SENATOR WILL ESPERO



Watch Espero Conversations
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Aloha!

At this time during the legislative session, both the House and Senate have passed their respective bills and will now prepare for "bill crossover". This is the mid-point of the session where both House and Senate bills that have survived are sent to the opposite chamber for further vetting in committee hearings and floor votes. The public is again encouraged to submit testimony on these bills once they are scheduled for committee hearings.

The Committee on Public Safety, Military and Intergovernmental Affairs recently recommended the consent of Mr. Nolan Espinda, director of the Department of Public Safety. His confirmation by the full senate was approved on Thursday with members of his family and other state officials in attendance. In addition, the committee will soon be holding a confirmation hearing for the Adjutant General of the State Department of Defense.

In the upcoming months, I highly encourage you to take a look at our bills and contact me with any questions or concerns. With the manao of our community, we will be able to finish this session with the best possible policies to move our state forward. I can be reached at 586-6360.

Mahalo,

Will Espero



Left: The Committee on Public Safety, Military and Intergovernmental Affairs held a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Nolan Espinda as director of the Department of Public Safety. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the consent of Mr. Espinda and the Senate voted unanimously to approve his confirmation.

Left: Long-time director of Hawaii's Public Access Room, Suzanne Marinelli, retired after spending nearly 20 years in the halls of our state capitol building. She is a fierce proponent of public participation in the legislative process and has worked hard to ensure that our citizens have a functional and helpful environment to engage in the public policy process. We will miss you, Suzanne!



A FEW OF WILL'S BILLS FOR THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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SB194 SD2	Commission on African American History and Culture	Establishes the Hawaii commission on African American History and Culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)	HEA, WAM
SB198 SD1	Weed and Seed Strate- gy; Appropriation	Creates a permanent weed and seed strategy within the department of labor and industrial relations, office of community services. Appropriates funds. (SD1)	PSM/JDL, WAM
SB213 SD2	Penal Code; Multiple Sentences of Imprison- ment	Requires the department of public safety to send written notice to defendants with terms of imprisonment imposed prior to June 18, 2008, to notify these defendants that the department may recalculate their multiple terms of imprisonment and their right to petition the court for clarification or correction when there is good cause. Effective 01/07/2059. (SD2)	JDL/PSM, WAM
SB303 SD1		Establishes the Hawaii drug take-back and education initiative to coordinate and increase the safe return and disposal of drugs and the narcotics enforcement and prescription drug monitoring advisory committee to advise the department of public safety narcotics enforcement division. (SD1)	HTH/PSM, WAM
SB345 SD1	Pickup Truck; Passen- gers; Liability	Raises the age of passengers permitted to ride in the bed of a pickup truck under certain conditions from twelve to under eighteen. Deems passengers in the bed of a pickup truck to have assumed the risk of injury or death from an accident or injury occurring while the vehicle is in operation. (SD1)	TRA, JDL
SB375 SD2	Industrial Hemp; Agri- culture; Pilot Program; Appropriation	Authorizes the growing of industrial hemp for certain purposes under specified conditions. Appropriates funds for department of agriculture staff to assist in registration of industrial hemp growers and seed testing. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)	AGL/JDL, WAM
SB559 SD2	Office of Military Affairs and Veterans' Services; Appropriation	Expands the office of veterans' services to include military affairs and establishes additional duties of the office; and appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)	PSM, WAM
SB560	Auditor; Family Leave; Adult Corrections Offic- ers	Requires the auditor to audit the use of state and federal family leave benefits by adult corrections officers of the department of public safety.	PSM/JDL, WAM
SB562		Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for the establishment and implementation of a re-entry facility for criminal offenders, which will include residential and day reporting programs.	PSM, WAM
SB563	Department of Public Safety; Mental Health First Aid Training	Requires the department of public safety to establish a mental health first aid training program that includes mandatory eight-hour sessions triennially for law enforcement personnel, correctional officers, and other public safety officials under the department to teach skills used for identifying and assisting individuals with mental health disorders and crises.	PSM/HTH, WAM
SB564	Reentry Intake Service Center Division; De- partment of Public Safety; Correctional		
SD1 SB566 SD1	Inmate Visitation; Appropriation; Department of Public Safety	Extends the reentry commission expiration date to December 1, 2019. (SD1) Authorizes and appropriates funds for the department of public safety to create two pilot programs designed to promote inmate visitation at state correctional facilities. (SD1)	PSM, WAM
SB615 SD1	Constitutional Amend- ment; Appointment of Justices and Judges; Written Notice	Proposes a constitutional amendment to clarify the senate's thirty day period to reject an appointment to the office of chief justice, supreme court, intermediate appellate court, circuit courts, and to consent to an appointment to fill a vacancy in the district courts. (SD1)	JDL

SB1374 SD2	Land Exchange; Dole Food Company; Gover- nor; Appropriation	Food Company, Inc., that are suitable for long-term diversified agricultural production, and to identify which of those lands are in the agricultural district. Requires the governor or the governor's designee to negotiate and, as appropriate, facilitate land exchanges with Dole Food Company, Inc. Requires a report to the legislature. (SD2)	WTL/PSM/AGL, WAM
SD2	Organizations	Creates a new chapter in HRS relating to metropolitan planning organizations. Repeals chapter 279E, HRS. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2) Appropriates moneys to investigate the possibility of acquiring lands owned by Dole	TRA/PSM, WAM
SB1159 SD2 SB1180	efits; Attachment; Ex- emption Metropolitan Planning	levy, and seizure to enforce a court judgment, except for certain child and spousal support cases. Effective 01/07/2059. (SD2)	PSM, JDL
SB1158 SD1	Space Center for Explo- ration Systems; Special Fund Veterans Disability Ben-	for the operation, maintenance, and management of the Pacific international space center for exploration systems' projects, facilities, services, and publications. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1) Exempts federal veterans disability benefits from claims of creditors and attachment,	PSM, WAM
SB1157 SD2	Starlight Reserve; Advisory Committee Pacific International	Changes the Starlight Reserve advisory committee from a temporary committee to a permanent committee. Amends the office of Hawaiian affairs' representative on the committee. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2) Establishes the Pacific international space center for exploration systems special fund	EDT, WAM
SB1044 SD1	Complete Streets; Transportation	Requires the Department of Transportation to report annually to the legislature on specified information regarding implementation of and compliance with complete streets policy. Clarifies statutory requirements of complete streets. (SD1)	TRA, WAM
SB1036 SD2		Establishes within the DOH a task force for improving substance use disorder and co- occurring disorder treatment. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. Repeals 6/30/2017. (SD2)	HTH, WAM
SB1022 SD1	Constitutional Amend- ment; Residency Re- quirement; Appointed Officials	Proposes a constitutional amendment to repeal the minimum one-year Hawaii residency requirement for appointment as an officer of a principal department pursuant to article V, section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. (SD1)	JDL
SB722 SD2	Long-Term Care Insur- ance; Lapse or Termi- nation; Notice	Requires the thirty-day lapse or termination notices for long-term care policies to be sent by certified mail or commercial delivery service instead of first-class mail. Takes effect on 1/1/2016. (SD2)	HSH, CPN
SB686	Veterans' Memorial; Appropriation	Appropriates moneys to the office of veterans services for the planning, design, and construction of a veterans' memorial.	PSM, WAM
SB685	LUC; Counties; Bounda- ry Amendments	Authorizes district boundary amendments in accordance with an ordinance adopted to amend a county general, development, community, or sustainable community plan upon concurrence from the LUC. Requires agencies responsible for providing infrastructure to areas of planned growth requiring boundary amendments to prepare a budget within 1 year of the boundary amendment.	WTL/PSM, WAM
SB669	Vietnam War; 50th Anniversary	Appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 50TH Anniversary of the Vietnam War.	PSM, WAM
SB665 SD1	Public Safety; Prison Oversight Committee; Correctional Facility Visitation	Creates an independent prison oversight committee to monitor and report on the conditions of state correctional facilities, ensuring that the State's correctional facilities comply with federal and state laws and achieve transparency and accountability in the operation of safe and humane correction facilities. Expands visitation access to correctional facilities to include prison oversight committee members. Authorizes temporary denials of visitation to visiting officials under certain conditions. (SD1)	PSM, WAM
SB664	Adult Corrections Officers; Employment; Education Requirement	Requires that every person newly hired as an adult corrections officer shall have, at minimum, a high school diploma.	PSM, JDL
SB662 SD1	Public Safety; Fire- works; Shipper Re- quirements; Labeling; Prohibitions	Requires shippers to notify the fire chief of a destination county prior to shipment as to where fireworks shipments imported into the State or between counties are to be distributed; defines the term redistribution to clarify shipment notification requirements; clarifies that labels on certain fireworks shall be at least nine square inches; and establishes exceptions to fireworks prohibitions. (SD1)	PSM/TRA, CPN
SB661 SD2	Public Safety; Un- manned Aerial Sys- tems; Test Site; Appro- priation	Establishes the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief operating officer position to, among other things, serve on the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex management team. Establishes an advisory board to oversee and manage unmanned aerial systems test site operations. Appropriates funds to staff and operate Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test site activities. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (SD2)	PSM/HEA, WAM

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