



## SENATOR WILL ESPERO

Watch *Espero Conversations*  
Olelo Digital Channel 49  
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APRIL 2015

### Senator Espero Involved In Key Legislation for 2015 Session

The legislative session ends in 4 weeks, and Senator Espero is directly involved in several key issues at the Capitol.

One measure involves new transportation network systems such as UBER and Lyft. There is an attempt to regulate this new industry, and legislation passed may determine if these companies will stay or survive in Hawaii. The main issues are the insurance requirements for the drivers.

Another measure involves creating dispensaries for medical cannabis. Following the recommendation of a task force that looked into this matter last year, it appears Hawaii is poised to establish dispensaries after 15 years of allowing medical cannabis use. These highly regulated dispensaries are expected to provide safe, quality medical cannabis and consumables for registered patients.

A third issue has to do with drinking alcohol and carrying a loaded gun. Senator Espero prefers zero tolerance and wants law enforcement to adopt stricter gun laws. He wants to make it a misdemeanor for anyone who is intoxicated and carrying a firearm.

The legislature is also looking to strengthening domestic violence laws in light of recent local and national cases.



**Left:** The Senate had the honor of recognizing the original crew of the Hokulea voyage in 1975 by the Polynesian Voyaging Society. The voyage lent itself to be both an educational and cultural lesson on the navigating skills of ancient Hawaiians and Polynesians in general.

**Right:** General Arthur Logan was confirmed by the Senate as the state's Adjutant General of the State Department of Defense and the Hawaii National Guard. Also pictured is his deputy, Colonel Kenneth Hara.



# A FEW OF WILL'S BILLS FOR THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill	Title	Description	Referral
SB193 SD2 HD2	RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SURCHARGES.	Establishes a prepaid wireless E911 surcharge per retail transaction of prepaid wireless telecommunications service at the point of sale. Allows sellers to deduct and retain 3 per cent of the surcharge that is collected. Requires the amounts collected by the enhanced 911 board to be placed in the enhanced 911 fund. (SB193 HD2)	PBS, CPC, FIN
SB194 SD2 HD1	RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.	Establishes the Hawaii Commission on the History and Culture of People of African Descent to recognize the contributions of people of African descent in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions. (SB194 HD1)	VMI, FIN
SB661 SD2	RELATING TO UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS TEST SITES.	Establishes the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief operating officer position to, among other things, serve on the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex management team. Establishes an advisory board to oversee and manage unmanned aerial systems test site operations. Appropriates funds to staff and operate Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test site activities. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (SD2)	EDB, FIN
SB1159 SD2 HD1	RELATING TO VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS.	Exempts federal veterans disability compensation benefits from seizure to enforce a court judgment. Provides that only that portion of a veteran's disability benefits that is not considered to be the veteran's disability compensation shall be subject to child and spousal support enforcement. (SB1159 HD1)	VMI, JUD
SB1335 SD2	RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.	Defines "person in custody" as used in the offense of sexual assault in the second degree and third degree to mean a person who is stopped by or under the control of a law enforcement officer for official purposes. Effective 01/07/2059. (SD2)	JUD
SB181 SD1	RELATING TO VETERANS.	Allows the department of education to continue, until June 30, 2020, awarding high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices such as internment during World War II. (SD1)	VMI, EDN, FIN
SB559 SD2 HD1	RELATING TO THE MILITARY.	Establishes and funds a Military Affairs Advisor position who reports directly to the Governor and an Assistant Military Affairs Advisor position in the Department of Defense. (SB559 HD1)	VMI, FIN
SB555 SD1	RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.	Increases the refundable food/excise tax credit. Repeals credit for individual taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$30,000 or above. Repeals residency requirement. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2015. (SD1)	FIN
SB682 SD2 HD1	RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA.	Establishes a system of medical marijuana dispensaries and production centers. Requires that the number of licensed dispensaries and production centers increase gradually over an initial phase-in period. Prohibits counties from enacting zoning regulations that discriminate against licensed dispensaries and production centers. Allows a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, or an owner or employee of a medical marijuana production center or dispensary to transport medical marijuana in any public place, under certain conditions. Replaces the requirement that a certifying physician be the qualifying patient's primary care physician with a requirement that the physician have a bona fide physician-patient relationship with the qualifying patient. Prohibits primary caregivers from cultivating medical marijuana after 6/30/2018, subject to certain exceptions. Appropriates funds. (HD1)	HLT/JUD, FIN
SB564 SD1	RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.	Extends the reentry commission expiration date to December 1, 2019. (SD1)	PBS, JUD
SB569 SD1 HD1	RELATING TO THEFT.	Increases the monetary threshold to \$750 with respect to property or services for theft in the second degree. Provides for two percent automatic yearly increase beginning January 1, 2017, and on January 1 in each year thereafter. (SB569 HD1)	JUD
SB675 SD2 HD2	RELATING TO FIREFIGHTERS.	Establishes a rebuttable presumption that a firefighter who suffers from cancer, blood-borne infectious diseases, or conditions related to hazardous material exposure contracted it in the course of employment. Benefits include one-hundred per cent average weekly wages, disability indemnity, and death benefits. (SB675 HD2)	LAB, JUD, FIN

## SENATOR ESPERO REQUESTS STATE EXCUSE CELL PHONE TICKETS ISSUED DURING ZIPPER LANE DEBACLE

On March 31, Oahu may have seen its worst traffic congestion during the PM rush hour due to a broken zipper lane. As you know, traffic was at a standstill, and many West Oahu commuters were in traffic from 2 – 6 hours. Unfortunately due to poor communication, HPD did not know the gravity of the congestion, and gave tickets to drivers who were using their cell phones in this unique, dire circumstance. Commuters may have been notifying baby sitters, loved ones, appointments, children, and others of the terrible traffic and the delays they were experiencing.

In light of the problems, Senator Espero has asked the Judiciary if these specific tickets could be dismissed or invalidated. The latest response is that each case would have to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Appeals or challenges can be done by mail. In addition, Mayor Caldwell has agreed to write letters to the courts, on behalf of the city, in support of individuals requesting a dismissal of tickets that were issued in the vicinity of Waimano Home Road. Residents should call the city's Department of Transportation Services at 768-8305 for more information.



**Left:** Members of Local 5 met with Senator Espero. Many Ewa Beach residents are proud members of the Local 5 and the Senator extends both his support and Aloha to the hard-working members that make Hawaii a beautiful travel destination.

**Right:** Pictured with Senator Espero is the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, Sally Jewell. The Secretary was joined by legislators and other dignitaries to commemorate the founding of the Honouliuli National Monument. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was designated a national monument by executive order of President Barack Obama. The camp interred over 4,000 people of diverse ethnic backgrounds during the World War II era. This national monument sits as a reminder of the needless hardships endured by so many during the war.



**Left:** Kapolei and Campbell High School student leaders from the KickButt anti-smoking campaign visited the Senator's office to discuss a wide-range of policy issues dealing with smoking by our keiki here in Hawaii. Senator Espero is a staunch supporter of policies that prevent our youth from using harmful tobacco products.



# Access Your State Legislature Online

To access the Hawaii State Legislature online, please visit <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>. From the homepage, there are several buttons and fields where you can explore, engage, and participate in the legislative process. For more information or assistance, please contact the Public Access Room at 587-0478 or our office.

Click here to submit testimony for any bills scheduled for a hearing.

To receive hearing notices automatically via email, click here and sign up for notices.

Enter your street name here to find out who your Senator and Representative is.

The screenshot shows the Hawaii State Legislature website homepage. At the top, it says "Hawaii State Legislature" with a logo of the state. Below that, it displays the date "Today is January 29, 2013" and session times for January 29, 2013: "Senate: 11:30am | House: 12:00pm". There is a "Find Your Legislator" search bar with a "Go" button. The main content area includes a "Search" section with a search box and a "Go" button. Below the search section are several "Hearings by" filters: "Bill Status/Measure Status", "Keywords", "Hearings by Date", "Hearings by Measure", "Order of the Day", and "Hawaii Revised Statutes (contains 2012 Acts)". A "Recent Updates" section lists several items, including "Senate Neighbor Island Videoconferencing Pilot Project" and "2013 Senate Leadership Committee Assignments". In the center, there are six icons representing "Submit Testimony", "Hearing Notification", "Measure Tracking", "Legislators", "Committees", and "Reports and Lists". Below this is a "Current Hearings" table with columns for "Committee", "Measure", "Date/Time", and "Notice". The table lists two hearings: "INFO-CPN-ENE Informational Briefing" and "LAB HB59 RELATING TO WAGES". On the right side, there are several navigation buttons: "Senate", "House", "Archives", "Legislative Information", "Special Studies", "Links", and "Help and Information". At the bottom right, there is a "Hawaii State Capitol" address: "415 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813".

Committee	Measure	Date/Time	Notice
INFO-CPN-ENE	Informational Briefing	1/29/2013 8:30 AM	<a href="#">See It</a>
LAB	HB59 RELATING TO WAGES.	1/29/2013 9:00 AM	<a href="#">See It</a>

Use this field to search the Hawaii Revised Statutes and associated Acts.

Click here for a list of all the legislative committees and their respective chairs.