

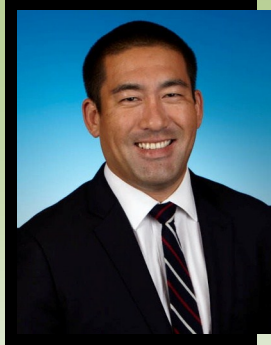


REPRESENTATIVE DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI

Twenty-Seventh Legislature
House of Representatives, State of Hawai'i
District 14: East and North Kaua'i

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

MAY 2014



KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you want to share your concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami
State Capitol Room # 314
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov

Calling from Kaua'i :
274-3141, then 6-8435# after dial tone

Calling from Oahu:
(808) 586-8435
Facsimile:
(808) 586-8437

Assistant Majority Leader

Vice Chair, Consumer Protection and Commerce

Committee Member of:
Judiciary
Energy & Environmental Protection
Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs
Water & Land

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www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Kakou!

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve you as your State Representative. Between the months of January through May we spend a majority of our time on Oahu deliberating and making decisions on bills that affect each and every one of you. As I write to you today, I reflect back on our legislative session and one word comes to mind: reaffirmation. This session reaffirmed our commitment to our keiki by passing bills that shield them from domestic violence and increase penalties if perpetrators commit these crimes in their presence.

We reaffirmed our commitment by passing key bills that start paving the way for early education so that we can ensure that all children, no matter their financial situation will be allowed to get a jumpstart on life. We were able to actively engage our next generation of leaders by bringing them into the legislative process through a High School legislative Internship Program where Kauai's very own student, Autumn Warnock, worked in our offices; having proudly hosted Boys & Girls Club of Kauai members, Luke Rita and Grace Peralta, on their State Capitol visit; and in bills HB2177 and HB2593, dealing with community food forests and creating venues for artists to express their creativity in designated areas. We were able to provide resources to our schools so that they can put the tools in our children's hands and guide them to a path of productivity and leadership.

We reaffirmed our commitment to public safety. Protecting our county lifeguards at Ke'e beach and other state beach parks from liabilities incurred while they are protecting our ocean users.

We reaffirmed our commitment to the environment. Protecting our watersheds and combating invasive species so that we can preserve this very special place that we call home. We created partnerships with our neighbors and when a group of fishermen and women brought to our attention the need for improvements at the Waiakea canal boat ramp, affectionately known as the Lihi, and although we were unsuccessful this session in providing upgrades to the canal we are continuing to put in our request for improvements and increased accessibility for the next session.

Yes this was a busy session and many accomplishments were in order. But there is so much more that needs to be done. We are still working towards creating more affordable housing. We are still working towards supporting agriculture and providing resources so that we can produce more of our food here at home. We continually build upon the foundation of education, higher education, public safety and health, and human services. These are all tasks that I embrace and look forward to working to improve Kauai and the state of Hawaii for our future generations to come. I look forward to being back home with you and I am excited to continuously work towards building a better future for our people.

With love and aloha,

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami
and the Kawakami ohana at the opening
day of the 2014
Legislative Session



Legislators Raise the State's Minimum Wage

During the 2014 Legislative Session, State lawmakers agreed to raise the minimum wage up from \$7.25 per hour beginning on January 1, 2015 to \$10.10 per hour by January 2018. While also increasing the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning in 2015, and 75 cents per hour in 2016; provided that beginning January 1, 2015, the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage. The increase from \$7.25 per hour is the state's first minimum wage increase since 2007. (SB2609 SD1HD2CD1)

Bill Introduced to Raise Cap on Transient Accommodations Tax

For the four Counties across the State, the passing of HB 1671 in both the House and Senate helps to increase the cap on Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues to \$103,000,000.

For the County of Kauai, this amounts to a nearly \$1.4 million bump in revenue, up from the \$13.5 million the county of Kauai currently receives to \$14.9 million.

Along with raising the cap on TAT, HB1671 establishes a working group to determine future county allocation ceiling amounts and the appropriate division of the provision of public services between the State and Counties. (HB1671 HD1 SD1 CD1)

Cell Phone Ban While Operating a Motor Vehicle Amended, Adds Exemptions

This session, amendments and exemptions were added to the law on using a mobile device while operating a motor vehicle. SB2729 amended the law by adding an exemption for completely stopped drivers that have the engine off and are in a safe location out of the way of traffic; amended the definition of "operate;" and penalties for violations to a fine of \$250 unless in a school zone or construction area wherein the fine shall be \$300. (SB2729 SD2 HD1 CD1)

The State House Recognizes the Hokule'a And Her Crew



On the March 28th Floor Session, the State House recognized the Hokule'a crews and Polynesian Voyaging Society in a floor ceremony. With Representative Kawakami being the primary introducer of House Resolution 214, Honoring and Congratulating The Hokule'a and Her Crew On Their Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage. With the Hokule'a's Worldwide voyage covering a distance of 47,000 miles over a four-year period and

will visit 85 ports in 26 countries; with the hopes of raising awareness of the importance of ocean protection for the survival of life on earth.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to District 14 (FY 15)

- ◆ Kapaa High School—Plans, design, construction and equipment for improvements and renovations to career pathway classrooms including automotive, building and construction, graphic communication, digital media, health service, and culinary arts facilities—\$1,500,000
- ◆ Malama Kauai—Construction for the development of Kilauea Agricultural Park- \$120,000
- ◆ Anahola Hawaiian Homelands – Construction for remediation improvements to DHHL dams and reservoirs - \$3,000,000
- ◆ Mailihuna Road (Kealia Bridge) Intersection Improvements—\$1,520,000
- ◆ Sheltered Bus Stops— Along State Highways and Collector Roads-\$600,000
- ◆ Guardrail, Shoulder Improvements, Traffic Operational Improvements to Existing Intersections - \$1,588,000
- ◆ Reinforce and Upgrade Hanalei River Breach-\$1,500,00
- ◆ Hanalei Elementary School—Converged Network Infrastructure- \$100,000
- ◆ Kilauea Elementary School– Converge Network Infrastructure- \$100,000; waterline upgrade for fire protection- \$1,300,000

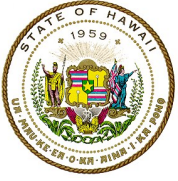
Governor Release Funds For District 14

- ◆ Waioli, Waipa and Waikoko Stream Bridges (Land and Design)- \$530,000
- ◆ Samuel Mahelona Hospital Renovate Patient Dining Room—\$500,000; Exterior Doors -\$1,100,000; Replace Nurse Call System—\$500,000
- ◆ East Kauai Irrigation System Upgrade and Repair-\$75,000
- ◆ Haena State Park– CIP Improvements- \$450,000

Representative Kawakami Appointed to (HISC)

Speaker of the House, Joseph M. Souki recently re-appointed Representative Kawakami to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). The Council is an inter-departmental collaboration established in 2003 for the special purpose of providing policy level direction, coordination, fund disbursements and planning to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research.





Legislative Accomplishments 2014 Hawai'i State Legislature

This second year of the legislative biennium, the House of Representatives tackled numerous concerns within the state. Concerns such as, raising the minimum wage, state-wide access to affordable health care, promoting economic development, improving the educational system and investing in environmental solutions for Hawaii's future.

This session, as an Assistant Majority Leader, as well as the Vice Chair of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee and a member of various committees, Representative Kawakami battled for extensive issues such as county lifeguard liability; protecting members of a family from domestic abuse; providing employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities; creating partnerships to better utilize our public lands to beautify and provide food for our communities; voicing support for the protection of rural hospitals; improving coverage of Autism spectrum disorders; and sustaining our natural resources. Here is a snapshot of highlighted measures; more information is available on the State Capitol website; www.capitol.hawaii.gov or call the Office of Representative Kawakami at 808-586-8435 or email: repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov.

RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN : Specifies that children must be mandatorily enrolled in kindergarten if the child will be at least five years of age on or before July 31st of the school year, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, unless otherwise exempt. (SB2768 SD2 HD2 CD1)

RELATING TO LIABILITY; COUNTY LIFEGUARDS: Extends the sunset date for three more years to exempt county lifeguards from liability while guarding State beaches specifically important for our lifeguards at Ke'e beach. As our lifeguards protect residents and visitors, it is important that we protect them as well. (HB1024 HD1 SD2)

RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Makes the commission of an act of physical abuse in the presence of a family or household member who is a minor under the age of fourteen a class C felony. (HB1993 SD2 CD1)

RELATING TO HEALTH (Autism): To support early intervention of autism spectrum disorders by requiring the contracting of an actuarial analysis of the projected costs of providing insurance coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.. Makes an appropriation for the performance of the actuarial analysis. By the Insurance Commissioner. (SB2054 SD3 HD3 CD1)

RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION : Makes a \$15,000,000 emergency appropriation to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to continue operations and the provision of health care to State rural hospitals including Samuel Mahelona Hospital and Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital (SB2866 SD1 HD1 CD1)

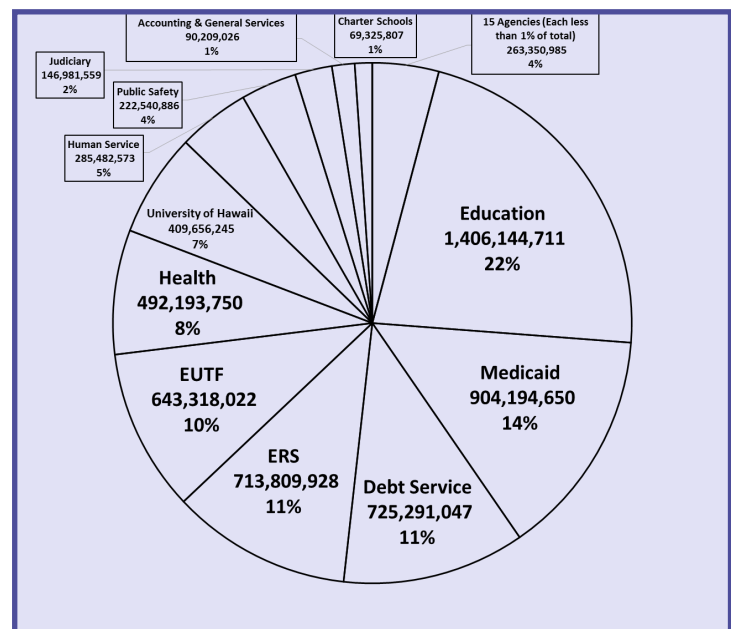
RELATING TO CRIME: (Habitual property crime) Imposes a mandatory minimum term of one year imprisonment upon conviction for the offense of habitual property crime. Authorizes probation only for a first conviction of the offense of habitual property crime. (HB2205 HD1 SD1 CD1)

RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY: Allows solar energy facilities to occupy no more than 10% of a parcel, or 20 acres of land, within agricultural lands with soil classified as overall productivity rating class B or C if a special use permit has been granted and the area occupied by the solar energy facilities is also made available for compatible agricultural activities. Requires that solar energy facilities be decommissioned and removed within 12 months of the conclusion of operation. (SB2658 SD3 HD2)

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION: Transfers the administrative placement of the public utilities commission from the department of budget and finance to the department of commerce and consumer affairs and provides for the operational independence of the Commission.(SB2948 SD1 HD1 CD2)

Fiscal Year 2015 State Budget

\$6,372,499,189
General Funds



Kauai Legislators Host Kauai Students



35 AVID students from Kapaa Middle School visit to the State Capitol as part of their college preparatory field trip to Oahu. The students learned about the legislative process and became familiar with legislative offices and staff.



Speaking to students of the TeenPact Program, Representative Kawakami espoused critical knowledge to the future generations of the state.



The Kauai legislators proudly hosted Chapter President Ian Souza, Vice President Wyatt Borilez, Treasurer Caleb Neumann, of the Kapaa High Skills USA Automotive Club.



Congratulations to Luke Rita and Grace Peralta for extraordinary accomplishments as members of the Boys and Girls Club, Kapaa and Lihue.



Representative Kawakami introduced HB 2177, that would create a community food forest program. This bill was the brainchild of a 9th grader from Kauai, Talia Abrams.



Autumn Warnock, of Island School became a student legislative intern . Autumn tracked bills such as the urban forest measure and wrote testimony on increasing the minimum wage.

Kauai Visitors to the State Capitol



Kainoa Hutchinson enjoying a day at the Capitol with Representative Kawakami and members of the Kauai delegation on Developmental Disabilities.



Representative Kawakami and Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho pose proudly with Kauai's finest after a hearing for HB1024, relating to county lifeguards



Special visitors to the State Capitol on Ag Day. John Gardenis, Sandi Kato-Klutke, XXX and Laurie Ho shared exquisite Kauai produce with legislators and staff. Keeping agriculture, agriculture.



Kauai representatives from various UPW bargaining units came prepared with suggestions to Legislators for improving public services.