



Joy A. San Buenaventura

State Representative
District 4, Puna

2016 Legislative Session E-Newsletter

March 2016



CONGRATULATIONS to Judith Houle of HPP, Springer Kaye of BIISC, Kaye Howe and Dr. Sue Jarvi of the UH School of Pharmacy for being honored in the Governor's office for their work in combatting invasive species. Judy won Hawaii Island's MVP award for her volunteer community work in controlling albizia and little fire ants in HPP; Springer Kaye for her tireless work at BIISC; Kaye Howe and Dr. Sue Jarvi for their work on rat lungworm disease. They are joined with a giant "little fire ant"; Rep. Clift Tsuji, chair of Agriculture and Rep. Richard Onishi, vice-chair of Agriculture.

Not present but also honored was Dr. Flint Hughes of Hilo for his research on rapid ohia death. We all know him for his pilot project of completely eradicating albizia from the Black Sands subdivision before Iselle hit.

BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE (BIISC) upcoming albizia hands-on trainings and workdays.

Saturday, March 19, 2016 9am-12pm meet at Hawaiian Paradise Park Community Center

Please wear/bring: long pants, long sleeved shirts, sturdy, closed-toe shoes and water. The little fire ants may be in the area so it is recommended that you also bring a hat and towel or cloth to protect your neck and collar line.



Hatchets, hardhats, and gloves will be provided, although if you have your own it would be useful for them to bring on this day. Please email your attendance so that they can make sure to have enough equipment: biisc@hawaii.edu

You can also visit their website at <http://www.biisc.org/albizia-workshop-in-hpp-this-saturday/>

REMINDER: REFUNDABLE FOOD/GE TAX CREDIT

For 2015 tax returns due April 2016, there is an increase in the Refundable Food/GE Tax Credit. To get your refund you must file your 2015 Hawaii State tax returns. Because this is a refundable tax credit, you do not need to owe taxes to get a refund but you must file.

UPDATE on Highway 130

- Roundabout projected completion July 2016 **BUT** start of traffic being allowed through should begin by May 2016
- Shower Drive intersection traffic light construction begins 2016
- Fixing Southside of shoulder conversion between Shower and Kea’au will be completed in 2017
- Highway 130 4-lane expansion project construction begins 2019 with design starting this year.

What are Aedes Aegypti Mosquitoes?

Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes are responsible for Dengue Fever and the Zika Virus. These mosquitoes bite mostly humans, not animals; and mostly bite during the day.

These mosquitoes live near humans so it is necessary to control all standing water near residences. If you do not control the breeding grounds, the *aedes aegypti* will continue to breed and our island will continue to have Dengue Fever and possibly, Zika.

<http://www.civilbeat.com/2016/02/zika-aedes-aegypti-mosquitoes-love-biting-humans/>



REMINDERS to help eliminate AEDIS AEGPYTI mosquitoes:

- **COVER WATER CATCHMENTS;**
- 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; and
- Repair screens and jalousie windows to keep mosquitoes out.



For updates on Dengue Fever: <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts> or <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/denque-outbreak-2015/>

What is Rapid ‘ōhi‘a Wilt ?

Since first detected in 2010, ‘ōhi‘a wilt – or rapid ‘ōhi‘a death – has killed tens of thousands of trees in the Puna and Hilo districts of Hawai‘i. The fungus causing this disease infects a healthy ‘ōhi‘a tree by attacking its vascular system and cutting off its water supply. The Department of Agriculture researchers are still trying to determine the disease’s particular strain, how it arrived on Hawai‘i Island, and how it spreads.

Why is this important?

More than half of the native trees on Hawai‘i Island are ‘ōhi‘a. This means that as the trees die, so do entire ecosystems. Animals lose their homes. Watersheds get disrupted. The ‘ōhi‘a tree also holds immense significance in Hawaiian culture. When volcanoes erupt, the ‘ōhi‘a is one of the first forms of life to emerge from the cooled lava. It is considered to be the mother of the Hawaiian forest.

What can you do?

At this point, preventing the spread of ‘ōhi‘a wilt is critical to saving the Hawai‘i Island forests.

****Don’t move wood, soil, ‘ōhi‘a trees, or plant parts from any forested area.***

****Use alcohol or bleach to clean any boots, chain saws, cars and other tools and heavy equipment used in any forested area containing the fungus.***

The State Department of Agriculture has also recently established a quarantine to prevent the disease from spreading to other islands while research attempting to find a treatment against the wilt continues.

<http://www.oahuisc.org/sick-ohia-trees-how-to-report-suspected-ohia-wiltrapid-ohia-death/>

What your legislators are doing to help solve the issue?

For the 2016 Legislative session, the entire Hawai‘i Island delegation of the House of Representatives has sponsored HB1597. HB1597 funds and directs the Department of Agriculture to research and report on causes and possible control measures for rapid ‘ōhi‘a death.

http://capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1597&year=2016

<http://hawaiiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/legislators-target-rapid-ohia-death>



Joint Town hall Meeting with Senator Ruderman on February 29, 2016



DoH and Civil Defense were present to give an overview on the status of Dengue Fever



Senator Ruderman (left) and Representative San Buenaventura (right) speaking to the crowd



Pictured above with Representative San Buenaventura and Senator Ruderman are students, teachers, and Principal Cevallos from Kea'au High School and volunteers who were honored and given certificates for restoring a one-of-a-kind space shuttle replica.

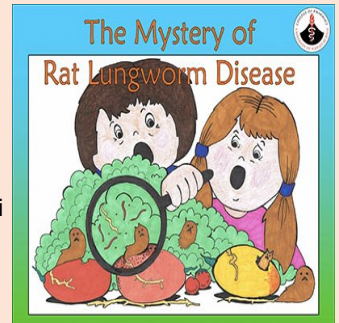
The Pahoa Music & Art Walk will be taking place again on **Saturday, March 12** which will feature local artists, live music, and lots of fun. The event will take place from 5 PM–10 PM at the Main Government Road in Pahoa. For more information, please contact secondsaturday@loveternal.org, call (808) 315-8984, or visit the link here:

<http://akamaievents.com/component/ohanah/pahoa-art-walk-2?Itemid=0>



What is rat lungworm?:

Angiostrongyliasis, also known as rat lungworm, is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. It is caused by a roundworm parasite. The adult form of this parasite is only found in rodents. However, infected rodents can pass larvae of the worm in their feces. Snails, slugs, and certain other animals (including freshwater shrimp, land crabs, and frogs) can become infected by ingesting this larvae. Humans (even dogs and horses) can become infected if they eat a raw or undercooked infected host. Of the 42 cases reported to Hawaii State Department of Health since 2007, 91% have been on Hawai'i Island. Most are in Puna.



Symptoms:

Some infected people don't have any symptoms or only have mild symptoms; in some, the symptoms can be much more severe. Symptoms include severe headache, stiffness of the neck and back, skin tingling and sensitivity, sensitivity to light, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting. The symptoms usually start 1 to 3 weeks after exposure to the parasite. The symptoms usually last between 2–8 weeks. There have been cases that have resulted in long-term disability and even death. People can become infected by eating raw produce that contains a small infected snail or slug, or part of one. It is not known for certain whether the slime left by infected snails and slugs are able to cause infection. Angiostrongyliasis is not spread person-to-person.

There is no specific treatment for the disease. The parasites cannot mature or reproduce in humans and will die eventually. Supportive treatment and pain medications can be given to relieve the symptoms.

For more information call the Hawai'i District Health Office Disease Investigations office: 808-933-0912 or visit these websites:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/angiostrongylus/>
- <https://snailbusters.wordpress.com/2009/01/19/rat-lungworm/>

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; and
- Boil snails, freshwater prawns, crabs, and frogs for AT LEAST 3-5 minutes.



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.

On **Thursday, March 17** in Hilo, there will be a purpose workshop held at the Aupuni Center Conference Room for those who need help in finding their life's purpose. By finding your purpose in life, you reduce stress and maintain your health.

For more information and to RSVP for the event, visit this link: <http://bluezonesproject.hs-sites.com/hawaii/ehcommunityupdatenewyear2016>

On **Wednesday, March 23** at the UH Komohana Research Extension Center 2nd Floor Conference Room in Hilo, Chef Malu from Abundant Life will give a free Blue Zones Project healthy cooking class.

To register or more information, email bluezonesprojecteasthawaii@healthways.com, call (808) 227-8792, or click the link here: http://info.bluezonesproject.com/ehcookingmarch2016?utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fbluezonesproject.hs-sites.com%2Fhawaii%2Fehcommunityupdatefeb2016



Families are encouraged to apply for the Department of Human Services Preschool Open Doors (POD) program. Applications are currently available and must be received **by March 31, 2016**. All applications received throughout this time will be reviewed and considered for the July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 program period. This program helps to provide child care subsidies for eligible low and moderate income families to pay preschool tuition.

To learn more about this program and instructions on how to apply please visit:

www.patchhawaii.org/families/paying/preschool

From time to time, I have asked your testimony on bills introduced this session. This is the status of my bills that have survived committee hearings.

If you need help or a 'refresher' on how to submit testimony, click here <http://lrbhawaii.org/par/pub/egtest.pdf> to learn about "Written Testimony: The Bare Basics". If you have any other concerns, comments, ideas, or questions, please feel free to contact my office.

2016 Bills Introduced



<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Bill</u>
HB 370, HD1	Gives the Insurance Commissioner discretion to require issuance of residential property insurance with no waiting period on insurance policies in a lava zone. The bill has passed Consumer Protection & Commerce and has been referred to Finance.
HB 375, HD1	This increases the safety net of assets for working debtors by exempting a minimum of assets from creditors. Amends the threshold amount for the exemption of real property from attachment or execution and exempts a debtor who is not delinquent in income taxes, real property taxes, or mortgages. Exempts child support, EITC refunds, and child support tax credit.
HB 1559, HD1	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. The bill has passed Judiciary Committee and has been referred to Finance.
HB 1561	Authorizes civil lawsuits from neighbors and homeowners associations to evict squatters by amending the nuisance abatement laws. The bill has passed Judiciary Committee.
HB 1794	Since 2008, Hawaii Island has not had a county arborist committee because landscape architect is required. This bill makes it eligible for membership to be other qualified positions such as certified arborists. The bill has passed Energy & Environmental Protection Committee and has been referred to Judiciary.
HB 2434, HD1	Appropriates funds to establish and staff and advanced life support medic unit in Puna. The bill has passed Health Committee and has been referred to Finance.
HB 2523, HD2	This bill will help establish default rules for homeowners, community, and condominium associations to allow the solar energy devices to be placed on single-family homes and townhouse units. The bill has passed Energy & Environmental Protection and has been referred to Finance.
HB 2688	Provides funds to help improve District 4. For example, Pahoa Elementary covered walkways and helps to provide a new alternate route for Highway 130.
HB 1745	With the current outbreak of Dengue Fever on Hawai'i Island, I co-introduced this bill to help reestablish the vector control branch of the Department of Health (DOH). Since 2009, DOH has reduced vector control whose duty is to control the spread of insects and animals that potentially carry diseases. The bill has passed Health Committee and has been referred to Finance.

Are you or someone you know dealing with Alzheimer's? Are you or someone you know looking for a support group? If so, the Alzheimer's Association has the following support groups:

alzheimer's association®

Support Group for Caregivers

Second Tuesday, 10am, Church of the Holy Cross
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo

Second Wednesday, 5pm, ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center), 1055 Kino'ole Street, Hilo

Third Thursday, 9am, Hawaii Island Adult Care (Free Respite during group), 34 Rainbow Drive, Hilo

Support Group for Forgetful Individuals

Second Wednesday, 5pm, ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center), 1055 Kino'ole Street, Hilo

Supported in part by the Remembering Doc Buyers Fund

Questions:
Chris Ridley 443-7360

Looking for something different to keep your kids amused during spring break? On **Wednesday, March 23** from **10 AM to 12 PM**, visit the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park at Crater Rim Drive to try your hand at various Hawaiian games. These Hawaiian games will be taught and demonstrated by the Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association for you and your family to enjoy.




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

Please FOLLOW my Twitter and Instagram!

<https://twitter.com/repjoydistrict4>

<https://www.instagram.com/repjoysanbuenaventura/>

Be sure to LIKE my page!

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

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Visit Joy's capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:
<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2015>

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.

