

# TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

2017 Interim Session Highlights



Aloha,

The 2017 Legislative Session has ended, but the work of “what’s next” is just getting started. There were 230 bills that passed and made it’s way to the Governor for his review.

This update includes some of the noteworthy legislation that will improve our future as residents of Hawaii.

During this interim, I will be working hard visiting various state departments in an effort to understand the process of current and future capital improvement projects.

In the fall, the Finance Committee will be conducting site visits to the neighbor islands to assess ongoing capital improvement projects.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you at the legislature. I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, I urge you to call my office at 808-586-6330 or email me at :

[repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Mahalo,

Please assist us in our initiative to ‘GO GREEN,’ and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email.

Call(808) 586-6330 or email.

[repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov)



## The Clift Tsuji Act

**HB1325 HD1 SD1 CD1 Act 163 Relating to Biosecurity. “Clift Tsuji Act.”**

The protection of the State’s precious and unique environment is important to all of us who are privileged to call Maui our home. This year I introduced HB1325 to strengthen the State’s biosecurity measures. This legislation helps Maui in many specific ways. For example, it increases the inspection capacity within the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch to prevent new invasive species from entering our island. It will also increase pest management practices, allowing better control of existing insects and diseases affecting our farms.



*Ryan Tsuji speaking on behalf of his father, the late Representative Clift Tsuji, on the importance of this bill.*



To complement HB1325, I secured \$608,000 in the State budget for mobile hot-water treatment units at the docks and production areas. This treatment prevents the spread of Coqui frogs, little fire ants, slugs and snails associated with the Rat Lungworm Disease.

Governor Ige, signed HB1325 into law on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The full text of HB1325, now Act 163 is available at the <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> for more information.



*Legislators and the Tsuji’s family watched Governor Ige sign the bill into Act 163.*

# Session Laws Hawaii 2017



## Caring For Our Kupuna

**HB607 Act 102-** *Relating to Kupuna Care. Elderly Care.*

Improves the care of elderly persons in the State by authorizing the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program to assist community members in obtaining care for elders while remaining in the workforce. Appropriates \$600,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 to establish and implement the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Clarifies procedures for providing and coordinating services and for determining eligibility for services under the existing Kupuna Care Program.

**HB615 Act 103-** *Relating to the Healthy Aging Partnership Program.*

Supports the health of older adults by appropriating \$500,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the Healthy Aging Partnership Program to further the Program's important role in improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's Kupuna.

## Helping Families

**HB213 Act 128-** *Relating to Family Leave; Sibling.*

Permits an employee to take family leave in order to care for employee's sibling with a serious health condition. Specifies notice and certification requirements.

**HB937 HD1 SD1 CD1-** *Relating to Early Learning. Executive Office on Early learning; Family Child-Child Interaction learning Programs.*

Supports the early learning of the young children of Hawaii by appropriating \$300,000 for each year of fiscal biennium 2017-2019. Allows the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third-party providers for family-child interaction learning programs that support families taking an active role in the social, emotional, and cognitive development of their young children. Transmitted to Governor.



*The Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. was chartered on March 22, 1965. It is a private non-profit Community Action Agency.*

*Kupuna groups in our district are the Pukalani Pensioners, Haliimaile Vitagold, Kula Camellia, Makawao Hongwanji, Kula Gateball and Kula AARP.*

## For The Community

**HB1244 Act 125-** *Relating to Cesspools. Upgrade, Conversion or Connection, Tax Credit.*

Requires upgrade, conversion, or sewer connection of all cesspools in the State before 2050 unless excepted. Broadens eligibility criteria for tax credit to offset cost. Requires the Department of Health to investigate existing cesspools, assess incentive programs, and report to the Legislature.

**HB427 HD2 SD1 CD1-** *Relating to Dark Night Skies Protection. Light Pollution; Protection Advisory Committee; University of Hawaii.*

Establishes a Dark Night Skies Protection Advisory Committee to assist the University of Hawaii in developing a statewide dark night skies protection strategy to preserve Hawaii's dark night skies. Transmitted to Governor.

For more Information on all the House and Senate bills please visit:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov>

# Session Laws Hawaii 2017



Together with District 13 Representative DeCoite and Finance Chair Representative Luke, with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to witness the signing of the bill by Governor Ige. HB451, HD1, SD2, CD1, became Act 080 on July 5, 2017.

## Successorship

**HB 451, HD1, SD2, CD1 Act 080**– *Relating to Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.*

It was a historic day for the descendants of the first Hawaiian Homestead Community of Kalamaula on the Island of Moloka'i. The law reduces the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement of certain successors to lessees of Hawaiian home lands from one quarter to one thirty-second to reduce the trend of "highest bid" and "leapfrog" homestead lease sales and to encourage lessees to maintain and invest in their residences.

## Celebrating Agriculture

**SB882 Act 010**– *Relating to Farm to School Month in Hawaii.*

Designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii."



Together with Representative DeCoite and Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura at the seventh anniversary of the Upcountry Farmers market at Kulamalu.



## Supporting Our Veterans

**HB942 Act 035**- *Relating to Filipino Veterans.*

Directs the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to commission an artist to design and build a monument to honor and commemorate Filipino veterans of World War II and to select the location of the monument. Appropriates \$200,000 from the Works of Art Special Fund.

**SB283 Act 11**—*Relating to Transportation.*

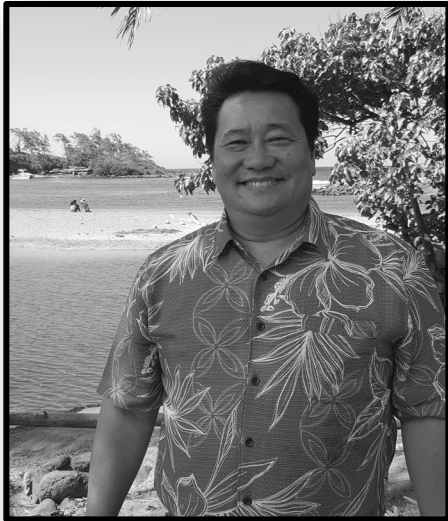
Honors veterans and their role in Maui history by renaming Mokulele Highway as Maui Veterans Highway.



Memorial Day honoring the WWII Veterans at the Maui Veterans Cemetery in Makawao.



**Representative Kyle Yamashita**  
 Hawai'i State Capitol  
 415 S. Beretania Street Room 422  
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# *Happenings*



⇒ **Hazardous Tree Removal on Piiholo Road began on Monday, July 10, 2017.**

Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii– The County of Maui announced the removal of 20 hazardous trees on Piiholo Road. An estimated total of 112 trees will be removed due to hazards presented by falling branches and trees.

⇒ **Upcountry Farmers Market, Every Saturday 7:00am-11:00am.**

Kulamalu Town Center, 55 Kiopa'a Place, Pukalani, 96768

A family-friendly outing that supports our local food growers, producers, and artisans.

⇒ **2017 Maui Obon Festival**

**Saturday, August 19, 2017 Pa'ia Rinzai Zen Mission**

120 Alawai Rd., Service 6 p.m.; Dance 7 p.m. (808) 268-2209

**Saturday, August 26, 2017 Kula Shofukuji Mission**

113 Puanani Place., Service 6:30 p.m.; Dance 7:30 p.m. (808) 661-0466

