

TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

2018 Legislative Session



REPRESENTATIVE

KYLE YAMASHITA

Dear Neighbors,

We are in the final phase of the 2018 legislative session. House and Senate bills have crossed over to both chambers. Bills with amendments and disagrees will be headed for conference committees.

The House Speaker, the Senate President and the leadership group for both chambers will determine House and Senate conferees for each bill.

Bills that are agreed upon by the conference committees then go to the floor for consent by the full legislative body. Finally, these bills will go to the Governor for his signature to become law.

We are all stakeholders in what is best for our State and as legislators we keep that in mind as we move forward with legislation to benefit all of us.

Please contact my office if you have comments or concerns.

Aloha,

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



What's Happening At

King Kekaulike High School

Performing Arts Center

Prior to 2004, I served on the School Community Based Management (SCBM) Council. The Council encouraged parent involvement and was given the responsibility for prioritizing schoolwide concerns. Now retired, King Kekaulike High School (KKHS) principal Susan Scofield and performing arts teacher Carolyn Johnson were both strong advocates of the Performing Arts Center.

When KKHS opened in 1995, the campus master plan included a learning center for the visual and performing arts. Students were offered curriculum pathways in arts and communication, health and human services, business, and industrial education.

The largest and most popular pathway chosen by students was arts and communication.

While serving in the House and on the Finance Committee, I became aware of the backlog of repair and maintenance of school buildings statewide. It became obvious that a performing arts center would not be a school priority.

It took patience and many years of financing, first with planning, then design, and finally construction for the completion of the Performing Arts Center. The entire amount of \$34.5 million was funded by the State.

This state-of-the-art building covers 22,123 square feet and seats more than 400 people. It has acoustic tiles and an array of complex technical features. The control booth is outfitted with stations for lighting, stage management, video, and sound control operators.

The Performing Arts Center will showcase our local talent in plays and concerts and provide a venue for events.



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Informational Updates

What's Happening At King Kekaulike High School
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Resurfaced Football Field

In my discussions with KKHS Athletic Director Patrick Higa, he expressed a dire need for the football field to be leveled.

Since Upcountry Maui is frequently subjected to the impacts of drought, the football field became severely and dangerously uneven.

For the safety of the students, the field is now level after a \$5 million State-funded improvement project.

The field also went from an eight-lane track to a six lane track allowing the field to be wider for soccer games. For statewide competition in track and field, eight-lane tracks are required but this was not possible and the six-lane track is now used as a practice track.

The stadium is currently utilized for track and field, football and soccer games.

Amphitheater

Principal Mark Elliott expressed a need for an outdoor amphitheater. He wanted to create an informal gathering place for student events and to create a college campus-like atmosphere.

Currently, the Department of Education is waiting for a final design. Bidding for the project begins in April 2018. Earmarked for the project is \$600,000.



Visiting the new King Kekaulike High School's football field.

New Medicare Card

Starting in April 2018, the Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will begin mailing new cards to all people with Medicare. Your Medicare card is proof that you have Medicare health insurance.

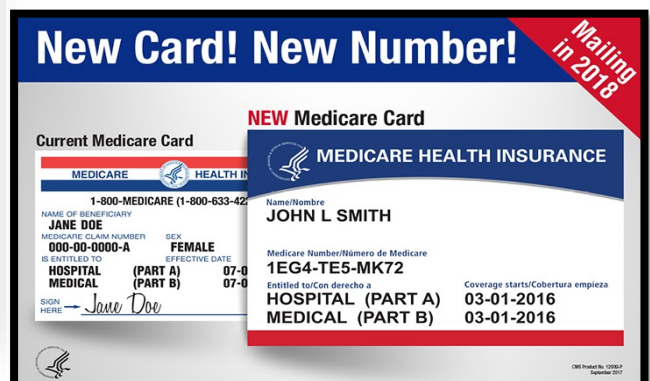
CMS is required to remove social security numbers from all Medicare cards by 2019. A unique randomly assigned Medicare number will replace the Social Security Number on each new Medicare card.

From April to June 2018, new cards will be mailed to people in Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, **Hawaii**, Northern Mariana Islands, and Oregon.

Make sure your mailing address is up-to-date. Please contact Social Security at www.ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213 if you have changes.

When you receive your new card, the old Medicare card should be safely and securely destroyed. This card change will not affect a beneficiary's Medicare benefits.

FRAUD PREVENTION. Seniors have been targeted in financial exploitation schemes year after year. Note that Medicare will not call you to ask for personal or confidential information or charge a fee to get a new card. It is fraud if someone calls you to let you know that you are getting a new Medicare card for a fee of \$5 to \$50.



Conference Time

TAT SB648 SD1 HD1

Senate Bill 648 SD1 HD1– Relating to Taxation

Transient Accommodations Tax; Counties

This bill was reported out of the House Finance Committee on March 23rd and passed third reading on the floor on March 27, 2018.

SB648 SD1 HD1 increases the amount of the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) revenues for the neighbor islands. It increases Maui's TAT revenues from \$23,484,000 to \$38,304,000.

The TAT is paid by hotel guests to the State. These funds are allocated to several groups, including the counties, to pay for visitor related expenses such as public safety, beach parks, road maintenance, water and wastewater management.

The Senate disagrees with the House amendments of SB648 SD1 HD1. House and Senate conferees will meet during Conference Committee to iron out the differences.



Together with the Legacy Farmers recipients at Maui County Agriculture Festival.

Upcountry Roads & Sidewalks

Pending approval by the legislature are:

- HCR112/HR100 Urging the Department of Transportation to assess the dangers of pedestrian use of the shoulder of Haleakala Highway between Upper Kimo Drive and Ainakula Road and to examine potential pedestrian safety countermeasures;
- A request for \$3,000,000 state funds matched by the County (\$1,000,000) on Old Haleakala Highway from Makawao Avenue to Pukalani Street for sidewalk planning and design;
- A request for \$2,000,000 for traffic signal on Kula Highway and Omaopio Road.



This year's fundraising event Bizarre Bazaar raised over \$2,500. All proceeds will go to the Maui Food Bank.

CIP PROJECT FUNDING

Released by the Governor on April 5, 2018

Kahului Airport, Maui \$3,400,000

This project will provide additional construction funding for restroom renovations at Holdrooms A, B, and E at the Kahului Airport.

Representative Kyle Yamashita

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Please assist us in our initiative to inform you on events. Send us your email address to receive date alerts by email.

rep Yamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov

2018 Obon Festival

◆ Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission

253 Hana Highway, Paia, Hawaii

Friday, July 13, 2018 at 7:30pm

Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 7:30pm

◆ Makawao Hongwanji Mission

1074 Makawao Avenue, Makawao, Hawaii

Friday, July 27, 2018 at 7:00pm

Saturday, July 28, 2018 at 7:00pm

◆ Kula Shofukuji Shingon Mission

113 Puanani Place, Kula, Hawaii

Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 7:30pm

