

Phone: (808) 586-9460

E-mail: repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov



*Member, Committee on
Agriculture*

*Member, Committee on Lower &
Higher Education*

*Member, Committee on
Tourism & International Affairs*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your voice and advocate in the state House of Representatives. I would also like to thank those who attended the legislative town hall meeting that I co-hosted with Representative Lauren Matsumoto, and Honolulu City Councilmembers Ron Menor and Heidi Tsuneyoshi on April 3, 2019. Your feedback was appreciated.

Earlier this month, the House voted on over 200 bills which were returned to the Senate (Second Crossover) on April 11, 2019. I voted against several measures, some of which are highlighted below.

The House and Senate will now transition to Conference Committees where we will negotiate the final version of many bills before a final vote on April 30, 2019.

As the legislative session begins to wind down, I encourage to contact me at (808) 586-9460 or via e-mail at repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Val

NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING



New Classroom Building to Remove Tracks from Mililani Middle School

The much anticipated new three-story building will provide 15 classrooms (five per floor) and over 34,000 square feet of space, along with a new parking area and utilities.

It will be built over approximately one acre of land, previously owned by the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation, that was formerly part of the adjacent Mililani Mauka Community Park. The new building is anticipated to be ready for use by the spring of 2021 at an approximate construction cost of \$14 million.

Rendering courtesy - Hawaii State Department of Education

NO VOTES AT THE CAPITOL

RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE SURCHARGE TAX - SB 162, SD2, HD3 - While this bill fixes an unconstitutional provision in state law, it could also increase the daily fee (tax) to rent a car in Hawai'i.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST DOUBLE TAX - SB 301, SD1, HD1 - Taxes dividends earned by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) twice. May discourage investment in Hawai'i.

MINIMUM WAGE - SB 789, SD2, HD2 - This bill would increase the minimum wage in Hawai'i, which would negatively affect many small businesses, including several in Mililani. Good business owners already pay their employees more than the minimum wage.

NO DISCIPLINING YOUR CHILDREN - SB 1047, SD1, HD2 - This bill would create a vague law which could make it illegal for parents to discipline their children.

NINETY-NINE YEAR LEASES ON STATE LANDS - SB 1190, SD2, HD2 - Allows the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to lease state lands for condominium projects for 99 years.

TAKING AWAY FIREARMS - SB 1466, SD2, HD2 - Allows firearms to be taken away with vague probable cause.

NEW LAWS

As of April 24, 2019, Governor Ige signed the following bills into law, or allowed them to become law without his signature:

House Bill 1 (Act 1) - This bill funds operations at the Legislature, and other important offices such as the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Reference Bureau, the State Ombudsman, and the State Ethics Commission.

Senate Bill 396, SD1 (Act 2) - Establishes marketplace facilitators as the sellers of tangible personal property, intangible property, or services. Requires other persons who provide a forum for listing of tangible personal property, intangible property, or services and the taking or processing of orders to report information about purchasers to the Department of Taxation.

Senate Bill 1361, SD1 (Act 3) - Representative Okimoto voted against this bill which increases the estate tax.

Senate Bill 148 (Act 4) - This State Fire Council bill specifies the allowable fire protection systems certifications that an individual may obtain.

House Bill 2, CD1 (Act 5) - Governor Ige signed the state government's operating budget into law on April 12, 2019.

Senate 512, SD1, HD1 (Act 6) - This bill provides operating funds for commercial harbors under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Transportation.

Senate Bill 725, SD1 (Act 7) - Specifies that a condominium association's proxies and ballots may be destroyed after ninety days, rather than thirty days, after an association meeting, unless the election is contested, in which case the documents shall be retained until resolution of the contested election.

House Bill 165 (Act 8) - This bill updates campaign spending law for candidates and non-candidate committees that do not intend on raising or spending more than \$1,000.

House Bill 1180, HD1 (Act 9) - Appropriates funds for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities due to the Kilauea eruption for the County of Hawaii. Requires reporting of monthly expenditures to the Department of Budget and Finance.

Senate Bill 107, SD1 (Act 10) - Updates elections law for absentee and military-overseas voters.

BREAKING GROUND AT MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL



On Saturday, April 13, 2019, Representative Okimoto joined **Governor and First Lady Ige, Senators Donovan Dela Cruz and Michelle Kidani, Representatives Ryan Yamane and Lauren Matsumoto, City Managing Director Roy Amemiya, and Principal Elynn Chung** at the long awaited groundbreaking for a new classroom building at **Mililani Middle School**. Upon completion, the new building will provide enough classrooms to remove the school from its current multi-track schedule. The new building should be ready for use by the spring of 2021. For more information, see the inside of this mailer. *Photo courtesy - Hawaii State Department of Education*