



OFFICE OF SENATOR LYNN DECOITE

Senate District 7: Hāna, East & Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe and Molokini

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OPENING DAY OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

While Opening Day looks a little different than what we are accustomed to, there was still plenty of aloha and smiles in the State Capitol as we prepare for another legislative session!



Members of the Senate Women's Legislative Caucus come together after Day 1 of the 2022 Legislative Session. With the appointment of Senator Lynn DeCoite in June 2021, the Senate set a new record for the most female members in Senate history (10 female Senate members).



Saying hello to Senator Misalucha after the Senate's first opening floor session.



Senate District 7 staff with Senator DeCoite moments before the opening of the 2022 Legislative Session.



Aloha,

The events that have transpired over the past couple of weeks is disheartening and very disappointing. As elected officials, we need to do better and I committed to doing what I can to rebuild people's trust in government.

Effective March 7, 2022, the Hawai'i State Capitol will be reopening to the public. I am excited to announce that we will be continuing to accept virtual testimony in a hybrid committee platform.

No matter what issues may come our way, I will continue to work hard for the people of Maui County to address the issues that are important to our communities.

Mahalo,

Senator Lynn DeCoite
Majority Floor Leader
District 7 – Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui,
Moloka'i and Lāna'i

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SENATOR DECOITE'S PRIORITY BILLS

The following are a list of bills that Senator DeCoite will be prioritizing this session:

SB2629

Requires and funds the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop and implement a one-time pesticide disposal collection program.

SB2632

Makes an appropriation to fund pay raises for certain teachers.

SB3341

Amends the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties by requiring the office to prioritize access to broadband in rural areas of the State.

SB2615

Amends the Board of Agriculture board by providing representation for the islands of Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

SB2616 SD1

Requires government entities to seek reimbursement for search and rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after leaving a hiking trail to enter a prohibited area or hiking on a trail closed to the public. (SD1)

SB2623

Excludes from DHHL wait list any lessee or successor who sells or transfers their lease.

SB2624

Requires the Dept. of Health to implement a telehealth pilot project and publish an evaluation report on the outcomes; and requires DOH to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursements for certain expenses.

SB3179 SD1

Directs and funds Dept. of Land & Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under DOFAW to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

SB3247

Requires DHHL to build apartments to address the housing needs of native Hawaiians on their waitlist.

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES:

Using The Capitol Website:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/using-the-legislatures-website>

Overview of the Legislative Process:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process>

Engagement 101

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>

Advocacy Tips:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/advocacy-tips>



Scan here to view a full list of Senator DeCoite's bills



Scan here for more legislative resources

SENATE'S PRIORITIES FOR 2022 SESSION

The Hawai'i State Senate is prioritizing the following issues for the 2022 Legislative Session:

Housing and Real Estate Development

The Senate is committed to addressing the statewide shortage of housing by increasing the development of affordable housing, providing greater access to affordable housing for Native Hawaiians, promoting clean and safe communities, increasing potable water resources and upgrading key infrastructure (specifically wastewater treatment systems), improving the real property condemnation process, and developing and promoting the Aloha Stadium entertainment district.

Economic Recovery

The Senate is committed to responding to the State's economic downturn that has been exacerbated by the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic. Such responses include the diversification of economic drivers to lessen the economic dependence on tourism; developing opportunities for the local workforce by investing in training programs in occupations that support an adequate income; increasing the minimum wage for workers to allow local workers to stay in Hawai'i; supporting local agricultural productions to move towards food sustainability, and developing the technological infrastructure to support the expansion of a home-based workforce.

Education

The Senate is committed to improving Hawai'i's education system by providing funding for improvement and construction of school facilities, ensuring equity in educational opportunities, developing an effective distance learning program, restoring direct funding to schools, addressing teacher shortages through programs such as dedicated affordable housing, supporting early childhood initiatives, and expanding programs to promote success as adults such as workforce readiness and financial literacy. The Senate's education priority also includes higher education, such as identifying funding that can be used for the University of Hawai'i system, reforming procurement processes, improving the oversight of revenue generating activities, and prioritizing health care workforce development.

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Security

The Senate is committed to promoting agriculture, aquaculture, and food security by supporting local food production and sustainability initiatives, further developing the farm-to-state program, establishing food hubs, mitigating the spread of invasive species, updating agricultural water infrastructure, supporting a high-tech agricultural industry, and developing and promoting aquaculture.

Health

The Senate is committed to improving the health of Hawai'i's residents by protecting and strengthening women's reproductive rights, assisting persons with mental illness by destigmatizing mental illness, allowing for rapid interventions and safe drop-off locations, and developing procedures for involuntary treatments.

The Senate's health priority also includes addressing the shortage of health care workers, including doctors, physician assistants, nurses, and social workers.

Business, Communications Infrastructure, Economic Development, and Energy

The Senate is committed to expanding economic opportunities in Hawai'i by partnering with the counties to identify key industries and economic drivers that can be properly aligned with education and workforce development in each specific county, promoting digital equity by addressing access to broadband, computer literacy, and leveraging opportunities to develop a digital workforce, supporting small businesses to drive the State's economic recovery, diversifying each county's energy portfolio by incentivizing renewable energy production, and developing the State's aerospace industry.

Public Safety and Law Enforcement

The Senate is committed to improving the safety and well-being of all residents by updating current laws to address the increase in domestic violence cases during the COVID-19 pandemic and expanding the scope of domestic violence laws; supporting programs to prevent recidivism and promoting re-entry and second chance assistance; and investing in training to deal with the mentally ill and homeless.

Homelessness

The Senate is committed to ending homelessness by supporting the immediate creation of low-income rentals, providing appropriate (independent or assisted) housing, promoting the increase of mental health stabilization beds for the chronic mentally ill, and developing pathway programs, community service, and job training assistance in transition from homelessness.

Environment and Climate Change

The Senate is committed to urging statewide collaboration to address the need to restore a safe climate for the people of Hawai'i. As the first state in the United States to declare a climate emergency, Hawai'i has joined approximately 2,000 jurisdictions in 34 counties in this important call to action. The climate emergency resolution sets the stage for statewide collaboration among government, business, and community members to address the growing climate crisis.

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COMMUNITY UPDATES



HĀNA WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Beginning on February 14, Goodfellow Bros., LLC is scheduled to perform critical waterline replacement work on Hāna Highway from the vicinity of Kapia Road to the entrance to St. Peter's Church. This work will take approximately 3 months. Only one lane of Hāna Highway will be intermittently closed in this area between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



COUNTY LIFTS BOOSTER REQUIREMENT

Effective February 7, 2021, Maui County dropped its booster requirement for patrons of bars, restaurants and gyms. Instead, the booster requirement will be a "recommendation" from the county. Patrons will still need to show proof of vaccination.



OHA'S KA WAILELE EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is providing emergency grants of \$2,000 to qualified individuals to help with medical expenses, funeral expenses, car repairs, rent, mortgage and utilities. For more information, visit www.kawailele.org

SIGN UP FOR DISTRICT 7 EMAIL UPDATES

Are you on the District 7 Email List? Our office sends weekly updates to the Senate District 7 community about legislation, government news/announcements, programs/resources and community events.

If you would like to be added to the list, please email sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov.



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