

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA



ALOHA FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!

The Legislature is at its halfway point, or crossover, in the Legislative Session. All bills that have passed the Senate and House respectively have crossed over to their non-originating body.

Measures relating to reducing the cost of living, a ban on flavored tobacco products, increases to teacher compensation, and streaming UH Board of Regent meetings are some of the bills that have passed out of the Senate today.

SB 75, which appropriates \$10.5 million to prevent and mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus within the state, has also passed the Senate.

As of March 11, two Hawaii residents have tested positive for COVID-19. See back page for more on COVID-19.

President Trump announced today (3/11) that all travel between Europe and the U.S. will be suspended for 30 days, starting this Friday (3/13).

Passenger screenings by federal authorities continue at Daniel K. Inouye Airport and Hawaiian Airlines has suspended all flights to South Korea and will reduce flights to Japan at the end of March. Additionally, China Eastern Airlines has suspended all flights to Hawaii, while United, Korea Air, and Asiana have all suspended or reduced flights to Hawaii.

In response to this threat, we are taking precautionary measures such as cancelling the Honolulu Festival, scheduled for this past weekend and expected to draw 3,000 attendees from Japan and across the Asia-Pacific, and the Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture, slated for June, which has been postponed until June 18-27, 2021.

I will continue to keep you informed on developments at the Legislature and on the Coronavirus in the weeks to come. Also, please remember to wash your hands frequently and practice good hygiene in order to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Below are some of the measures that will be going in front of members of the House and Senate:

KUPUNA

SB 2335 SD1 - Kupuna Caucus; Healthy Aging Partnership (\$)

Appropriates funds for the healthy aging partnership program to further the program's role in improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

EDUCATION

SB 2488 SD2 - DOE; Teacher Compensation; Experimental Modernization Project; Appropriation (\$)

Appropriates \$25 million on a non-recurring basis to fund teacher compensation for an experimental modernization project, or special education, hard-to-staff geographic locations, and Hawaiian immersion programs, or some combination.

BANNING FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

SB 2538 - Flavored Tobacco Products; Electronic Smoking Devices; Sale; Ban

Prohibits the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products in the State. Prohibits mislabeling of e-liquid products containing nicotine.

STREAMING/ARCHIVING UH BOARD OF REGENTS MEETINGS

SB 2573 SD2 - University of Hawaii; Board of Regents; Meetings; Public Access

Requires all public meetings of the Board of Regents to be recorded in live digital audio format by May 1, 2021, and in digital video beginning September 1, 2021. Requires all recording to be archived and made available to the public. Requires the Board of Regents to determine its accessibility

REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY

HB 2541 HD1 - Income Tax; Earned Income Tax Credit; Refundable Food/Excise Tax Credit; Minimum Wage

Makes the state earned income tax credit refundable and permanent. Increases and amends the refundable food/excise tax credit by basing the amount of the credit on a taxpayers' Hawaii earned income and federal adjusted gross income. Increases minimum wage rate to \$11.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2021, \$12.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2022, \$12.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/2023, and \$13.00 per hour beginning on 1/1/2024.

MARCH 2020

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 5 - First Crossover: bills move to non-originating body

March 11 - Budget Crossover: budget moves from House to Senate

March 20 - Second Lateral: House bills move to final committee in Senate

March 26 - Holiday: Kuhio Day

Early April - Town Hall at Moanalua Middle with Rep.'s Johanson and Ichiyama. More information coming soon.

Coronavirus Update (March 11)

Two cases identified in Hawaii

On March 6th, a Hawaii resident who traveled on the Grand Princess cruise ship tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is currently isolated at home. On March 8, a second case was identified in an elderly man who had recently travelled to Washington State. He is quarantined at Kaiser Moanalua medical center. Both cases originated outside of Hawaii and authorities are currently conducting trace back investigations to identify, notify, and provide guidance to those who may have come into close contact with these individuals.

Hawaii visitor tests positive for COVID-19 after leaving

A Canadian doctor who visited Hawaii on March 7 has tested positive for COVID-19 after returning to Ontario. More info coming as it is available.

Precautions for Seniors

Seniors are at a greater risk for COVID-19, especially those who have underlying health conditions. Older individuals should avoid travelling and large crowds and keep medications and groceries on hand.

DOH advises people who think they may have symptoms to contact healthcare provider in advance

Healthcare providers will discuss any possible cases of COVID-19 with DOH to determine if testing is needed.

State Laboratories Division testing

DOH is capable of conducting in-state testing for up to 250 individuals per week. This enhances the state's prevention/mitigation capabilities. Private and clinical labs in HI may have testing capabilities in a few weeks.

For more info or questions/concerns about COVID-19

Call 2-1-1 from any location in the state
Text 877-275-6569 or email info211@auw.org
Visit hawaii.gov/covid19 or coronavirus.gov

Honorees Recognized At the 2020 Kina'ole Awards

On February 27, Senator Kim attended the 2020 Kina'ole Awards which recognizes outstanding contributions of individuals who have excelled both professionally and in service to the community. This year's honorees included Duwayne Abe, Principal at Salt Lake Elementary, Susan Fushikoshi-Fung, former class advisor, ESL Coordinator and Dept. Chair at Moanalua High School, and the Hawaii State Senate's very own Michi Moore, MHS Class of 1980 and Senate Deputy Director of Communications. Congratulations to Duwayne, Susan, and Michi, and mahalo for all that you have done and continue to do for our community!



Congratulations

to the Moanalua Pack 9 Cub Scouts on earning the Arrow of Light Award and graduating into Boy Scouts.



Sen. Kim presents congratulatory certificates to Pack 9 Scouts during their Arrow of Light Ceremony on Feb. 28.

Department of Health Hygiene Tips

- Wash hands often with soap/water for at least 20 sec.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth w/ unwashed hands
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched objects
- Sign up for COVID-19 updates at:

health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates

2020 Spring Community Bulletin

Mahalo to everyone that has already responded to my Spring Community Bulletin Survey! The opportunity to hear your opinions on issues before the Legislature allows me to better represent our community and I appreciate the time you take to share. For those interested in how others in our district felt about these issues, the results of the survey will be printed in my next community bulletin slated for June.



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