

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG
East Honolulu Community Newsletter

June 2019



Aloha Friends,

The 2019 legislative session has now concluded, and although we have made much progress on issues that will help our community, the Legislature has also failed to act on many important issues.

I was proud to oppose **SB 1292**, which allowed taxation of vacation rentals without sufficient enforcement language to punish those illegally renting properties to short-term vacationers. The passage this year of **HB 807**, which makes lying to state and county inspectors a misdemeanor, does enhance enforcement of existing laws on short-term rentals and many other building issues.

Our major initiative to solve Hawaii's affordable housing shortage, **ALOHA Homes**, was not adopted, but the Legislature passed funding for a study of the concept and a plan—including recommended legislation—to implement this program. I will lead a delegation of state and county officials and community stakeholders to **Singapore** and **Hong Kong** in May to further research the public housing policies of these cities. We also passed **SB 9**, which starts a program to reimburse landlords for damage by Section 8 tenants above their security deposits, which will enable low income Section 8 recipients to find housing more easily.

This year, our district received funding as well for several **Capital Improvement Projects** of state facilities in our district. In our district Hahaione School received \$270,000 for a design for architectural barrier removal. Waikīkī Elementary School received \$180,000 for the Americans with Disabilities Act transition. Kalani High School will also receive \$2,990,000 for a rubberized track and installation of field turf.

Serving you in the State Senate is a great privilege, and I welcome your feedback on our work this session and priorities for next year. Please contact me anytime. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stanley Chang'.

Senator Stanley Chang

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► **HANDY CONTACTS**

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City Pothole Hotline
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State Homelessness
gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
808-586-0193

City Homelessness
complaints@honolulu.gov
808-768-4381

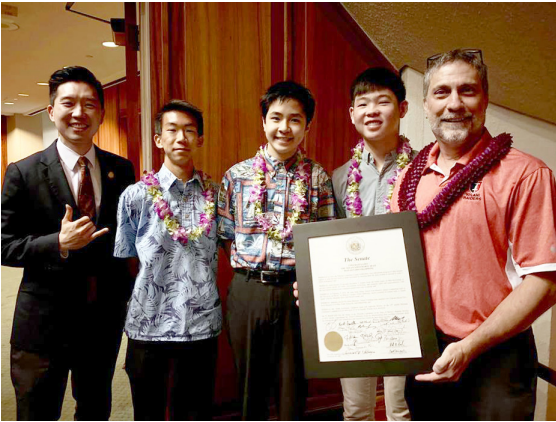
Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permits
808-768-8000

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

IN THE COMMUNITY



'IOLANI SCHOOL

March 25, 2019 ◀ The Senate honored 'Iolani School, which won the state championship of the LifeSmarts Competition. LifeSmarts is a competition covering consumer knowledge, including personal finance.



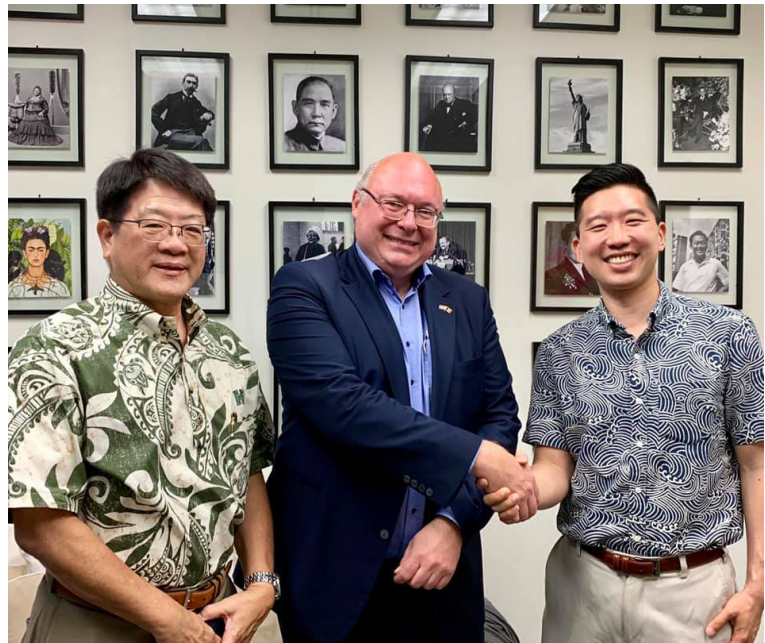
GOVERNOR ARIYOSHI

April 29, 2019 ◀ Governor Ariyoshi received the Aloha Order of Merit, Hawai'i's highest award, in a special joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives.



ALLEGIANCE

April 5, 2019 ▲ Senator Chang attended a performance of Allegiance, a musical about the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, and viewed exhibits on the historical internment at Hawai'i Theater.



BELGIUM'S CONSUL-GENERAL

May 8, 2019 ◀ Senator Chang met with Belgium's Consul-General in Los Angeles, Henri Vantieghe, and Honorary Consul in Honolulu, Jeff Lau.

IMPORTANT BILLS FOR THE SESSION

HB 820 ALOHA HOMES STUDY

Requires the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to study and formulate a plan to implement an ALOHA Homes program to provide **low-cost, high-density** leasehold homes for sale to Hawai'i residents on state-owned lands within a one-half mile radius of a public transit station.

SB 9 SECTION 8 HOUSING PROPERTY DAMAGE

Requires the Hawai'i public housing authority to adopt rules to reimburse Section 8 landlords for repair costs of **tenant-caused property damage**, encouraging landlords to rent their properties to low income tenants.

HB 711 ABOLISH "GAY PANIC" DEFENSE

Amends the affirmative defense of extreme mental or emotional disturbance to murder or attempted murder by **prohibiting explanations** based solely on the defendant's discovery, defendant's knowledge, or the disclosure of the victim's gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

HB 807 LYING TO BUILDING INSPECTORS

Makes lying to state or county inspectors a **criminal offense** (misdemeanor). Adds teeth to state and county enforcement of building laws on **short-term vacation rentals, monster homes**, and other issues.

SR 45 PUBLIC WATER UTILITIES

Requesting public water utilities to consider the **disruption of traffic and transportation** as a criterion in planning future maintenance.

HB 257 OHANA ZONES

Authorizes the use of private lands for the **Ohana Zones Pilot Program**. Provides additional time for the implementation of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2023. Extends the **Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program** and the **Medical Respite Pilot Program** to June 30, 2020.

HB 1312 RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING FUND

Authorizes the issuance of **\$50 million** in general obligation bonds to be appropriated into and out of the rental housing revolving fund to finance housing for low-income persons.

SCR 38 FOOD WASTE

Urging restaurants to **donate any leftover food** to homeless shelters at the end of the business day and urging the Department of Health to develop and disseminate temperature controlled for safety **food donation guidelines**.

SB 522 PLASTIC SOURCE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

Creates the **plastic source reduction working group** to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover plastic waste.

SB 409 ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Establishes an **annual vehicle registration surcharge fee** for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles to be deposited into the **State Highway Fund**.

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IMPORTANT BILLS FOR THE SESSION

SB 1442 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider the value of **improving electric power systems** data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions. Establishes **Guiding Principles**.

SB 661 FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Grants **procurement priority** for fuel cell electric vehicles for state and county vehicle purchases. Includes fuel cell electric vehicles in the definition of “electric vehicles” for purposes of **parking fee exemption**, high occupancy vehicle **lane use**, **registration**, and required **parking spaces** in places of public accommodation.

HB 1585 ELECTRIC VEHICLES CHARGING SYSTEMS

Establishes a **rebate program** for installation of eligible new or upgraded **multi-user electric vehicle charging systems**. Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to contract for third-party administration of the rebate program.

SB 471 HOMELESSNESS

Appropriates funds for **core homelessness services**, including the outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, stored property and debris removal services, and the state rent supplemental program.



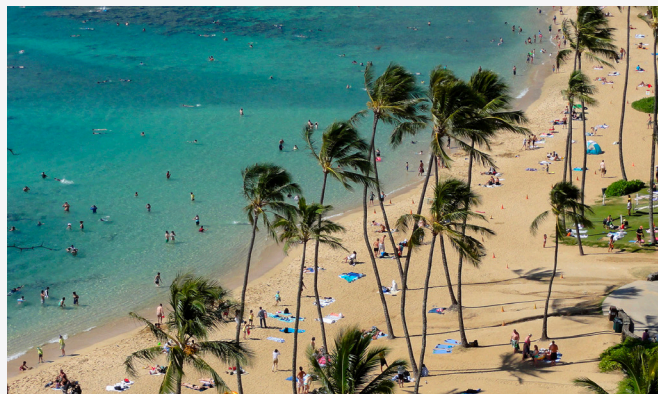
Finally, from last year’s session...

SB 2571 REEF-SAFE SUNSCREEN

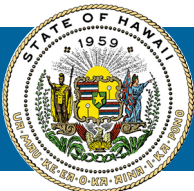
Bans the sale, offer of sale, or distribution in the State of any sunscreen that contains oxybenzone or octinoxate, or both, without a prescription issued by a licensed healthcare provider, to preserve marine ecosystems.

Beginning January 1, 2021.

You may have already seen this shift mentioned at retailers around town. Mahalo nui to everyone who helps us make *sea change* possible!



Source: Wikipedia



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SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

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