



# SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

## Hawaii State Senate District 5

JANUARY 2015 • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1

WAILUKU • WAIHE'E • WAIHEU • WAIKAPU • KAHULUI

### A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kākou,

It's a great privilege to continue serving the people of Central Maui in the Hawai'i State Senate. Together with my colleagues from Maui, Senator J. Kalani English and Senator Rosalyn Baker, along with Speaker of the House Joe Souki and the five Maui House members, we will work to make sure your community concerns are addressed.

This legislative session I will be chairing the Judiciary and Labor Committee. This committee considers bills on courts, crime and punishment, including juvenile justice, campaign spending and elections, constitutional matters, individual rights and civil liberties, also unemployment and workforce training, labor management relations, collective bargaining, the state employee's retirement system, and the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

2015 also marks the start of the David Ige Administration. We look forward to working with Governor Ige and Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui and their staff this year.

I am introducing a number of bills to encourage discussion on healthcare, paid sick leave for service workers, pesticide regulation, elections, and elections by mail. My office welcomes input from the people of Central Maui on any of the issues being discussed this year. Your concerns are important and hopefully can be reflected in meaningful and timely ways. Mahalo in advance for taking the time to contact my office at the State Capitol. Our ability to represent you depends on hearing from you as the session continues.

Aloha,

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Opening Day
- State of the State
- State of the Judiciary
- Senate Bills Introduced
- Make Yourself Heard!

### 2015 LEGISLATIVE STAFF



Front: Ann Takaki, Jimmy Nelson, Susan Wong, and Ronald Lau. Back: Danielle Evangelista, Chelton Miyazono, Ashlee Afonso, Priya Rashid, and Nadine Ortega.

### CONTACT US

OFFICE OF SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL ROOM 221  
phone: (808) 586-7344  
fax: (808) 586-7348  
email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov  
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

### OPENING DAY PHOTOS



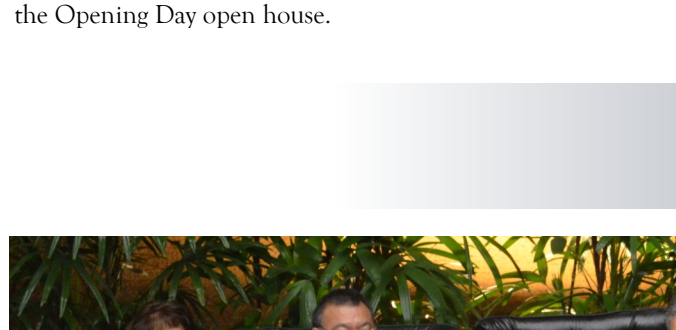
With my fellow Maui Senators J. Kalani English and Rosalyn H. Baker on the Senate Floor.



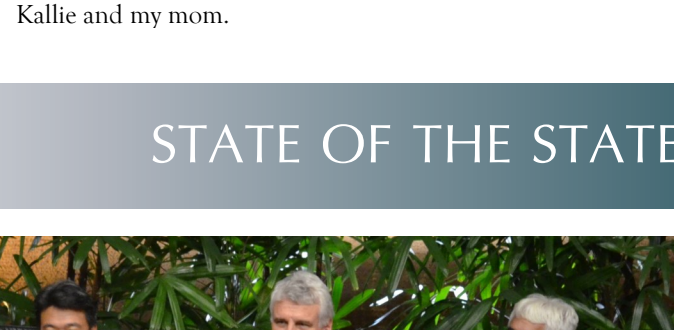
Escorting Senate President Donna Mercado Kim to her podium before her Opening Day remarks.



Enjoying a visit from Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui.

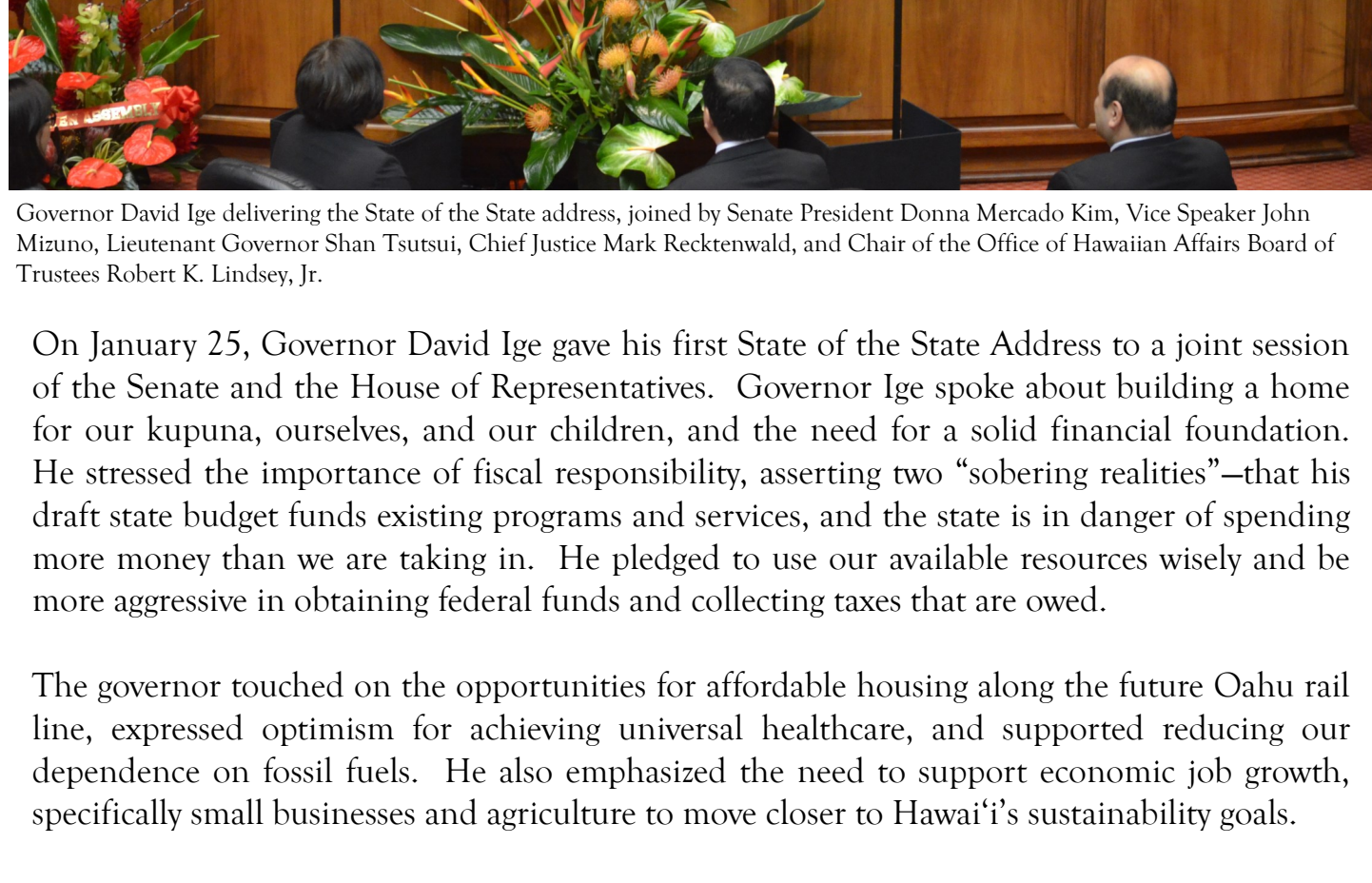


Happily meeting constituents who visited our office during the Opening Day open house.



Governor David Ige and the First Family with my spouse Kallie and my mom.

### STATE OF THE STATE



Governor David Ige delivering the State of the State address, joined by Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Speaker John Mizuno, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, and Chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.

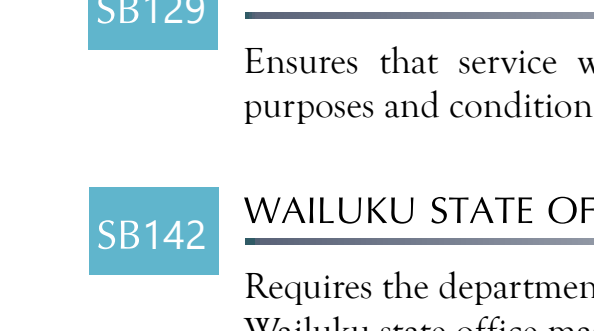
On January 25, Governor David Ige gave his first State of the State Address to a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Governor Ige spoke about building a home for our kupuna, ourselves, and our children, and the need for a solid financial foundation. He stressed the importance of fiscal responsibility, asserting two "sobering realities"—that his draft state budget funds existing programs and services, and the state is in danger of spending more money than we are taking in. He pledged to use our available resources wisely and be more aggressive in obtaining federal funds and collecting taxes that are owed.

The governor touched on the opportunities for affordable housing along the future Oahu rail line, expressed optimism for achieving universal healthcare, and supported reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. He also emphasized the need to support economic job growth, specifically small businesses and agriculture to move closer to Hawai'i's sustainability goals.

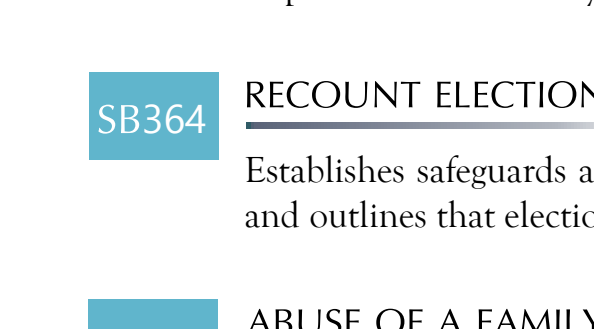
He also spoke of our need to support the military in our islands, as their presence plays a significant part in our economy and creates jobs, noting that he was able to stay in Hawaii after graduating from college because a local business had a military contract. Governor Ige also emphasized the importance of education, from the transformation of our public school system to our need for a strong university system to help educate Hawai'i's future leaders.

Governor Ige wrapped up his speech with the phrase "Ko ka kou home," a sentiment meaning "This is our home." Governor Ige hopes we can build a home for the people of Hawai'i together and looks forward to working and collaborating with all of us this session.

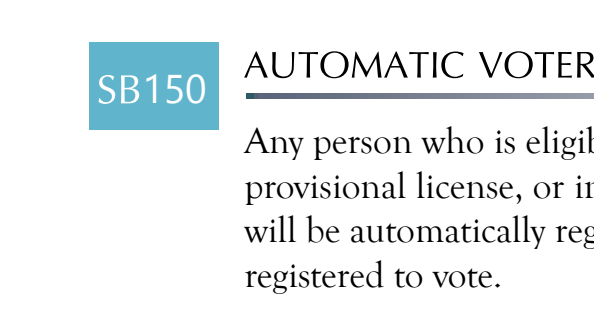
### STATE OF THE JUDICIARY



Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald addressing the joint session at the State of the Judiciary address.



Listening to Chief Justice Recktenwald next to my colleague from Maui, Representative Justin Woodson and Representative Jo Jordan.



With Senator Will Espero, Senator Jill Tokuda, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, and Senator J. Kalani English on the Senate floor.

Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives in his State of the Judiciary address on January 28. He spoke of the role of the judiciary to deliver justice for all by making sure people are treated fairly in peacefully resolving disputes.

One of Chief Justice Recktenwald's priorities is improving the public's access to justice with interactive software, which is now available in 50 libraries statewide. He touted the nationally recognized HOPE Probation program that metes out swift justice for defendants on probation who violate court orders, reducing the likelihood of program participants being arrested for a new crime by 20 percent. He also spoke of the expanded specialty courts, including veteran's treatment, drug court, the juvenile justice system, and family court. In the future, the judiciary hopes to make litigation more efficient and effective with alternatives to court, such as telephone and video conferences and mediation.

Chief Justice Recktenwald closed his address with the following: "At the judiciary, it does not matter who you are or who you represent. When you come before the courts of the state, you will get a fair shake."

### 2015 LEGISLATIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KEITH-AGARAN

- SB129 PAID SICK LEAVE FOR SERVICE WORKERS**  
Ensures that service workers are provided sick leave and outlines the purposes and conditions for both service employees and their employers.
- SB142 WAILUKU STATE OFFICE MASTER PLAN**  
Requires the department of accounting and general services to develop a Wailuku state office master plan, addressing the shortage of space.
- SB219 ELECTIONS BY MAIL**  
Implements elections by mail.
- SB364 RECOUNT ELECTIONS**  
Establishes safeguards and procedures for recounting ballots in an election and outlines that election results may be challenged by unlawful activity.
- SB226 ABUSE OF A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER**  
Requires the preparation of timely studies to determine the safe removal or retirement of a dam or reservoir when requested by the land owner or association.
- SB150 AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Any person who is eligible to vote and applies for a driver's license, provisional license, or instruction permit, or for a civil identification card will be automatically registered to vote if that person is not already registered to vote.

### OTHER IMPORTANT MEASURES

- SB168 CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARDS**  
Requires the appropriate licensing boards to hire and train private deputies to investigate the use of unlicensed persons by contractors on construction sites and increases penalties for violation of scope of contracting.
- SB210 CRIMES AGAINST PREGNANT WOMEN**  
Establishes that physical abuse against a family or household member who is pregnant is a class C felony.
- SB471 HAWAII HOPE CARD PROGRAM**  
Establishes the Hawaii hope card program, which issues hope cards to those holding a long term protective order.
- SB131 MANDATORY LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS**  
Establishes labeling requirements for any food or raw agricultural commodity sold in the state that contains or was produced with genetically engineered material.
- SB361 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS**  
Allows home schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities offered at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.
- SB464 UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES**  
Prohibits agreements for purchase of periodic delivery of merchandise, services, or internet access from including an introductory free trial period.
- SB467 DIGITAL MEDIA ACCOUNT TRANSFER UPON DEATH**  
Prohibits contracts that prohibit, limit, or restrict the transfer of a digital media account upon the account holder's death, and provides for the transfer of a decedent's digital media account to a devisee or heir.
- SB1344 CAMPAIGN SPENDING**  
Requires noncandidate committees making only independent expenditures to report whether their contributors and recipients are subject to disclosure reporting requirements and provide access to the contributor and recipient's reportable funding information.
- SB643 CHILD VISITATION**  
Ensures that in cases concerning child custody cases, visitation rights of grandparents are acknowledged and protected.
- SB1289 FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS**  
Appropriates funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for assistance with identifying and mapping important agricultural lands.

### MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The state legislature's website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) is the place to start. There you can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. When you register for an account using your e-mail address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing, and you can electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at [www.lrbhawaii.org/par/](http://www.lrbhawaii.org/par/) or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!

OFFICE OF SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL ROOM 221  
phone: (808) 586-7344  
fax: (808) 586-7348  
email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov  
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

