



Representative Lisa Kitagawa
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 Honolulu, HI 96813

LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNITY UPDATES INSIDE!



2019 Legislative Session Summary

CAPITOL UPDATE

Representative Lisa Kitagawa

A MESSAGE FROM LISA

Aloha!

The 2019 Legislative Session has wrapped up and the House has adjourned until next year. It has been a time of listening, learning, and reflecting. I am incredibly grateful for the privilege of being your State Representative.

After many committee hearings and deliberations, the Legislature passed bills supporting our kūpuna and keiki, election reform, and education. I am happy to share that two bills and one resolution that I introduced have passed: HB 1068 (Relating to He'eia State Park), HB 1070 (Relating to Education), and HCR 36 (convenes a task force to address homelessness near the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center). The following pages of this newsletter provide more information on these bills or you can visit the Capitol website at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> for more information.

This year, I am also happy to report that there was significant funding appropriated for our Windward community partners and district projects, which I prioritized throughout the session.

As I reflect on our progress and look to the future, I hope to take the many lessons and experiences I've learned during my first year as I prepare and plan for the next legislative session. Although we are in the interim until 2020, I remain committed to keeping in touch and updating you on what goes on here and in the community. For legislative and community updates, useful resources, and other happenings around our district, you can either subscribe to my e-newsletter by filling out my community survey at <https://bit.ly/repkitagawa>, email my office at repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov, or call (808) 586-8540.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Lisa

Visit our Flickr page for more photos: <https://bit.ly/repkitagawaflickr>



CASTLE ALUMNI & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

If you are a Castle High School Alumni or a community member that is interested in supporting Castle Complex Schools and its students, join us at the upcoming meeting:

General Membership Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2019
 Castle HS Cafeteria
 6:00pm—8:00pm

Website:
<http://chsalumnknights.org/>



COMMUNITY VOICES MATTER

Legislation that Successfully Passed



With Daisy Ishihara & Betty Yoshida

HCR 36: Children's Discovery Center

Daisy Ishihara and Betty Yoshida, residents of District 48, shared a concern with me regarding the homeless encampments near the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center (HCDC). Daisy and Betty have been faithful volunteers at the Center and have seen the negative changes that have taken place over the years where parents, children and families no longer feel safe to visit the Center.

My office responded to Daisy and Betty's concerns by working with Loretta Yajima, Chairwoman and CEO of HCDC, to introduce **House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 36**, which urges the governor's

coordinator on homelessness and the City and County of Honolulu to come together and prioritize their efforts in the area surrounding the Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center by convening a task force.

Through the advocacy and dedication of Loretta, Daisy, Betty and their fellow Alpha Delta Kappa members (an organization of women educators who also volunteer at the Center), the resolution was approved and passed both the House and Senate. I am continuing to track the progress of the Task Force to ensure that it remains active in looking for solutions to help the homelessness situation, so that future generations of Hawai'i's children can learn, grow, and experience the wonderful Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center.

HB 1068: He'eia State Park

Mahealani Cypher and Rocky Kaluhiwa, also residents of District 48, asked me to introduce a bill to support He'eia State Park. The Park, along with He'eia fishpond, the He'eia community development district, the marine waters that surround He'eia, and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island) are all a part of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), which is only one of 29 estuaries across the nation focused on studying and protecting our vital coastal resources.

This bill (**HB 1068**) brings key community stakeholders together in the long-range planning and development of the He'eia area.

Thanks to the advocacy and hard work of Mahealani and Rocky, \$150,000 has been approved to start the community-based long-range planning for He'eia State Park and the He'eia NERR. This bill will ensure that community voices are heard as we work to support and protect our cultural and natural resources in Kane'ohe.



He'eia Elementary Dr. Seuss Day



Honoring Derek Minakami: 2019 Windward District Principal of the Year

Mahalo, Rezada Family!

Thank you to the Rezada Family, also District 48 residents, who were the inspiration behind **HB 1343**, which aimed to extend Hawai'i's family leave policy to include grandparents. It was through the sharing of their personal story and concerns that I introduced this bill. Although this bill did not pass this year, family leave is a policy that is very important to me and I will continue to introduce and support legislation that looks at expanding Hawai'i's family leave policies.



With Mahealani Cypher & Rocky Kaluhiwa

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Waikalua Loko I'a

Waikalua Loko I'a is a fishpond located at the end of Kulauli Street, near Pū'ōhala Elementary School. For two decades, community groups, public and private partners, student groups, and individuals have given their time, energy and love into restoring this ancient fishpond.

This year, **\$500,000** in state funding was secured to help build an education and resource center at the fishpond with the goal of continuing to educate students and our community, as well as preserve our cultural and natural resources.



With Herb Lee of Waikalua Loko I'a

Kāne'ohe Public Library Upgrades and Renovations

The Kāne'ohe Public Library opened in 1963 in its present location on Waikalua Road and has provided our Windward community with books, resources, events and activities, and a safe place for individuals, families and children to gather and learn.



With Stacy Aldrich, State Librarian & Cynthia Chow, Kāne'ohe Branch Manager

This year, **\$2 million** was approved for necessary upgrades and renovations to the Library's roof, A/C, and interior building, which will help the Library continue serving our community for generations to come.

Kāne'ohe Pali to Lo'i Project

The Kāne'ohe Pali to Lo'i Project is a partnership between the Trust for Public Land and the Kāne'ohe community, which is working to protect approximately 1,000 acres of land in Kāne'ohe, near Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens, from development. There are two phases for this project with a total of 6 parcels of land.

This year, thanks to the work of Trust for Public Land, **\$700,000** was acquired to purchase the first phase of the project, which includes 4 of the 6 parcels of land. As we move into phase 2 to acquire parcels 5 and 6 of this project, I will continue to support the effort to protect and preserve our Ko'olau Mountains and the surrounding Kāne'ohe area near Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens from development.



At Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens with the Kāne'ohe Legislative Team

KEY Project Youth Program

The KEY Project located on Waihe'e Road in Kahalu'u nurtures and promotes the cultural, environmental, social, economic and recreational well-being of the Kualoa-He'eia area by providing resources that effectively serve the needs of the community.

This year, **\$125,000** was secured in grant funding for the KEY Project's Holomua Afterschool Youth Program, which provides youth from 6th grade to high school with access to activities that strengthen their connection to culture, environment, community and self, with the ultimate goal of helping youth graduate on time and become positive community contributors.



Kāne'ohe Homelessness Project

Over the last year, many of you have voiced your concerns about the increase in homelessness in our community. Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Representative Scot Matayoshi, and I are currently working on a solution to help alleviate these concerns. We have secured **\$20,000** from the State to start working on this issue. Be on the lookout for more information on this project as we continue to move forward to help address the increase in homelessness in our community.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Speaking with 1st graders from Benjamin Parker Elementary School during their visit to the Capitol

HB 1070: Relating to Education

Concerns of flooding from a nearby stream have caused problems for Benjamin Parker Elementary School, as well as residents that live on William Henry Road. Last year, when meeting with the School's Principal, I learned that the school spends tens of thousands of dollars of their own funds each year on stream maintenance.

In response to this concern, I introduced HB 1070, which requires the Department of Education (DOE), and not the individual school, to maintain any geographically disadvantageous land, such as streams or rough terrain. This bill now allows schools, like Benjamin Parker Elementary School, to use the tens of thousands of dollars they were originally spending on stream and rough terrain maintenance for resources and support for their school and students.

Windward CC Childcare Director Position

In the fall of 2018, Representative Scot Matayoshi and I visited Windward Community College (WCC) and saw the new location of a childcare center. (WCC was the only UH community college without a child care center prior to this new facility.) During this visit, we learned that the Center did not have funding for a permanent director position, which caused a delay in the opening of the facility.

This year, Representative Matayoshi and I worked to secure funding in the State's budget for a permanent WCC Childcare Director position. Students who are parents will now have the childcare support and resources necessary to further their education and reach their academic and educational goals.



Visiting the new WCC Childcare Center

Representative Lisa Kitagawa Scholarship

As a former higher education administrator and someone who attended college through the generous scholarships given by others, I have always wanted to give back and help a Castle High School student further their education.

This year, I was able to award Kylie Tangonan with the first annual Representative Lisa Kitagawa Scholarship. Kylie is an outstanding student, who holds leadership positions and volunteers with numerous campus and community organizations. She excels academically and was one of Castle's valedictorians. She will be attending Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City this fall.

Congratulations Kylie – you make our hometown of Kāneʻohe proud!



At Castle High School's Awards Night

2019 Funding For Our Community Projects

After-School All-Stars Hawai'i Funding (includes King Intermediate School)	\$150,000
Benjamin Parker Elementary School Drainage Improvements	\$525,000
Castle High School Stadium Renovations	\$300,000
Castle High School Roadway and Parking Lot Resurfacing	\$402,000
Hawai'i State Hospital Health, Safety and Accessibility Improvements	\$17,442,000
He'eia Elementary School Fire Alarm Upgrades	\$372,000
He'eia Elementary School Drainage Improvements	\$600,000
Kahalu'u Elementary School Electrical System Upgrade	\$900,000
Kahalu'u Elementary School Fire Alarm Upgrades	\$486,000
Kahekili Highway Intersection Improvements	\$555,000
Kāne'ohe Homelessness Project	\$20,000
Kāne'ohe Public Library Upgrades and Renovations	\$2,169,000
Kapunahala Elementary School New Portable Classroom	\$2,000,000
Kapunahala Elementary School ADA Transition	\$1,680,000
Kapunahala Elementary School Parking Lot Resurfacing	\$480,000
KEY Project Youth Program Funding	\$125,000
Pali to Lo'i Restoration Project	\$700,000
Pū'ōhala Elementary School Building Equipment Upgrades	\$110,000
Waiāhole Bridge Replacement of the Existing Concrete Structure	\$4,000,000
Waikalua Loko I'a (Fishpond) Funding	\$500,000
Windward Community College Childcare Director Position	\$65,000



Supporting students at Kick Butts Day at the Capitol



Painting Benjamin Parker Elementary School on campus beautification day

SESSION SUMMARY

These bills represent some of the issues most important to our community and State. The Legislature made significant progress in passing landmark legislation. However, many issues will take additional time to resolve. Out of the 3,142 bills introduced, 302 measures ultimately passed. They now await the Governor to enact them into law.



With other First-Year Legislators and Governor David Ige & First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige

Supporting Healthier Families and Communities

CULTURALLY COMPETENT PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative care improves the quality of life of patients and families facing problems with life-threatening illnesses through prevention and relief of suffering through early identification, assessment and treatment of pain. It utilizes a team approach of physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, etc. to treat the individual and their loved ones. The Legislature has created pilot programs for home and community based palliative care, which will improve the care our community receives. (SB 804)

HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

Every community should have access to fresh and healthy food choices, but the high cost of fresh produce often makes that difficult. A national program provides our State with the opportunity to increase access to healthy foods for low-income residents who are eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits. This program promotes the purchase of Hawai'i-grown fruits and vegetables for those with SNAP benefits. (SB 390)

E-CIGARETTE & VAPING POLICIES FOR YOUTH

Youth smoking through e-cigarettes and vaping have become a widespread problem, especially on school campuses. In an effort to stop youth from engaging in this behavior, the Legislature has increased fines for individuals under 21 who are caught with an e-cigarette, requires public school teachers and educators to confiscate e-cigarettes from students, and requires the Department of Health to create a Safe Harbor Program where individuals under 21 can safely dispose of their e-cigarettes. (SB 1405)

Supporting Our Kūpuna

KŪPUNA CARE PROGRAM

As Hawai'i's aging population continues to grow, the need for support services for our kūpuna and their family members increases. The Kūpuna Care Program provides core services to help individuals perform basic and instrumental activities of daily living, through a caregiver that may come to an individual's home or through adult day care centers. The goal is to help family members who are employed continue to work, while also providing support to care for their loved ones. (HB 465)

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE & DEMENTIA SERVICES

Alzheimer's disease and dementia are chronic health conditions that affect many individuals in Hawai'i (there are 28,000 people 65 or older suffering from Alzheimer's Disease). The Legislature believes it is important to dedicate funding and a position in the Executive Office on Aging that will provide support to individuals and families who are affected by this disease. (SB 366)

HEALTHY AGING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Hawai'i healthy aging partnership program works to improve the health of our kūpuna by empowering them to make healthy decisions and engage in a healthier lifestyle. The program helps kūpuna with chronic or ongoing medical conditions effectively manage their health and improve their quality of life. (HB 468)

Supporting Our Keiki and Youth

HAWAI'I KEIKI PROGRAM

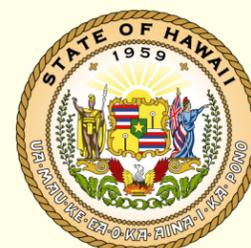
The Legislature believes it is important to help our keiki get the best education by making sure they are healthy and ready to learn. This program improves quality and access to school-based health services, which will reduce chronic health-related absenteeism and minimize interruptions to instructional time. (HB 250)

UH COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

The Legislature continues to support the Promise Program, which provides scholarships to local students who have unmet financial need to attend one of the University of Hawai'i's Community Colleges. This scholarship helps to make college more affordable for everyone in Hawai'i. (SB 316)

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawai'i has the highest attempted suicide rate in the country for youth ages 10 – 24. The Legislature has provided support for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and educational initiatives, with the goal of providing better support to our youth and their families. (HB 330)



Climate Change Meeting

Supporting Better and Safer Communities

VOTING BY MAIL

The Legislature recognizes that an increasing number of Hawai'i voters are submitting their votes by mail (instead of voting at the polls). In an effort to make voting more convenient and accessible, statewide all mail voting will begin in 2020. If you are a registered voter, you will automatically receive your ballot in the mail for both the primary and general election next year. (HB 1248)

VISION ZERO POLICIES

Traffic-related fatalities are on the rise in our State and nationwide. The Legislature supports Vision Zero policies, which will require the State and Counties to review traffic policies, make recommendations to prevent traffic fatalities, and develop an action plan. (HB 757)

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS TASK FORCE

Legislators have heard the community's concerns related to illegal fireworks, the potential for injury, increased health concerns due to smoke, and loud noises that affect residents and pets. This year, the Legislature established an Illegal Fireworks Task Force to develop a plan & make recommendations to stop illegal fireworks and explosives from getting into Hawai'i. (HB 497)



At Castle High School's Graduation



Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast