



SENATOR WILL ESPERO

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Olelo Digital Channel 49
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Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

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MAY 2015

Saying Aloha to the 2015 Legislative Session

The 2015 legislative session and the 28th Legislature of the State of Hawaii adjourned *Sine Die* on May 7, 2015. It marks the end of 60 days of hard work by staff, legislators, stakeholders and the community who come together to create public policy that will help shape the future of Hawaii.



Members of the 28th Senate after adjourning Sine Die

I am delighted in the work we have done this session and I believe the bills we have passed that now await Governor Ige's signature will provide for a bright future for our islands. My colleagues and I have tackled issues relating to health, kupuna care, tax credits, transportation and the development of our economy and infrastructure. The Governor has until June 29 to notify the legislature of his intent to veto, sign the bills into law or let it become law without his signature.

While the session may be over, I will continue to work throughout the interim on a new wave of measures to be introduced in the 2016 legislative session. Some of my priorities will include law enforcement reforms and transparency, strengthening our high-tech industry and empowering our working class families.

I look forward to hearing from you over the interim. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns at 586-6360.

Mahalo,

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Senate President Ronald Kouchi and Vice President Will Espero

Senate Elects New Leadership Team

The Hawaii State Senate has elected a new leadership team that will help move the body forward into the 2016 session. The new team includes Kauai's Ronald Kouchi as President; Will Espero, Vice President; J. Kalani English, Majority Leader; Josh Green, Majority Floor Leader; Brickwood Galuteria, Majority Caucus Leader; Donovan Dela Cruz, Majority Whip. Final details on committee assignments will be available in the coming weeks.

A SELECTION OF BILLS PASSED THIS SESSION

A bill can only be sent to the governor for his signature when both chambers of the legislature, the Senate and House, agree upon its language. The following list is just a few of the many bills the 2015 legislature has passed. As a whole, the bills that now await the governor's approval range from health and welfare, public safety, the economy and the state budget for the next fiscal biennium. The governor has until June 29, 2015 to notify the legislature of his intent to veto and the legislature has until July 14, 2015 to act on any vetoed measure. A veto may be turned over by the legislature by a 2/3 majority of both chambers.

**Bills that are highlighted were sponsored by Senator Espero.*

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Bill	Subject	Description
HB134 HD1 SD2 CD1	Public Transit; County Surcharge on State Tax	Reauthorizes the counties to extend their GET tax surcharges until 2027. Limits the use of surcharge revenues by counties that have already established a county surcharge on state tax to capital costs. Expands the definition of capital costs for counties with a population greater than 500,000.
SB555 SD1 HD1 CD1 (Espero As Primary Sponsor)	Refundable Food/Excise Tax Credit For All Individuals	Increases the refundable food/excise tax credit. Repeals credit for individual taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$30,000 or above and for heads of households, married couples filing jointly, and married couples filing separately, with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or above. Repeals residency requirement. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2015. Repeal and reenactment on 12/31/2017. (CD1)
HB321 HD1 SD2 CD1	Medical Marijuana Dispensaries	Establishes a licensing system for medical marijuana dispensaries. 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.
HB11 HD2 SD2 CD1	Raise For Teachers	Authorizes an additional per year bonus for teachers who maintain current national board certification under the national board certification incentive program and teach at a school in a focus, priority, or Superintendent's Zone, as determined by the Department of Education. (HB11 CD1)
HB623 HD2 SD2 CD1	Requires State To Use 100% Renewable Energy By 2045	Increases renewable portfolio standards to 30 percent by December 31, 2020, 70 percent by December 31, 2040, and 100 percent by December 31, 2045. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to include the impact of renewable portfolio standards, if any, on the energy prices offered by renewable energy developers and the cost of fossil fuel volatility in its renewable portfolio standards study and report to the Legislature. (HB623 CD1)
SB1030 SD1 HD2 (Espero As Primary Sponsor)	Raises Smoking Age To 21 Years	Increases the minimum age for sale, possession, consumption, or purchase of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices from eighteen to twenty-one. Defines "tobacco products" to include electronic smoking devices. (SB1030 HD2)
SB284 SD2 HD2 CD1	Purchase of Turtle Bay	Authorizes the B&F to issue \$35,000,000 in reimbursable general obligation bonds and to deposit the proceeds into the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund. Appropriates \$35,000,000 out of the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund for the DLNR to acquire a conservation easement and other real property interests at Turtle Bay, Oahu. Allocates TAT revenues of \$1,500,000 annually to the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund. Provides that a nonprofit land conservation organization shall file an application annually with the BLNR requesting \$1,500,000 from the land conservation fund to be used for the reimbursement of debt service on the Turtle Bay reimbursable general obligation bonds. Appropriates \$3,000,000 out of the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund to reimburse the state general fund for payment of debt service on the reimbursable general obligation bonds.
SB717 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Espero As Primary Sponsor)	Repeals Ethanol In Gas Requirement	Repeals existing requirement that gasoline for motor vehicles be composed of ten per cent ethanol. Effective December 31, 2015. (CD1)

SB265 SD1 HD1 CD1 (Espero as Primary Sponsor)	Sex Trafficking	Replaces the term "promoting prostitution in the first degree" with the term "sex trafficking," a class A felony. Includes the offense of sex trafficking in the department of the attorney general's statewide witness program. Includes the offense of sex trafficking in the list of violent crimes for which victims may be eligible for criminal injury compensation. Amends portions of certain sections, subsections, and a definition in chapter 663J, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to civil liability in specific cases of coercion into prostitution. Establishes a violation if the person who engaged in, or agreed or offered to engage in, sexual conduct with another person for a fee was less than eighteen years of age at the time of the offense of prostitution. Amends the offense of promoting prostitution in the second degree and the law relating to the motion to vacate a conviction of certain prostitution offenses. Includes the offense of sex trafficking in the list of covered offenses for which property is subject to forfeiture. Adds the offense of sex trafficking to the list of crimes for which an order to intercept wire, oral, or electronic communications is permitted. Amends the law relating to tier 2 offenses for the registration of sex offenders. Includes the offense of sex trafficking in the list of offenses to which deferred acceptance of guilty plea or nolo contendere plea does not apply. (CD1)
HB573 SD1 CD1	Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program; Appropriation	Establishes and appropriates funding for the Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products. (HB573 CD1)
HB1153 SD2 CD1	Exempts Disabled Veterans from Paying Car Registration	Exempts qualifying totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the state motor vehicle registration fee. Requires the Director of the Office of Veterans Services to report the number of qualifying veterans to the Legislature and Department of Taxation. (HB1153 CD1)
HB1010 HD1 SD2 CD1	Commuter Benefits; Counties	Authorizes the counties to adopt an ordinance requiring employers to offer employees specified commuter benefits options. (HB1010 CD1)
SB661 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Espero As Primary Sponsor)	Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Site; Chief Operating Officer; Advisory Board; Appropriation	Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to hire a Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief operating officer to, among other things, serve on the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex management team.
SB791 SD1 HD2 CD1	Requires Insurance Plans Pay For Autism Care	Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for autism diagnosis and treatment. (CD1)
HB174 HD2 SD1 CD1	Health Insurance; Orthodontic Treatment; Orofacial Anomalies	Requires health insurance coverage of orthodontic treatment for orofacial anomalies. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)
HB448 HD1 SD1 CD1	Mandating Review of Domestic Violence Cases And Other Serious Bodily Harm Cases	Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths, and suicides. Authorizes DOH to enter into memoranda of understanding to obtain information relating to near-deaths resulting from intimate partner violence. (HB448 CD1)
HB1440 HD1 SD1 CD1	Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program	Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. Requires matching funds. (HB1440 CD1)
HB782 HD1 SD2 CD1	Educating Women About Cytomegalovirus	Requires the Department of Health to establish a public education program to inform and educate women about cytomegalovirus. (HB782 CD1)
SB1011 SD1 HD2	Allows Arbitration To End Disputes Regarding State EUTF	Repeals provision providing that arbitration shall not be available to resolve disputes regarding EUTF contributions by State and counties. Amends the selection of the neutral third member of the arbitration panel. Effective 3/15/2038. (HD2)
HB1471 HD2 SD2 CD1	Invasive Species Study	Makes an appropriation to the Legislative Reference Bureau for an invasive species study. Repeals or forces the lapse of certain appropriations for fiscal year 2014-2015 that are not expected to be expended. Re-appropriates some of the lapsed appropriations. (HB1471 CD1)
HB1272 HD2 SD2	Requires Movie Theaters To Offer Closed Caption Screenings On Certain Days for Hearing Impaired Citizens	Requires a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in more than two locations in the State to provide open movie captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open movie captioning. Requires a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater in the State to provide, upon request, audio description of any motion picture that is produced and offered with audio description. Effective January 1, 2016 and sunsets January 1, 2018. (SD2)

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.

To read all the bills in their final forms passed by the legislature, please type in the bill number or keywords associated with the bill. In addition to the final bill, you will be able to read the committee reports which highlight and summarize important aspects of the legislation.

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 "Floor Session Convene Times for January 29, 2013: Senate: 11:30am | House: 12:00pm". There is a "Find Your Legislator" search bar with "Enter Street Name" and a "Go" button. On the left, there is a "Search" section with "or browse document directories" and "How to use the Searchboxes". Below this are several search boxes: "Bill Status/Measure Status", "Keywords", "Hearings by Date", "Hearings by Measure", "Order of the Day", and "Hawaii Revised Statutes (contains 2012 Acts)". In the center, there is a "Recent Updates" section with a list of news items. Below that are icons for "Submit Testimony", "Hearing Notification", "Measure Tracking", "Legislators", "Committees", and "Reports and Lists". On the right, there is a "Senate" and "House" navigation bar, a "Links" section with "Archives", "Legislative Information", "Special Studies", and "Links", and a "Help and Information" section with "Citizen's Guide to the Legislative Process" and "Maps & Directories". At the bottom right, there is a photo of the Hawaii State Capitol building with the address "415 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813".

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.