



South Maui Community News

Representative George Fontaine
House District II: Kihei, Wailea, Makena

Inside this issue:

- Speaking Out for You 2
- How to Track Bills 2
- How to Submit Testimony 2



Opening Day of 2011 Legislative Session



The Opening Day of the 2011 Legislative Session has come and gone and it's time to get down to business. With over 1,500 bills introduced for the 2011 session, my staff and I are hard at

work reading, analyzing and prioritizing those bills that will impact everyone in our state.

In this month's newsletter, you'll learn of bills that I've introduced and sponsored. You can also learn about how to track these and other bills. Finally, there is information about how to submit testimony on bills that are important to you.

As we continue to move for-

ward, I remain committed to implementing fiscally sound policy, and protecting our citizens. Mahalo!



Sponsored Bills— Legislation sponsored and co-sponsored by Fontaine

This year I have introduced and co-sponsored a number of bills. I have introduced HB1169 which will clarify the state's medical use of marijuana law. Increases penalties for fraudulent application of medical marijuana.

Animal Cruelty

I have also sponsored HB1170 and HB1171. These bills both have to do with the treatment of animals. HB1170 has to do with consumption of or trafficking in dog, cat or equine animal meat - making this a Class C felony. HB1171 criminalizes attendance at animal fights with a misdemeanor.

Jessica's Law

HB1190 is a version of Jessica's Law that was passed in 2005 in the State of Florida. The law was named after a



Rep. Fontaine Takes Oath of Office

nine year old Jessica Lunsford, who was abducted, sexually assaulted and then brutally murdered by a prior sex offender. HB1190 will establish a mandatory sentence of 25 years for sexual offenses against children. To date, ten

states have passed versions of Jessica's Law with many more states considering similar legislation.

Constitutional Amendment

HB448 which proposes a constitutional amendment to Article VII, Section 9, of the Hawaii State Constitution to eliminate the ability to exceed the general fund expenditure ceiling.

Education

HB447 is another bill I have cosponsored that increases the amount of education funds that are expended by principals.

Paychecks

HB478 Protects employees from paycheck deductions or withholdings they do not specifically authorize in writing.

Rep. George R. Fontaine
House District II
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 311

phone: (808) 586-8525
fax: (808) 586-8529

repfontaine@capitol.hawaii.gov

http://repfontaine.ning.com/

Legislative Calendar:

- 2/18 First Lateral
- 2/24 5 Day Recess
- 3/10 1st Crossover
- 3/14 Budget deadline
- 3/24 Second Lateral

Representative Fontaine—Speaking Out for You

One of the advantages of being in the minority caucus is that minority house members often speak up about poorly written legislation. This is one of the strengths of a two-party system: In a vibrant two-party system one side actively watches the other.

One example recently came to the floor of the State House. HB166 HDI is a bill to raise civil penalty amounts for violations of the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Law. I

spoke out against this bill since the legislation is anti-business. You can view this by clicking on the following link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAQVal0rdIQ>



No to Gambling in Hawai'i

I was recently interviewed on KITV television news regarding gambling in Hawaii. I am opposed to gambling for a number of reasons. If gambling comes to Hawai'i it will cause damage to our culture, through increases in crime. Sadly, gambling

affects the poor who are often desperate to find an easy way to make money. Social services costs will also rise as our system becomes overburdened with increases in homelessness. Gambling addictions can also affect families and society in general.

No to Higher Taxes

Finally, I will continue to speak out against measures that raise your taxes. HB1216 seeks to impose a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. The measure is simply another way of attaching a tax to consumer products in order to raise revenues.

Talk Story—Feb 26

Rep. Fontaine and Sen. Baker

Time: 9:30am—11:30am

Where: Kihei Charter School

41 East Lipoa St.

Suite 29

How to Track Bills – Using web tools and the Public Access Room

For many people, the process of tracking bills is both intimidating and, at times, overwhelming. Fortunately, with the assistance of the Internet the process has become much easier and user friendly.

To track bills, begin at the following:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

If you do not know the bill number you can search a phrase by clicking SEARCH. This will yield a number of

bills, which you can click on and learn more about.

If you know the number of the bill, click on BILL STATUS AND DOCUMENTS, type the bill number and click GO. Next, click on the word STATUS. This will give you all the details on the bill including: what committees the bill has been assigned to, committee hearing dates, and actions taken on the bill. You can also print out the bill from the

web site or download the .pdf version of the bill.

The **Public Access Room (PAR)** is also a very useful resource for citizens. The PAR is located on the 4th floor of the State Capitol, Room #401. The PAR is available to help citizens track legislation, locate legislators, and navigate the legislature's website. To contact the PAR from Maui call 984-2400 and then extension 70478.



Rep. George R. Fontaine
House District 11
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 311

phone: (808) 586-8525

fax: (808) 586-8529

How to Submit Testimony for a Bill

If you are tracking a specific bill and want to submit testimony, testimony can be submitted electronically through the web site. Go to:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Under BILL STATUS AND DOCUMENTS click on SUBMIT TESTIMONY. You will next need to type in the bill number and click RETURN. If the bill is scheduled for a hearing, you will see the committee, room and date. Next you can add your testimony. You have the

option of uploading a document as a file. You can also submit proposed amendments to the bill.

If you are available to come to the public hearing then you can give your testimony in person to the committee members. After you have located the bill you will see dates that reflect actions taken, including the

scheduling of public hearings. You can also sign up for an email notification for bills.

Public Hearing Dates

For help on how to find a date of a public hearing for a bill you can contact the

Public Access Room for assistance. Dial 984-2400, ext. 70478 from Maui. The process will go quicker if you have the bill number.

