

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA



ALOHA NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS!

Last week, the Senate voted on 500 bills, ahead of Thursday's "crossover" deadline when the House and Senate bills pass from one chamber to the other.

Measures relating to minimum wage increases, bans on flavored tobacco and plastic packaging, and expansion of the kupuna care program will now head over to the House. Emergency appropriations were also passed to fund repairs to Pali Highway caused by landslide damage and provide temporary housing for Halawa Correctional Facility inmates.

With over 1,500 bills introduced this session, many others did not make the cut; including measures aimed to lower the voting age and allow dogs in restaurants at restaurant owners' discretion.

I will continue to keep you informed of developments at the Legislature and in the community in the weeks to come. In the meantime, I encourage you to stay informed on the status and discussions on the bills that have moved forward in the Legislature by checking online at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

SENATE TAKES UP HUNDREDS OF BILLS

Below are some of the measures that were voted on by the Senate that have now crossed over to the House for their consideration:

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR PALI HIGHWAY

SB1091 SD2 - Makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Transportation to mitigate landslide damages and install rockfall protection structures on the Pali Highway and Honoapiilani Highway.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR INMATES

SB1264 - Makes an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the Department of Public Safety to pay for the temporary housing of 248 inmates at a non-state facility for the remaining six months of fiscal year 2019, during work on capital improvements to the Halawa Correctional Facility.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

SB789 SD2 - Provides an income tax credit for qualifying small businesses to offset the increase in the minimum hourly wage that employers must pay employees. Increases the minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour beginning 2020 and \$15.00 per hour beginning 2023.

GENERAL EXCISE TAX FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

SB1474 SD2 - Increases the general excise tax and use tax by 0.5% to provide a dedicated funding source for the department of education and the University of Hawaii. Tax credit applies to taxable years beginning after 2019.

KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

SB1025 SD1 - Changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Appropriates funds for further implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

FLAVORED TOBACCO BAN

SB1009 SD2 - Bans the sale of flavored tobacco products. Effective 1/1/2020.

PLASTIC PACKAGING BAN

SB522 SD2 - Prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state and county agencies after July 1, 2021, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022. Bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023. Creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

MARCH 2019

SENATE BILLS - CONTINUED

ALL MAIL VOTING

SB560 SD2 - Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties commencing in 2022. Establishes a limited number of voter service centers that would remain open from the tenth business day preceding an election through the day of the election to receive personal delivery of mail-in ballots, accommodate voters with special needs, offer same day registration and voting, and provide other election services.

POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

SB11 SD1 - Prohibits restaurants from serving prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. Authorizes the Department of Health to adopt rules. Takes effect on December 31, 2020.

LT. GOVERNOR DUTIES

SB500 SD2 - Expands the duties and responsibilities of the Lieutenant Governor to include managing and overseeing public tours of the state capitol, managing vacancies on boards and commissions, processing applications to serve on boards and commissions, and any other applicable administrative duties.

RED LIGHT

SB663 SD2 - Establishes a red light running committee effective July 2049. Establishes the photo red light imaging detector systems program. Authorizes counties to administer the program. Requires proceeds of fines to be expended in the county from which they were collected for operation of the program.



Moanalua Gardens' Nurse Lesley Yoshimori was recently recognized by the Senate as a 2018 Healthcare Hero. Lesley was nominated by patient Sheldon Kimura, who shared that when his heart transplant procedure was moved to California, Lesley remained proactive as a resource and advocate and became instrumental in pushing through Sheldon's needs and acting as a confidant for the family when decision making was tough. Her compassion and caregiving are truly inspiring and this well-deserved honor brings pride to our entire community!



JUMP START BREAKFAST!

On March 1, I joined Governor Ige and first lady Dawn Amano-Ige in kicking off *School Breakfast Month* and the *Jump Start Breakfast* pilot program. This program aims to increase the number of students who have a healthy breakfast every morning and offers students in low-income areas a nutritious breakfast for as little as 30 cents.



RELEASED CIP FUNDS

- **Emergency Warning Sirens** - \$2.1 million has been released for removal, replacement, and installation of Emergency Communication Devices (sirens) statewide.
- **Public Housing Security Improvements** - \$2.5 million has been released to develop, upgrade, and renovate public housing facilities security statewide.
- **Rockfall & Flood Mitigation** - \$3 million has been released to address rockfall and flood mitigation projects that pose imminent danger or hazardous conditions statewide.
- **School Program Support** - \$10.4 million has been released to finance design and construction to provide school campuses with equitable support facilities statewide.

2019 Spring Community Bulletin Survey

Mahalo to everyone that has already responded to my Spring Community Bulletin Survey! The opportunity to hear your opinions on issues before the Legislature helps me to better represent our community and I appreciate the time you take to share. For those interested in how others in our district felt about these issues, the results of the survey will be printed in my next community bulletin slated for June.



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