

Town & Upcountry Update

2015 Legislative Session



Aloha Neighbors!

Thank you for the honor of serving you in the House of Representatives.

The 2015 legislative session has adjourned and I would like to share with you important changes to Hawaii's law.

This newsletter also describes some of the budget items that affect the pressing needs of Hawaii's people. The legislature took a conservative approach to spending, while providing needed resources to areas such as the elderly, education and public safety.

I hope these legislative highlights are informative and useful. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you for our community.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keef T. Farnsworth".

EXPANDING BROADBAND

Got Broadband? Everyone is talking about broadband. Broadband can mean many different things to different people. For most of us, broadband means the Internet, and how "fast" our Internet service is. Faster Internet service means faster downloading or uploading of files, like movies and music. It also means not having to wait when we visit various Internet services, like online news, airline reservations, and government websites such as Maui county's or the State of Hawaii's.

Our Maui schools also benefit from high-speed broadband because our students have access to online classes and reference materials, the same ones as schools on the mainland. Over \$560,000.00 is currently budgeted for broadband/internet improvements at King Kekaulike High, Kalama Intermediate, Kula Elementary, Makawao Elementary, and Pukalani Elementary schools. Our students also have access to the same information and services as other Department of Education students statewide. The Internet has become the great equalizer for students who live in rural or non-urban areas. We not only have high speed Internet on Maui, but also high-speed broadband connection between Maui and the other islands.

Our office has been actively involved in the development of high-speed broadband service for Maui and the State of Hawaii. We participate in many broadband related activities and groups, and have introduced bills that allow for the growth of broadband service in Hawaii. We will continue to work on your behalf to ensure that Maui continues to receive high speed Broadband and all its benefits.



Celebrating Opening Day at the Capitol with Speaker Souki and Representatives Woodson and McKelvey.

Countywide Capital Improvement Projects

Central Maui Regional Park—\$6,000,000 for construction, ground and site improvements.

Hana Highway/Kaahumanu Avenue—\$8,610,000 for beautification and irrigation of the main corridor between Kahului and Wailuku.

Hana Highway Improvements Milepost 28.1—\$895,000 for design and construction for roadway widening.

Hana Highway Improvements Huelo to Hana—\$4,000,000 for improving, upgrades to roads, bridges, walls, drainage structures, and guardrails.

Hana Highway Rockfall Mitigation, Huelo to Hana—\$4,600,000 for design and construction to mitigate rockfall and potential landslide areas.

Iao Valley—\$950,000 for rockfall mitigation.

Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission—\$500,000 for plans and design for an education, exhibit, visitor center and administrative building.

Kahului Baseyard Improvements—\$650,000 for improvements.

Kahului Civic Center—\$38,313 for retro-commissioning.

Kahului Harbor Improvements—\$21,000,000 for plans, design and construction of capital improvements.

Kahului Library—\$394,000 Replace Chillers

Kipahulu Forest Reserve—\$100,000 for watershed protection, management and/or improvements.

Lahaina Small Boat Harbor—\$2,250,000 for construction and equipment for emergency dredging and replacement of buoys.

Lahaina Small Boat Harbor Pier—\$330,000 to install new fenders and bull rails.

The following House and Senate bills comprise an overview of the accomplishments of the legislature during the Regular Session of 2015.

Taking Care Of Our Students

HB820 HD2 SD1 CD1—ACT109 Public Early Childhood Education.

Establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten Program to serve children in the year prior to their eligibility for kindergarten with priority to underserved or at-risk children.

SB822 SD1 HD2—ACT021 Department of Education; Student Hours.

Assists the Department's schools in implementing the minimum day and hour requirements for each school year, as established by Act 167, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010. Clarifies the timeline for phasing in a 1,080-hour school year by 2016 and clarifies the manner in which hours are calculated.

HB1440 HD1 SD1 CD1—ACT 139 Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program; School-based Health Services.

Improves the access to and quality of health services available to schoolchildren by appropriating \$1,000,000 for each year of the 2015-2017 Fiscal Biennium. Healthy and Ready to Learn Program, which builds and enhances school-based health services.



The fifth graders of Pukalani Elementary School visiting the State Capitol on sine die.

Supporting Farmers And Agriculture

HB573 SD1 CD1—ACT 153 Good Agricultural Practices Program

Works to achieve the State's goals of food security, sustainability and self-sufficiency by establishing and appropriating \$300,000 for a Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program.



Supporting Ag Day with Ag Chair Rep Tsuji.

SB376 SD2 HD1 CD1 Farm to School Program

Improves the health of children and the agricultural economy through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown food for school meals and snacks.



The annual Bizarre Bazaar was a success. We collected \$2,214 for the Maui Food Bank.

Taking Care Of Our Environment

HB1140 HD1 SD2 CD1— ACT 139 Cesspool Upgrade, Conversion, or Connection; Income Tax Credit.

Provides a temporary, non-refundable income tax credit of up to \$10,000 per taxpayer-with an aggregate cap of \$5,000,000 for all taxpayers in any taxable year-for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a septic system or an aerobic treatment unit system, or connecting to a sewer system.

SB717 SD2 HD1 CD1—ACT 161 Relating To Ethanol.

Removes the economic burden on Hawaii motorists created by the requirement that gasoline sold in the state include 10 percent ethanol by repealing this requirement.

Health

HB1075 HD2 SD2 CD1—ACT103 Maui Regional System.

Ensures that the people of the State have continued access to health care services in areas served by regional systems of HHSC. This measure requires the Maui Regional System to negotiate an agreement with a private entity to transfer the exclusive right to conduct ongoing business at one or more of its facilities, including Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Clinic and Lanai Community Hospital to a nonprofit management entity that is wholly-owned by a private entity.



SB1030 SD1 HD2—ACT 122 Tobacco Products; Electronic Smoking Devices; Minimum Age.

Prohibits the possession or consumption of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, in public places by persons under 21 years of age. Subject to enforcement through fines and possible community service.

Sustainable Future

SB892 SD2 HD3 CD1—ACT143 Hawaii Resilience and Sustainability Strategy; Appropriations.

Promotes the State's resilience and sustainability strategy by appropriating funds for statewide broadband infrastructure, energy efficiency and grid operations, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Countywide Capital Improvement Projects

MCCC— \$2,850,000 to improve dorms, fencing, and roof.

Makena SP— \$100,000 for facility, parking, drainage and site improvements.

Maui District Office Facility— \$98,968 for retro-commissioning of four buildings.

Maui Community College, Nursing— \$1,400,000 to renovate existing building to repurpose for expanding growth.

Maui Office Annex Building— \$4,000,000 to replace building and related improvements.

Maui Raceway Park— \$2,000,000 to repave roads, rebuild launch pad, replace restrooms and improve equipment.

New Day Work Program-Kahului Harbor Land Acquisition and Improvements— \$17,000,000 for land acquisition and design for improvements.

Paia Bypass— \$300,000 for plans for an alternative traffic improvements.

Hawaii Health Systems Capital Improvement Projects

Maui Memorial Hospital—\$5,992,000 for replacement of chillers, AC, and clinical equipment. Repairs to facility and plumbing.

Kula Hospital—\$2,900,000 for exterior, ward room repairs, and AC improvements.

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*Maui County Legislators Welcome Our
Newest Member, Representative Lynn DeCoite.*

District 12 Capital Improvement Projects

Kahului Airport	\$19,600,000	<i>Design, construction, renovation, and replace holdroom, ID Office, conference Room and Restrooms. Remove and replace sewage lift station.</i>
Haleakala Highway Widening Mile Post 0.8	\$1,800,000	<i>Construction for widening the highway from one lane to two lanes, extending a box culvert and constructing headwalls and wingwalls.</i>
Nakula & Kahikinui Planting	\$160,000	<i>Watershed protection, management and improvements.</i>
Maui Baseyard	\$207,000	<i>Upgrades, replacement and/or improvements to existing baseyard facilities.</i>

District 12 Education Capital Improvement Projects

Kula Elementary School	\$500,000	<i>Plans, design and construction for a water filtration system.</i>
	\$237,000	<i>Reroof walkways and replace gutters.</i>
	\$70,059	<i>Converge network infrastructure.</i>
Makawao Elementary School	\$2,000,000	<i>Design and construction of covered play court.</i>
	\$815,000	<i>Playfield regrade, replace cafeteria floors, add rails, and miscellaneous repair and maintenance.</i>
	\$70,059	<i>Converge network infrastructure.</i>
Pukalani Elementary School	\$362,000	<i>Design, construction and equipment for landscaping.</i>
	\$242,000	<i>Playfield regrade, recarpet, and miscellaneous repair and maintenance.</i>
	\$70,059	<i>Converge network infrastructure.</i>
Kalama Intermediate School	\$455,000	<i>Replace campus fire alarms and light fixtures.</i>
	\$140,118	<i>Converged network infrastructure.</i>
King Kekaulike High School	\$2,070,000	<i>Whole school renovation.</i>
	\$1,000,000	<i>Design, construction and equipment for track and field.</i>
	\$940,000	<i>Replace campus fire alarms and light fixtures.</i>
	\$210,177	<i>Converge network infrastructure.</i>