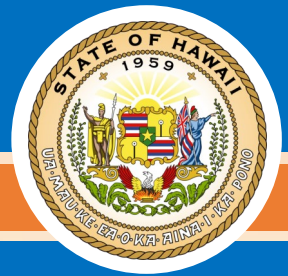




VAL OKIMOTO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MILILANI MAUKA - MILILANI - WAIPIO ACRES



FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your voice and advocate in the state House of Representatives. The 2020 legislative session started with a subdued Opening Day on January 15, 2020. I also changed committee assignments and now serve on the Committee on Transportation instead of the Committee on Agriculture. I continue to serve on the Lower & Higher Education and Tourism & International Affairs committees.

I appreciate the tremendous response to the survey which was mailed to every home in the district in January. Your survey responses will help me prepare for Third Reading votes early next month, which is when the House sends bills to the Senate. If you had trouble accessing the link, <https://tinyurl.com/HD36SURVEY2020>, please contact my office for assistance.

I also encourage you to sign up for my e-mail list by visiting the link provided below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (808) 586-9460 or via e-mail at repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely, *Val*

EVENTS AT THE CAPITOL



Top - I had the opportunity to meet with student government leaders from **Mililani High School** on January 24, 2020. The students were participating in the annual Secondary Student Conference at the State Capitol. Go Trojans!



Top Right - Mahalo to Mililani constituents **Jack and Donna Van Osdol** who visited the Capitol on Opening Day.



Bottom Right - On January 30, 2020, the House of Representatives honored and thanked **Mr. James "Jim" Funaki, Esq.** for his nearly six decades of service with the House. Mr. Funaki began working at the State Capitol as a Third Reading Attorney during the Third Legislature, participated in a landmark decision before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1966, and completed his service on December 31, 2019 as Special House Counsel. Mahalo Mr. Funaki!

SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL UPDATES

Visit: <http://eepurl.com/gvluxb> to sign up for my e-mail list. Mahalo!

"NO" VOTES AT THE CAPITOL

House Bill No. 1242 – Relating to Renewable Energy – This bill would impose renewable energy standards on the state's gas utility companies, which import less than 2% of fossil fuels into the state. While the technology exists to create renewable gas, it has not been fully developed to meet the state's demand for gas.

House Bill No. 1851 – Relating to Grid-Interactive Water Heater Systems - Would prohibit the issuance of building permits for new multi-unit dwellings that do not include grid-interactive water heater systems. This government mandate would increase the cost of housing.

House Bill No. 1930 – Relating to Taxation – This bill initially increased the rental motor vehicle surcharge tax to \$8 per day. The current rate is \$5 per day.

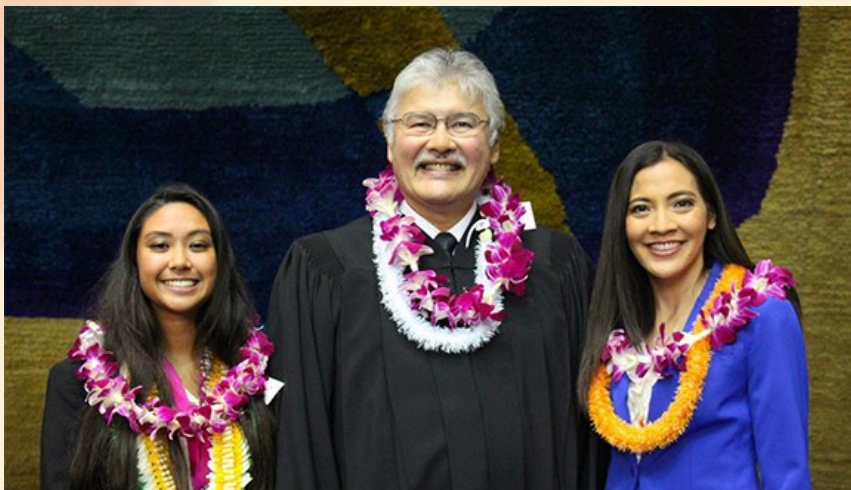
House Bill No. 1944 – Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax – This bill would add another layer of bureaucracy to government, allocating \$5 million to the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). HTA would prioritize projects, and then the funding would be spent by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

House Bill No. 1946 – Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax – This bill would place caps on the amount each county receives from the tax instead of receiving a specified sum. It would also require the counties to request reimbursement from the state within 90 days of spending county funds. This bill may have far reaching implications in county budgets, and could, in a worst-case scenario, lead to increased property taxes.

House Bill No. 2227 – Relating to Energy Efficiency – Would impose state energy standards on air purifiers and home spas. I voted no on this bill because state regulatory requirements which exceed U.S. EPA standards will likely increase the cost of these products for the consumer.

House Bill No. 2475 – Relating to Cargo Carriers – Would allow the Department of Transportation to provide subsidies to cargo carriers serving Maui County. This bill, if passed, would give an unfair advantage to a single cargo carrier.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Top Left - On January 18, 2020 I met with Cub Scouts from Mililani's **Pack 564** to talk about civic duties and responsibilities.

Bottom Left - Congratulations to Mililani High School student **Krysta Reese** who was sworn in as Governor of the 69th Annual YMCA Youth & Government program by retired judge and Mililani constituent, **The Hon. Ed Kubo**.

Top Right - On January 12, 2020, **Rep. Ryan Yamane** and I had the honor to congratulate **Xander Babcock** on earning the prestigious Eagle Scout award.