



State Representative

# Cindy Evans

District 7: North Kona, North Kohala, South Kohala

February 17, 2015

Aloha from the State Capitol! With a new administration in place, it is important for community leaders and residents to educate Governor David Ige about the needs of our district.

There are many services in the Capitol that can help you with the upcoming legislative session. Hawaii's Public Access Room will assist you in tracking legislation, submitting testimony, and helping you learn about the legislative process at <http://lrhawaii.org/par> or call 808-587-0478. We now live in a digital age and you can track legislation at home. The online "Measure Tracking" feature allows you to create lists of bills and resolutions you're interested in, easily view the current status of numerous measures, and create easy-to-read reports. Go to [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) to create an account.

It is important that your voices are heard. If you have any concerns or ideas please contact my staff at 808-586-8510 or send me an email at [repevans@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repevans@capitol.hawaii.gov). If you are in Honolulu, please stop by our office located in room 438.

Sincerely,

Representative Cindy Evans

Stay Updated



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Photo with Governor Ige and his family.



Photo with the Big Island Delegation: Representatives Nakashima, Tsuji, Onishi, San Buenaventura, Creagan, Lowen and Myself.

## State Funds Sought to Build Improved Kona Courthouse

Officials of the Hawai'i Judiciary say more state funding is needed to replace outdated and unsecure Big Island court facilities. More money is also needed to keep programs that aim to help young children whose parents are suspected of abuse and neglect. Last year, we awarded \$35 million to start the building of a new, central Kona Courthouse. During his annual State of Judiciary address, Hawai'i Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald requested an additional \$55 million to finish the Kona courthouse. The Circuit Court on the Big Island, which uses three separate buildings, need to be renovated and enlarged to prevent the altercations from inmates due to the tight spaces. Security of the Kona Buildings also need to be improved to accommodate the 72,000 annual courts cases.

Senate President Donna Mercado Kim said, "We've already started it, so at some point we're going to finish it. It's going to come, it's just how we do it and what's the timing of it." The Judiciary hopes the new Kona courthouse will open in 2019.

To listen to Chief Justice Recktenwald's State of the Judiciary speech visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsF1gNAooUw>



Opening Day with Speaker Joseph Souki



With Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald



### 2015 Legislative Session Office Staff

L to R: Matthew Won (Office Manager), Amber Collins (Legislative Aide), Representative Evans, Terii Perez (Administrative Office Manager), & Ryan Mandado (Communications Liaison).

Majority Floor Leader

Council of State Governments  
Vice Chair, State & Federal Relations

Committee Assignments

Energy & Environmental Protection  
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Water & Land - Legislative Management



**Seventh District**  
North Kona & South Kohala

**Rep. Evans To Do List:**

Outdoor Heritage Caucus



## Bill Highlights

### **HB 612 — Relating to Elections**

In the event of an election postponement in any precinct, prohibits the public disclosure of voting results from every precinct for any ballot contest or question affected by the postponement, until the closing of the polls for the postponed election.

### **HB 996 — Relating to Geothermal Resources**

Establishes a framework to regulate geothermal resources development through a permitting process administered by the BLNR and the appropriate county authority. Requires penalties, fees, and costs collected pursuant to Chapter 182, HRS, to be deposited into the special land and development fund.

### **HB 1041 — Relating to Hunting**

Establishing a game commission to serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Makes an appropriation.

### **HB 1108 — Relating to Health**

Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organization to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorder treatments.

### **HB 1140 — Relating to Cesspools**

Provides temporary income tax credit for the cost of converting a cesspool to a septic system or an aerobic treatment unit system or connecting to a sewer system.

### **HB 1455 — Relating to Medical Marijuana**

Increases the maximum number of qualifying patients that a primary caregiver may care for at any given time. Requires each primary caregiver upon registration to disclose to the Department of Health the number of qualifying patients and other patient information for whom the caregiver is responsible. Limits the number of marijuana plants that can be grown for medical marijuana use to 14 plants at a single property.

## Keep Hawai'i's Heroes

As part of the 2020 force structure realignment, the Army is considering a proposal to eliminate a large number of military soldiers and civilians in the state. An Army study concluded that pulling out of the state will have significant socio-economic impacts for communities. The list below shows the impact of downsizing the military in Hawai'i:

- ⇒ There will be an estimated loss of nearly \$1.3 billion to Hawai'i's economy.
- ⇒ A total of 16,200 military people will be cut from Schofield Barracks and 4,000 from Fort Shafter.
- ⇒ An additional loss of 30,000 family members will be affected by the downsize.

In addition to being important for national security and national defense, the military presence in Hawai'i has attracted top defense contractors such as BAE Systems, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman. The downsize will have a great impact on educational services, health care, and social assistance sectors which has the greatest share of the total workforce from the military. The second largest employment in areas such as the arts, entertainment, recreation, and food services will also be impacted by the downsize of our military personnel on the islands.

Many communities such as Wahiawa, Waialua, Schofield, Mililani, and Kunia depend on military presence for their livelihoods. Small businesses depend on the military in their communities. Wahiawa businessman Scott Harada said, "Our relationship with the soldiers is economic, but they are an intricate and vital part of who we are. We've grown up as Wahiawa with the military. The military made Wahiawa what it is."

Visit the [www.KeepHawaiiHeroes.org](http://www.KeepHawaiiHeroes.org) website to find out more information on how to keep our military personnel on our islands.



Commanding General Vincent Brooks of the US Army Pacific

**State Representative Cindy Evans**

**Room 438, State Capitol Building**

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