



TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

March Legislative Update 2022

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Aloha Neighbors,

The 2022 legislative session is moving swiftly and efficiently. The budget bill crossed over to the Senate as did the House bills. We will be hearing Senate bills and our Senate counterpart will be hearing House bills.

This newsletter features some bills of interest. If there are issues and bills you would like to follow throughout the legislative session, please go to our website www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve our community. If you have any questions during the session, my staff stands ready to assist you (808) 586-6330 or my e-mail is repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov.

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

Email: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov



2022 Legislature

The 2022 Hawaii State legislative session is underway and the House of Representatives is optimistic on this session resulting in a better Hawaii.



Rep. Kyle Yamashita with the Maui delegation on opening day

On February 14, 2022, Representative Yamashita was appointed to Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. This assignment provides a greater means of representing the constituents of the 12th district.





Maui Visit with Finance Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

2022 Session Bill Highlights

Selection of bills introduced by Representative Yamashita

Education

HB1699—Department of Education; R.E.A.C.H. Program; Appropriation

Appropriates funds for the DOE’s resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health program to match federal dollars received for the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

HB1731—University of Hawaii Promise Program; Scholarships

Provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria.

HB 2277— Relating to Education

Appropriates funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport.

HB 2284 — Relating to Equitable Distribution of Grow Our Own Resources for Hawaiian Immersion Teachers

Establishes a stipend program for students enrolled in a teacher education program at UH and agree to teach in a public school system for five years. Gives preference to teachers who choose to teach in a Hawaiian immersion school.

Kupuna Caucus

HB1698— Our Care, Our Choice Act; Advance Practice Registered Nurses; Mandatory Waiting Period

Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to practice medical aid in dying in accordance with their scope of practice and prescribing authority. Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses with psychiatric or clinical nurse specializations and physician assistants to provide counseling to a qualified patient. Waives the mandatory waiting period for qualified patients not expected to survive the mandatory waiting period.

Health Care

HB1547—Medical School and Residency Training

Appropriates funds to expand graduate medical education programs on the neighbor islands.

HB1635—Rural Health Task Force; Nurse Recruitment and Retention

Establishes the rural health task force within the Department of Health to prepare and develop solutions and make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

HB 1945—Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service pilot that provides training and other services.

Environment

HB 1668—Office of Planning and Sustainable Development Soil Classification Study

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to conduct a study of the suitability of the State’s current soil over (master) productivity rating system.

HB 1769— Rapid Ohia Death

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to study and combat rapid ohia death in the state.

HB 1657—Pasture Lease Withdrawals

Requires any valid withdrawal of lands out of pasture leases for reforestation purposes that the Division of Forestry and Wildlife submit a funded action plan detailing the planned reforestation process for those lands.

Maui County
CIP Highlights Released by Governor David Ige December 2021

District wide CIP	Description	Amt. Released	Est. Completion
Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui	Construction of a new Paukukalo clubhouse facility in Wailuku.	\$850,000	June 2023
Hale Makua Health Services	For design for an expansion of the Kahului Camps.	\$200,000	November 2022
Highway Facilities on Maui	Design and construction for traffic operational improvements to existing intersections and highway facilities on Maui.	\$1,600,000	Various
Watershed Protection	New watershed protection and ungulate fence units to exclude axis deer from priority areas on Maui.	\$2,800,000	June 2024

District Updates

King Kekaulike High Fire Alarm Replacement

ELCCO Inc. has been awarded the contract for removal of the existing fire alarm system and installation of a new fire alarm system consisting of new fire alarm panels, devices, wiring, power, fiber optic cabling, conduits and coordination of the 24/7 fire alarm monitoring.

Axis Deer Management

The legislature is addressing the imbalance of feral animals in the State and the devastating impact on the environment, agriculture, and communities. Axis deer are creating problems in our Upcountry community. The legislature is being proactive in developing long and short-term measures to address this issue. Two bills being discussed this session are:

H.B. 1721—Requiring the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management.

S.B. 3179—Directs the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to establish a herd management program to manage axis deer populations on Maui.

Federal Assistance for Storm Recovery Efforts

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. granted the State of Hawai'i's request for a major disaster declaration following December's severe storms on O'ahu and Maui, and ordered federal assistance to supplement state and local recovery efforts in areas impacted by the storm and the resulting flooding and landslides between Dec. 5 and Dec. 10, 2021.

The declaration triggers the release of federal funds for:

- Assistance with emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster damaged facilities.
- Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

The state also secured low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for resident and business owners on O'ahu and Maui who were impacted by the severe storms. For more information and to download an application, go to <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>.

Representative Kyle Yamashita

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Prince Jonah Kuhio
Kalaniana'ole Day**

March 26, 2022

**Upcountry Farmers
Market**

Every Saturday!
7:00 am—11 am
55 Kiopaa St.

**Household Hazardous
Waste Collection**

Mauicounty.gov/recycle
March 27, 2022

