



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 2019

Senator Laura H. Thielen

Senate District 25: Kailua, Waimanalo, and Hawaii Kai



Aloha!

We are reaching the half-way point in the session, where we vote on which Senate bills will move to the House. I'm including a few bills in this newsletter that are moving through the legislature.

If any of these topics or any other topics matter to you, now is the time to weigh in on any bills.

Mahalo,

Senator Laura Thielen

Senate District 25: Kailua, Waimanalo, and Hawaii Kai

CROSSOVER BILLS TO WATCH

CROSSOVER:

Bills are initiated in either the Senate or House Chamber. If they pass all Committees in their originating chamber they "crossover" to the other Chamber. The following is a sample of bills that are getting ready to crossover from the Senate to the House .

HOUSING MEASURES

ALOHA HOMES PROGRAM SB1

Establishes a program to facilitate the development of low-cost homes for Hawaii residents on state land near rail stations. Authorizes HHFDC to sell the leasehold interest in residential condominium units on state lands for lease terms of 99 years.

HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM SB1050

Establishes a task force to examine the feasibility of the State establishing and operating a housing loan program for state employees similar to the Veterans Affairs home loan program.

HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR TEACHERS SB12

Authorizes a housing voucher program for full time teachers employed by the department of education or a public charter school.

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING SAVINGS ACCOUNT SB1310

Establishes a program that allows employees to save for housing through payroll deductions. Expands the current housing savings program to allow the saving be used for home improvements and certain hardships. In addition, it allows for an account can be opened for a dependent. Establishes a board to administer the program, pools accounts and uses a professional manager.

COLLECTING TAXES ON VACATION RENTALS SB1292

Makes it unlawful for a hosting platform to collect a fee for booking services if the operator is not registered with the Department of Taxation. In addition, this measure allows a transient accommodations broker to register as a GET and TAT tax collection agent.

CROSSOVER BILLS TO WATCH

GENDER EQUALITY

WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT SB1048

Prohibits written nondisclosure agreements involving sexual assault and sexual harassment as part of an employee's conditions of employment. Prohibits employers from retaliating against an employee for disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault.

EDUCATION

AN AUDIT OF THE DOE SB856

Requires the Auditor to perform a financial and management audit of the Department of Education, Superintendent, Board of Education, and complex areas every three years.

RAISE THE G.E.T. FOR DOE AND U.H. SB1474

Increases the general excise tax and use tax by 0.5% to provide a dedicated funding source for the DOE and UH.

HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

Gardens and Grass: A Simple Approach

A presentation by horticulturist Mr. Jason Amoy, Mid Pacific Country Club. **Saturday, March 9, 12 - 1pm**



1,800 Years of Japanese Painting

A talk by Stephen Salel, the Robert F. Lange Foundation Curator of Japanese Art at the Honolulu Museum of Art. **Saturday, March 23, 12 - 1pm**



MENTAL HEALTH

MENTALLY ILL HOMELESS SB1051

Establishes a pilot project to provide shelter and treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness. It requires an authorized agent to request court-ordered assisted community treatment or court-ordered guardianship.

INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT SB1124

Provides that certain interested parties may file a petition for a mental health order for involuntary hospitalization or assisted community treatment.

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY, PSYCHOLOGIST SB819

Authorizes and establishes procedures and criteria for prescriptive authority for clinical psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements.

ENVIRONMENT

SEA LEVEL RISE SB1054

Requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, and construction projects.

REPLACE FUEL TAX WITH CARBON TAX SB1463

Replaces the fuel tax with a carbon emissions tax. The tax would be \$6.25 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions on all fossil fuels sold by a distributor to a retailer.

BAN STYROFOAM PACKAGING SB367

Prohibits the sale, use, or distribution of polystyrene foam containers, plastic straws, and plastic bags.

NON-POTABLE WATER REUSE SYSTEMS SB901

Requires the department of health to adopt rules by 2021, for onsite non-potable water reuse systems.