

District 4 Puna

2015 Legislative Session Newsletter

End of Session

Issue: IV



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District 4, Puna

Vice Chair Judiciary

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Transportation
Labor & Public Employment
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Aloha,

The 2015 legislative session ended with Puna getting most of what we needed. The Hawaii Property Insurance Association (HPIA) moratorium is lifted and property insurance should now be available in lava zones 1&2.

The mauka shoulder conversion of Hwy 130 from Kea`au High School to Shower Drive has relieved traffic; and we received commitment for more monies to further improve Hwy 130.

Our children will now be able to return to Keonepoko or Pahoia High School. Although the Puna bookmobile request passed the House, it did not get pass the Senate but the Pahoia library should soon be on its way.

15 years after it has been legalized, medical marijuana may be purchased by patients as early as November 1, 2016; and patients retain the right to grow their own. Tweaks on the law need to continue to be done but at least we are on our way. A "Lawmakers Listen" forum of the House leaders will be scheduled in Puna before the next session so you will be able to comment directly to our leaders.



Legislative Accomplishments!

LAVA Insurance Bill

Introduced bill requiring mandatory renewal of policies. Confirmed with HPIA and Ins. Commissioner that despite language of bill that passed, that HPIA insurance will be available for those who have faithfully paid their property insurance and whose homes are insurable.

Chief Election Officer Bill

Requires a performance evaluation after every general election and public hearing before reappointment.

Highway 130

- * Expedited mauka shoulder conversion to relieve Pahoia bound afterwork/school traffic.
- * Acquired \$15 million for alternate route &/or repair of feeder roads.
- * \$450,000 for land acquisition to expand Highway 130 to 4 lanes.

FEMA: Worked with FEMA to ensure reimbursement of \$6-7 million to those who applied. Payment to begin May.



IMPORTANT: 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.

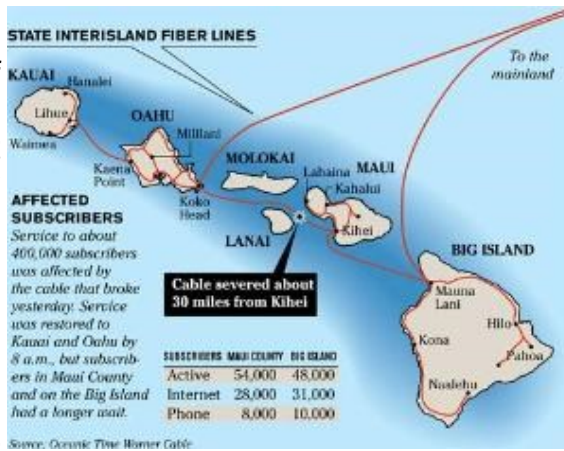
SB892 SD2 HD3 CD1: HAWAII RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY; APPROPRIATION

Finally, the legislature realizes that Hawai'i needs a new way of thinking about how the State addresses critical infrastructure needs through the development of public-private partnerships that are specifically focused on research and development.

Funds have been appropriated so that Hawai'i can become resilient in the areas of broadband, first responders, technology

energy efficiency and smart grid, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Most of Hawai'i is dependent on a few underwater fiber broadband internet cables for affordable broadband internet.



for telemedicine and higher education in rural communities, like Puna.

SB589 SD2 HD2 - Hawaii Property Insurance Association (HPIA); Policies; Lava Zone; State of Emergency; Moratorium

Removes HPIA's moratorium on property insurance for properties in lava zones 1 & 2. Requires the HPIA to offer new policies.

SB791 SD1 HD2 CD1 - Autism; Mandatory Health Coverage Requires insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of autism.

HB321 HD1 SD2 CD1 - Medical Marijuana Dispensaries; For the first time since medical marijuana was legalized 15 years ago, a licensing system for medical marijuana dispensaries is created. A certifying physician need not be the qualifying patient's primary care physician but it still requires a bona fide physician-patient relationship with the qualifying patient. This bill still allows a patient to grow their own medical marijuana. However, this bill allows persons authorized to use and possess medical marijuana in other states to be treated similarly to qualifying patients in this State pursuant to rules adopted by the department of health after 1/1/2018. This bill further authorizes the department of health to conduct criminal history checks on license applicants, licensees, prospective employees of dispensaries and production centers, subcontractors, and persons authorized to enter and remain on such premises.



Conference Member: At conference committee for HB321, Medical Marijuana Dispensaries. (I was 1 of 5 house committee members)

Capitol Improvement Projects (CIP)

Capital Improvement Projects are necessary because

- \$2,300,000 for plans, construction, equipment for laptop Enables WIFI signal to classrooms for students' daily use.
- \$50,000.00 for feasibility and cost study of constructing a
- \$15,000,000 for the construction of an alternate road to

Bills Passed This Session

SB717 SD2 HD1 CD1 - Ethanol; Motor Vehicles; Energy Efficiency Repeals the requirement that gasoline sold in the State include 10% ethanol. It has been discovered that this requirement of blending ethanol into Hawaii's gasoline does not produce any economic benefit for the State; rather, an economic burden is placed on the state's residents for the importing of ethanol.

HB1343 HD1 SD1 CD1 - Business Recovery Center Creates a business recovery center within Dept of Defense.

SB1211 SD1 HD1 CD1 - Major Disaster Fund; Expenditure Ceiling Due to the wide range of natural and man-made hazards, which may result in emergencies or disasters that: threaten the life, health, and safety of its people; damage and destroy property; disrupt everyday services, business, and recreational activities; and impede economic development. This act increases the expenditure ceiling on Major Disaster Fund moneys. Appropriates funds for deposit into the Major Disaster Fund.



If you call my office, you will be speaking to my office manager, Blyth, who like myself, is a transplant from the Big Island.



Vocational Industrial Club of Hawaii Students from the Vocational Industrial Club of Hawaii at Pahoa High School were on Oahu for the auto service competition with SKILLS USA.



PAHOA HIGH SCHOOL DAGGERS, 2015 BIIF Division II champions visiting the State Capitol while they were on Oahu for the state championship.

...e that is money spent in the community

...computers and installation of cabling for Pahoa High and Intermediate schools and Mountain View public schools.

...a small commercial airport in South Puna.

...Highway 130 and \$450,000 for purchase of land to expand Highway 130 to 4 lanes.



Representative Joy San Buenaventura

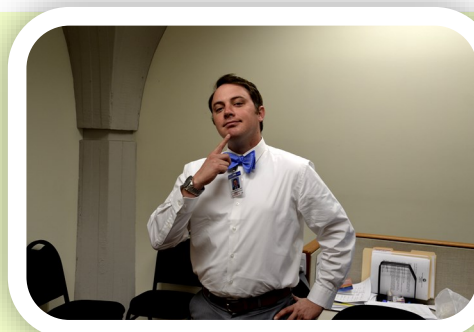
House of Representatives

State of Hawaii

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Mahalo to my session staff:



For those who've called my office and wanted information on how to testify or check on the status of a bill you may have been fortunate to talk with my committee clerk, Christopher Stump, or "Mr. Bowtie Wednesday".

As committee clerk, Chris attended the hearings and reviewed the bills that were heard in the judiciary committee.

In the fall, Chris will be attending Michigan State University College of Law . Good luck Chris, we wish you all the best.

My Legislative Aide, James Logue, was normally the first person you spoke to when you called my office. James was responsible for addressing all constituent concerns and he worked with the appropriate departments to find answers to your questions.

James started a new job as a legal clerk in a law firm.



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