a conviction concerning such property. Currently, the State need only have a civil proceeding to seize assets from people suspected of certain crimes without the need for a conviction. Such seizure has caused a hardship for innocent members of the suspect's family who used the seized vehicle or generator or live on the property. A resolution will also be introduced to audit the existing civil asset forfeiture program.

Squatters: Authorizes civil lawsuits from neighbors and homeowners associations to evict squatters by amending the nuisance abatement laws.

Speeding: Allows a court to order a person who is found guilty of speeding not more than 25 miles over the maximum speed limit to attend driver retraining. If the person successfully completes the training, expungement of violation is provided and retention of insurance premium rates.

Voter Initiative: Currently only the county allows for initiative. This bill will allow voters to have a direct voice on issues. Although the initiative will not automatically become law because that would require a constitutional amendment. Legislators who face reelection will have no choice but to pay attention to the results.

Repurposing Hurricane Fund: Repurposing the Hurricane Fund to Emergency Abatement fund so that the Department of Health or other agencies may access funds for emergencies such as the latest Dengue Fever outbreak without waiting for legislative appropriation.



The CDC's Report on how the State and the County is handling the Dengue Fever outbreak is out. Kudos were given to the coordination of the County and State in its rapid response "one of the best witnessed anywhere" and "serves as a model for others." However, CDC also found vector control staff fatigue especially in South Kona and inconsistent vector control, the urgent need to re-establish entomological staff capacity in the Dept. of Health which were cut in recent years, and insufficient communication to tourists and social media use and website management. To see the report (its in the middle of the webpage) or to get more information, click on <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dengue-outbreak-2015/>. To address the CDC's main concern of lack of funding, Rep. San Buenaventura will be introducing legislation to enlarge the scope of the Hurricane fund into an emergency fund so that the Dept. of Health will be able to get emergency funding without awaiting legislative appropriation. To see a new risk map, click on



<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2016/01/06/dengue-fever-count-up-to-207-new-risk-map-released/>

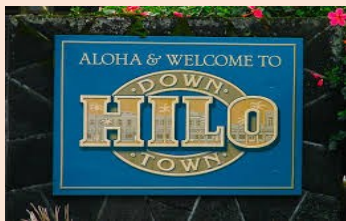
REMINDER to help eliminate those pesky mosquitoes:

- Eliminate standing water in buckets and puddles;
- Clear outdoor drains of leaves and lawn cuttings;
- Clean clogged gutters to allow proper drainage;
- Treat bromeliads and other plants that hold water-flush weekly or spray with chemical treatments from garden store;
- Fix leaky outdoor faucets;
- Repair screens and jalousie windows to keep mosquitoes out.



Ways to PREVENT rat lungworm:

- Inspect and wash produce especially leafy type vegetable thoroughly before consuming
- Do not eat food contaminated with the slime from snails or slugs
- Do not handle snails or slugs with bare hands
- Apply slug bait to eliminate slugs from garden
- Cover your catchment tanks to prevent slugs and snails from having access
- Controlling rodent problems may also help with prevention
- Boil snails, freshwater prawns, crabs, and frogs for AT LEAST 3-5 minutes



Hilo has been recently named as one of 10 locales named to Coastal Living magazine's, annual list of America's "happiest seaside towns." The 10 finalists were chosen from over 100 nominees and Hilo was luckily chosen to be one of the finalists. Residents have the opportunity to help Hilo become the number one happiest seaside town in America by voting at <http://www.coastalliving.com/travel/happiest-seaside-town> which runs through January 25.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo Humanities Division will be putting on the one-woman show *Lili'uokalani at Washington Place*. This show features Professor Jackie Pualani Johnson as Queen Lili'uokalani and the show centers on the personal life of the Queen as she reminisces about the inherent challenges of mothering her three cherished *hānai* children. The show is free to the public and will take place on January 16, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center.



The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) and Keaau High School will be honoring astronaut Ellison Onizuka for the 30th anniversary of the NASA Space Shuttle orbiter *Challenger* mission. The special ceremony will be held at Keaau High School on January 28, 2016 at 4:30 PM. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.pacificspacecenter.com/>

Medical Marijuana Dispensary License Application

Beginning January 12, 2016 at 8 a.m. through January 29 at 4:30 p.m., the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) will be accepting Medical Marijuana Dispensary License applications at mmjdisp.ehawaii.gov.

For more information, visit <http://khon2.com/2016/01/11/hawaii-medical-marijuana-dispensary-license-application-now-online/>



SBIR Manufacturing New Grants

Alternative Energy
Research

Do you have a business that is about to take the next step in business development? There may be manufacturing grants that you may qualify for (applications are due January 2016). Tom Leonard, the neighbor island coordinator for Hawaii's High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) can mentor you to create a business plan, apply for grants, etc. at no cost to you. This service is part of Hawaii's High Tech Innovation Program that was funded by the legislature. If interested, email Tom at: tom.ni3@htdc.org. According to the latest business tax survey, Hawaii ranks number two in the country in incentivizing/removing tax burdens on Research and Development start ups.

For more information click on http://www.htdc.org/new_grants or email Tom at tom.ni3@htdc.org.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE LAWS:

Some of you may know that I am working on bills to reform the Civil Asset forfeiture laws. If you know of anyone who wants to tell their story of how cars, generators, homes, etc. were unlawfully seized by the police or the State, please contact our office at b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov.

The Blue Zones Project is a well-being improvement initiative to create healthy communities by working with employers for health/exercise programs, with restaurants for healthier menus, with individuals through workshops on healthier living, and with policy makers to remove obstacles to access fresh fruit/vegetables & to incentivize a healthier living environment. For East Hawaii info visit: <http://bluezonesproject.hs-sites.com/hawaii/ehcommunityupdatedecember2015>



To sign up for free workshops, click on <https://hawaii.bluezonesproject.com/>

A Citizen's Guide
to Participation in the
Legislative Process



Would you like more information on how to participate and being more involved in the legislative process? Check out "A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process" Capitol link:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/citizensguide.aspx> for more information.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter! This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov

If you wish to stay up on all of the legislation, events, and news happening in the Hawaii State House of Representatives then check out the Hawaii House Blog! It has news and updates along with photos from the House!

Check it out at: <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/repjoydistrict4>

E-mail Address: repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Visit Joy's capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?>

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Consumer Protection & Commerce; Public Safety; Labor & Public Employment; Transportation

Contact Information: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 305, 415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.

