



HAWAII HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OPENING DAY REMARKS 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCOTT SAIKI MAJORITY LEADER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE JANUARY 20, 2016

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We often open our legislative session with bold proposals for new mandates and initiatives. This year there is also room to do the opposite.

"It is important that we focus on recurring challenges and that we find uncustomary ways to restructure existing resources to address them.

"One example is homelessness and affordable housing. We already have existing agencies that can help us tackle this issue. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands have critical roles to play. We need to know how we can decrease their waiting list and best spend their federal funds.

"We are not saying that any agency is wrong. We will work very closely with them this year to implement corrections that can lead to more results.

"There are examples in other critical areas, such as modernizing transportation and education infrastructure, and reinforcing private and public fiscal stability by reforming state spending and taxing practices.

"We all know that these challenges cannot be resolved overnight, and we look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle to fix them.

"Thank you, and best wishes to everyone for a productive session."