

MAY 2026

2026 Legislative End-of-Session Newsletter

HD 2 - HILO

OFFICE OF REP. SUE L. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY





Aloha Family, Friends, and Neighbors!

One Word to Define the 2026 Legislative Session...

DYNAMIC

It is a privilege to represent you in the Legislature, and this year's session was characterized by substantial policy changes and the enactment of vital legislation. A major highlight was the successful passage of SB3125, which maintained 100% of the income tax cuts for working families. The legislature upheld its commitment to local families, and this bill has the potential to save an average family of four nearly \$20,000 over a five-year period.

Another notable achievement was the approval of SB3025, aimed at eliminating almost \$91 million in medical debt owed by Hawaii residents. Recovering from a medical setback can be daunting, and this bill will help 50,000 residents in Hawaii overcome their financial burdens.

This newsletter showcases more of the dynamic policy initiatives and funding secured for Hilo, Hawaii Island and the State. Showing up, working hard and serving our community are the Hilo values that have shaped me and it continues to be an honor to represent you.

Aloha Piha and Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoe", is written over a horizontal line.

2026 LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

The following bills have passed Final Reading and are Transmitted to Governor to be signed into law.



HB1705 HD1 SD2 Relating to Child Custody

Allows licensed mental health counselors to be appointed as child custody evaluators

Personal Bill Introduced

HB1707 HD1 SD2 CD1 Relating to Agriculture

Establishes a Local Agriculture Transportation Cost Reimbursement Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to reimburse eligible ranchers and farmers a portion of their costs to transport livestock, livestock products, agricultural commodities, and certain necessary supplies, under certain conditions. Establishes a position to administer the Program. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2029.

Personal Bill Introduced

SB2001 SD1 HD2 CD1 Relating to the Banyan Drive Community Development District

Establishes the Banyan Drive Community Development District within the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. Establishes the Banyan Drive Community Development District Special Fund. Specifies the powers and duties of HCDA as it relates to the District. Amends the composition of HCDA to include representatives of the District, Chairperson of the Banyan Drive Hawai'i Redevelopment Agency, and a lineal descendant of the Waiakea Ahupuaa. Appropriates funds.

Hilo-related Legislation

SB3045 SD1 HD2 CD1 Relating to Health Insurance

Beginning 1/1/2027, requires all health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions. Allows the Department of Health and Department of Human Services to accept and expend funds from public and private sources to support the expansion of access to continuous glucose monitors.

Companion Bill (HB2507)

SB3203 HD1 CD1 Relating to Air Medical Services

Establishes the Statewide Air Medical Services Program within the Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch to coordinate and strengthen air medical services. Establishes the positions of an air medical director, an air medical program manager, and an air medical coordinator. Specifies that annual licensure and accreditation fees are to be deposited into the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund for costs of the program.

Companion Bill (HB2508)

2026 LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



Education For The Win!

Top Left: Kevin Chong - Office Staff, Noor S. - 2026 Hawai'i Sister-State Student Ambassador for Hilo High School

Bottom Left: Reps. Garrett, Sayama, and Keohokapu-Lee Loy with pharmacy students from UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye School of Pharmacy

Right: Rep. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Yuko Kakazu - TMT International Observatory, Perseas V. - 2026 Keiki Caucus Intern from Waiākea High School

This legislative session has been very rewarding for education in Hawai'i! From hosting a student intern as part of Keiki Caucus to recognizing outstanding students in Hilo, it's been a pleasure to cross paths with brilliant young minds that have bright, amazing futures ahead of them!



2026 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS House District 2

Capital Improvement Projects

FY27: \$5,725,000 | Waiākea High School

Design, construction, and equipment for the construction and renovation of facilities by Hawai'i 3R's for a healthcare learning lab at Waiākea High School, Hawai'i; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

FY27: \$14,000,000 | 121 Banyan Drive

Plans, design, land acquisition, construction and equipment to demolish and remove the Country Club Apartment Building and related structures and utilities located at 121 Banyan Drive.

FY27: \$270,000 | Grand Nanioloa Golf Course

Land acquisition, through eminent domain, voluntary withdrawal, or agreement, of the leasehold interest in the parcel currently used as the Grand Nanioloa Golf Course.

Grant-In-Aid

\$100,000

Hawai'i County Economic Opportunity Council

\$150,000

Hawai'i Island Adult Care

\$200,000

Pacific Tsunami Museum

\$1,000,000

Hospice of Hilo

Legislative Update from Representative Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Serving District 2 - Hilo





Merrie Monarch Spirit Week

To celebrate the 63rd Annual Merrie Monarch Festival, the Hawai'i House of Representatives held its first-ever spirit week, bringing culture and aloha into the Capitol. *Scan the QR code to see more on Spirit Week:*



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

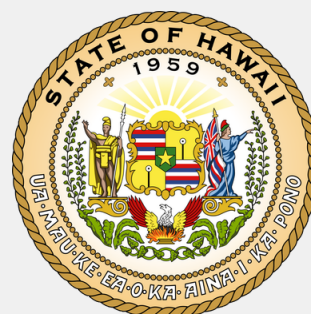


Please utilize these available resources that can provide additional help for your loved ones:

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis or is in need of mental health support or resources, call or text 988 or visit Hawai'i CARES 988 to connect with a locally trained counselor 24/7 who can help with linkage to behavioral health crisis services.
- YouthLine is a free 24/7 peer-to-peer help, support, and crisis line for youth up to age 24. Youth are available daily from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. HST (Adults answer at all other times). Call (877) 968-8491, text "teen2teen" to 839863, or chat theyouthline.org.
- Contact Aloha United Way by calling 211 or using text, chat, or email for access to more than 4,000 local resources.



Mahalo Nui Loa!



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