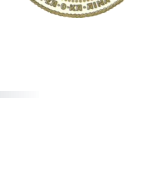


SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

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WAILUKU • WAIHĒE • KAHULUI



A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kakou,

The 2015 legislative session is nearing the midway point. Of the 3,000 bills introduced, the remaining measures are now being considered in their final committees before the crossover deadline. The bills remaining have survived the gauntlet of public hearings and testimony from private-sector stakeholders and government agencies. As chair of the Judiciary and Labor committee, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro and our fellow committee members have considered approximately a third of all the bills introduced in the Senate.

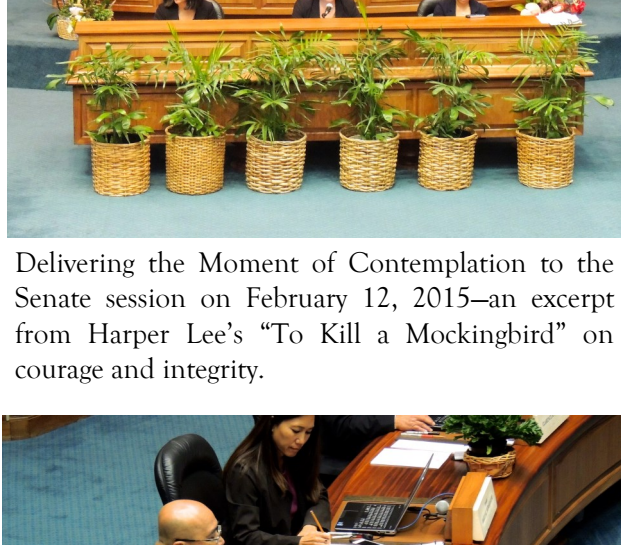
By the start of next month, perhaps two hundred Senate bills that passed through all their assigned committees will cross over to the House and the House bills will cross over to the Senate. The legislature process of hearings and amendments will then be repeated by each chamber.

The legislature will now focus closer attention to fashioning a balanced state budget. As always, I welcome your ideas about how our work at the Capitol affects your life on the Valley Isle. Mahalo for your continued support.

Aloha,

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Judiciary and Labor Committee
- Maui Visitors at the Capitol
- Senate Bill Update
- Make Yourself Heard!



Delivering the Moment of Contemplation to the Senate session on February 12, 2015—an excerpt from Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" on courage and integrity.



Attending Senate floor session alongside my colleague Senator Maile Shimabukuro.

JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE

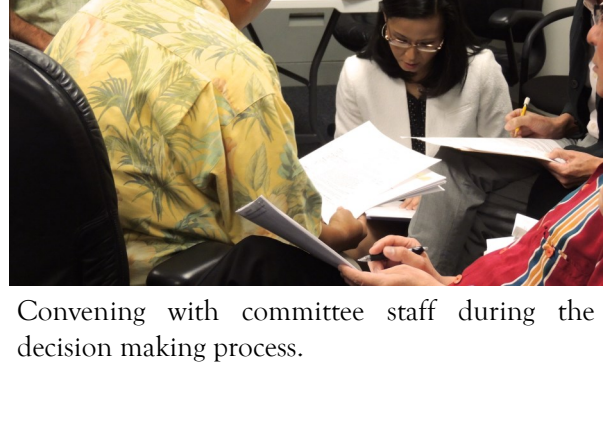


The Judiciary and Labor Committee hearing testimony on a bill (left to right): Senator Sam Slom, Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Senator Laura Thielen, and Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Not pictured: Senator Mike Gabbard.



Chairing the Judiciary and Labor committee alongside Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro.

The Judiciary and Labor committee considers bills on courts, crime and punishment, including juvenile justice, campaign spending and elections, constitutional matters, individual rights and civil liberties, also unemployment and workforce training, labor management relations, collective bargaining, the state employee's retirement system, and the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.



Convening with committee staff during the decision making process.

This session has been incredibly busy with daily hearings and committee meetings, not to mention the hours of preparation that goes into each hearing. Although the committee process can sometimes be arduous, it is a rewarding experience to hear take your community concerns into consideration.

MAUI VISITORS AT THE CAPITOL

KA IPU KUKUI FELLOWS



The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows of Maui, front row (left to right): Amy Hodges, Kathleen Hagan, Kit Zulueta, Lehia Apana, Senator J. Kalani English, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Johanna Valente, Arianna Feinberg, and Nikki Schroeder. Back row: Richard Carr, Sean Walsh, Marc Takamori, Lauren Campbell, and Irina Constantinescu.

The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program is a community-based program designed for future leaders to address technological, economical and developmental ideas and challenges facing the future of Maui.

Delegates from Maui joined Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator J. Kalani English, Representative Angus McKelvey, Representative Kaniela Ing, Representative Justin Woodson and myself on February 18 for a lunch hour talk story in the Lieutenant Governor's office.

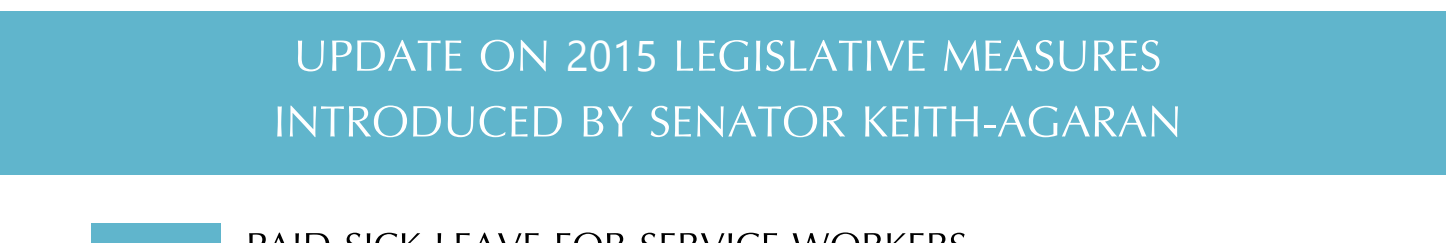
We discussed current Maui issues and projects, such as the status of the Kihei High School Project, University of Hawaii spending management and autonomy and buffer zones for pesticide spraying.



Discussing the legislative process over lunch with Senator J. Kalani English.



Senator Rosalyn Baker speaking with a Ku Ipu Kukui Fellows delegate.



Addressing the group with my fellow Maui legislators, Senator J. Kalani English, Representative Angus McKelvey, Representative Kaniela Ing, and Representative Justin Woodson.

UPDATE ON 2015 LEGISLATIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KEITH-AGARAN

- SB129 PAID SICK LEAVE FOR SERVICE WORKERS**
Ensures that service workers are provided sick leave and outlines the purposes and conditions for both service employees and their employers, including exemptions for employers already providing leave policies.
→ Passed by all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House
- SB142 WAILUKU STATE OFFICE MASTER PLAN**
Requires the department of accounting and general services to develop a Wailuku state office master plan, addressing the shortage of space.
→ Currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for inclusion in the state budget
- SB364 RECOUNT ELECTIONS**
Establishes safeguards and procedures for recounting ballots in an election and outlines that election results may be challenged by unlawful activity.
→ Passed by all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House
- SB226 ABUSE OF A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER**
Requires the preparation of timely studies to determine the safe removal or retirement of a dam or reservoir when requested by the land owner or association.
→ Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House
- SB150 AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION**
Any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or for a civil identification card will be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote.
→ Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House
- SB131 MANDATORY LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS**
Establishes labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the state that contains or was produced with genetically engineered material.
→ Currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
- SB224 TAXATION AND FARMING**
Offers tax exemptions and assistance to family farms and the farming community to encourage and support small diversified farming businesses.
→ Currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for inclusion in the state budget
- SB230 CRIME VICTIM RESTITUTION**
Outlines reimbursements to crime victims to include lost wages, mental health treatment including counseling and therapy.
→ Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House
- SB643 CHILD VISITATION**
Ensures that in cases concerning child custody, visitation rights of grandparents are acknowledged and protected.
→ Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The state legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov is the place to start. There you can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. When you register for an account using your e-mail address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing, and you can electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at www.lrbhawaii.org/par/ or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

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