

TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

2019 Legislative Session



REPRESENTATIVE

KYLE YAMASHITA

Aloha Neighbors,

The 30th Legislature is in progress. This year, House members introduced a total of 1,597 bills.

We have 10 new members in the House and while some committees have remained the same, some are now under new leadership.

I continue to serve as a member on the Economic Development & Business (EDB) and the Labor & Public Employment (LAB) committees. As a member of the Finance (FIN) committee, I am responsible for the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget.

Currently, the bills are transitioning between the House and the Senate. Some of the bills of interest are on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. We encourage you to follow bills on the House website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov to utilize our multiple tracking tools.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve the 12th district. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have comments or concerns.

Warm Regards,

Please assist us in our initiative to 'GO GREEN,' and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email.

Call(808) 586-6330 or email.

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HAWAII 3R'S- Repair, Remodel, and Restore

HB1465 HD2 DOE; Hawaii 3Rs School Improvement Fund; Public Schools; Repair; Maintenance; Appropriation

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to be used by the Department of Education (DOE) for the repair and maintenance of public school buildings, grounds, and facilities in the State.

The Hawaii 3Rs is a private nonprofit started by the late U.S. Senator Dan Inouye in 2001. The underlying concept behind Hawaii 3Rs is to benefit schools by reducing the backlog of smaller repairs by combining community volunteerism with professional expertise paid from grant dollars.

Over the years, it is estimated about 500 projects were completed at a savings of about \$40 million to the state.

Funding for 3Rs comes from private donations and a \$2 check off from tax refunds (line 43a, Hawaii Schools Repairs and Maintenance fund).

Lack of Federal funding in recent years has caused the program to downsize the number of projects undertaken annually. In light of DOE's backlog now in excess of \$800 million, the Hawaii 3Rs would like to scale up the program again.



Kula Elementary School Principal Chris Bachaus, showing us the progress of the Kula School Agricultural Science Program



Looking at plans to design a new classroom building with Senator Keith-Agaran at Paia Elementary School

Community Input on Road Usage on Maui

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) will hold community meetings on Maui to get public feedback on the concept of a road usage charge (RUC) to fund upkeep of roadways and bridges on the following dates:

- 3/25/19 from 5:30—7:30 p.m. at Lahaina Intermediate School Cafeteria, Lahaina
- 3/26/19 from 5:30 —7:30 p.m. at Baldwin High School, Wailuku
- 3/27/19 from 5:30—7:30 p.m. at Paia Community Center, Paia

AGRICULTURE:**HB131 HD2 Industrial Hemp; Marijuana; State Plan; Regulating and Monitoring.**

Aligns state law with recent changes to federal law by clarifying that industrial hemp is not marijuana, allowing licensees under the Industrial Hemp Pilot Project to utilize hemp genetics from any source, and authorizing the Department of Agriculture to monitor and regulate hemp production.

HB1503 HD2 Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project; County of Hawaii.

Addresses the threat of agricultural theft and vandalism against farmers, ranchers, and other individuals who produce food or other crops for personal or small-scale use by establishing and funding a two-year Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project.

HB201 HD1 Invasive Species.

Gives the State, county agencies, and their authorized agents the authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species.



Agriculture Day at the State Capitol

HOUSING:**HB477 HD1 Housing; Affordable Homeownership; Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).**

Establishes a Homeownership Housing Revolving Fund to provide loans for the development of affordable for sale housing projects by nonprofit community development financial institutions and nonprofit housing development organizations under a self-help housing program to facilitate greater homeownership opportunities for Hawaii residents.

HB543 HD1 Affordable Housing; Front Street Apartments; Acquisition; Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC); Appropriation.

Requires HHFDC to initiate negotiations or exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the Front Street Apartments on Maui.

Allows HHFDC to partner with private for-profit and non-profit developers for the acquisition and establishes affordability requirements while extending the time for completion of the Leialii affordable housing projects on Maui.

HEALTH:**HB551 DOH; UH; Cesspool Conversion Working Group; Statewide Study of Sewage Contamination in Near-shore Marine Areas; Appropriations; Extension.**

Extends lapse date for funds appropriated to the University of Hawaii to conduct a comprehensive statewide study of sewage contamination nearshore marine areas. Extends lapse date for funds appropriated to the Department of Health to conduct research or gather technical assistance.

HB1170 HD2 Environmental Protection; Department of Health; Pilot Project.

Establishes and funds a pilot project to demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment technologies and to expedite demonstration projects.

HB1272 HD1 Pharmacies; Prescription Drugs; Return for Disposal.

Authorizes pharmacies to accept the return of any prescription drug for disposal via collection receptacles or mail-back programs; prohibits pharmacies from dispensing returned prescription drugs or from accepting returned prescription drugs in exchange for cash or credit; requires the pharmacist-in-charge to ensure that only authorized reverse distributors acquire prescription drugs collected via collection receptacles or mail-back programs.



Meeting with housing stakeholders, Maui County, and Legislators



Opening day at the Hawaii State Capitol on January 16, 2019 for the thirtieth legislature.

ELECTIONS:

HB428 HD1 Elections; Ballot Questions; Mandatory Re-count of Votes.

Requires an automatic recount of election votes when the difference between the two candidates with the two highest vote totals, or the difference between the affirmative and negative responses to a ballot question, is equal to or less than 100 votes or 0.5 percent of the total number of votes cast for the prevailing candidate or ballot question, as applicable.

HB1248 HD1 Elections by Mail; Appropriation.

Establishes a process to conduct all elections in the State, beginning with the 2020 primary election, by mail. Establishes procedures for ballot distribution, return, counting, and electronic transmission in limited circumstances. Establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots, voting machines for persons with disabilities, and other voter services.

KUPUNA CARE:

HB1193 Expenses for Household and Dependent Care Services Necessary for Gainful Employment; Income Tax Credit.

Offsets the high costs of caring for dependents by changing the percentage of employment-related expenses that constitutes the tax credit for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment

HB582 HD2 Caregivers Omnibus Bill; Inspections; Licenses; Task Force.

Establishes and amends provisions relating to the care of the elderly and disabled in state-licensed care facilities. Standardizes licensing and inspection of requirements and establishes a licensing fee schedule for all facilities. Establishes a task force to examine issues relating to caregiver and case manager compensation.

FAMILY NEEDS:

HB1343 HD1 Family Leave; Grandchildren; Child Care.

Extends Hawaii's Family Leave Law to allow an employee to take protected leave to care for grandchildren with a serious health condition.

KEIKI AND EDUCATION:

HB1267 HD1 Pilot Program; Best Practices; Department of Education.

Supports public education in Hawaii by requiring the Department of Education to establish and implement a four-year program within one complex area that implements best practices for collaborative planning, expanded student learning time, instructional collaboration, and project-based learning to improve schools.

HB921 HD2 Early Education.

Establishes an Executive Officer on Early Learning to oversee state-funded early learning programs, except for special education and Title I-funded pre-kindergarten programs.

HB413 HD2 Education Innovation Grants Program; Special Fund.

Supports school-level innovations reflecting visionary and aspirational education practices in public education by establishing an Education Innovation Grants Program and corresponding special fund. Authorizes the Board of Education to adopt guiding principles and measures of success for purposes of grant awards and to administer the grant program while enabling the Department of Education to solicit grant proposals and award competitive grants to schools or programs.



Representative Yamashita and Senator Keith-Agaran viewing the project development of the covered play court at Makawao Elementary School.

Representative Kyle Yamashita

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Please assist us in our initiative to inform you on events. Send us your email address to receive date alerts by email.
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Capital Improvement Project Released Funds

Project Name	Description	Amount Released
Makawao Elementary School, Covered Playcourt, Maui	To provide a covered play court at Makawao Elementary School	\$600,000
Maui High School, Weight Training and Wrestling Facilities, Maui	To provide weight training and wrestling facilities improvements at Maui High School	\$354,000
Benefit Cost Analysis for Master Plan, Kahului Airport, Maui	To finance planning for the benefit cost analysis of the Master Plan at Kahului Airport, Maui	\$175,000
Hana Highway, Replacement and Rehabilitation of Various Bridges, Maui	For additional design for the replacement and rehabilitation of various bridges along Hana Highway on Maui	\$500,000
Hawaiian Home Lands Lot Development, Molokai	Release of funds for improvements to roadway access, and provide water and electrical service at the Naiwa Subdivision on Molokai	\$1,500,000
Runway 5-23 Repaving, Kalaupapa Airport, Molokai	Design for repaving Runway 5-23 at Kalaupapa Airport, Molokai	\$205,000
Upcountry Maui Agricultural Park, Maui	To finance the development and expansion of the Kula Agricultural Park in Upcountry Maui	\$5,000,000