



State Senator Sam Slom

Senate District 9 • Waialae-Kahala — Aina Haina — Kuliouou— Niu — Hawaii Kai
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Kuliouou Neighborhood Board #2 • Aina Haina Public Library • 7:00 pm • Thursday, June 5, 2014.

80+ Bills Become Law - Minimum Wage to be Increased

More than 200 bills were enrolled to the Governor at the end of the 2014 legislative session on May 1. The Senate and House passed out 140+ bills on the last two session days, all of which are pending a decision by the Governor. More than 80 bills have become law.

Now that the session is over, the Governor is in that period where he has 45 days to decide on those bills passed by the legislature that have not yet become law. The deadline for the Governor's intent to veto any legislation is on **June 23. July 8** is the 45th day after adjournment at which time all remaining bills must be either signed into law, become law without the Governor's signature or be vetoed.

If any bill is vetoed, the legislature can come back in a one day special session to override the veto.

Some of the bills that were passed this session included:

HB 1700: The State Budget bill allocates more than \$23 billion in spending for state agencies and programs. As Senator Slom has repeatedly stated, the state budget is not an "austere" bill as other legislators have described. Upon further analysis, the Senate Minority Research Office found that the budget can be reduced by at least \$975 million in total spending. This finding was published in the Senate Minority's Alternative Budget that in April. Senator Slom voted against the budget in final reading.

HB 1926: This is the bill that still allows law enforcement officers to engage in certain types of sexual acts in order for them to build a case and arrest prostitutes. The CD1 version of this bill has further muddied the waters of the original draft and could have far-reaching consequences that could negatively impact Hawaii's tourism industry.

SB 2866: This bill makes an appropriation of \$15 million to the much troubled Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). Senator Slom voted "no."

Senator Slom also voted no on the following collective bargaining wage increase bills: **SB 2073** and **SB 2074**



Governor Abercrombie signed the Industrial Hemp bill into law on April 30 at the Governor's office in the State Capitol. Rep. Cynthia Thielen and Senator Slom are strong supporters of the bill. They and a number of other legislators wore hemp woven shirts to the ceremony.

HB 2590: Senator Slom also voted against the same day registration bill for Hawaii voters.

The Governor has already passed more than 80 bills into law. Among the bills signed into law by the Governor are the following:

SB 2609 (Act 82): Senator Slom voted against the minimum wage bill. This law will hurt business and employment opportunities and is not meant to be a living wage but rather a training wage. The new law will increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next 4 years.

SB 2175 (Act 56): Authorizes the University of Hawaii to establish a two-year industrial hemp re-mediation and biofuel crop research program. See photo above.

SB 2768 (Act 76): Mandatory kindergarten for children of 5 years of age as of July 31.

HB 1866 (Act 61): HCDA requirements for hearing notices and Kaka'ako area building height limits.

A comprehensive list of Acts will be issued in July. For more information on Acts and the legislature go to the website at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>.



Visitors From Klondike, Texas

Eight high school senior students from Klondike High School and their chaperones Mr. & Mrs. Andrew and Tiffany Tijerina visited the State Capitol and my office on Wed. June 4. They financed their own trip with personal funds and are taking in the sights and learning about Hawaii.

Lassner New U.H. President

The University of Hawaii Board of Regents by a vote of 11 to 2 appointed **David Lassner** as the next President of the University of Hawaii System at a board meeting on Monday.

Lassner has been serving for more than a year as Acting President of the U.H. system after MRC Greenwood resigned. Lassner's appointment becomes effective on July 1 and he will get a \$375,000 annual salary.

Legislative Allowance Not Used by State Senator Sam Slom

On Monday, May 12, KHON TV Investigative Reporter **Gina Mangieri** reported on how State Legislators use their annual Legislative Allowance. Senator Slom has not used his annual allowance since first taking office in 1997. The KHON report focuses on legislative allowance expenditures for the last two years (2013 – 2014).

From her report:

“Over the past couple of years, Sen. **Malama Solomon**'s office (D-Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona) has turned in the most for allowance reimbursements at more than \$21,000. Sen. **Sam Slom** (R- Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu, Aina Haina, Waialae-Kahala, Diamond Head) has turned in the least — as in none....”

The full video report and link to the Legislative Allowance Search Tool is at the following URL:

<http://khon2.com/2014/05/12/allowance-questions-where-politicians-spend-your-money/>

Since taking office in 1997 Senator Slom has not used his legislative allowance at all and has saved taxpayers more than \$118,000 between 1997 and 2013.

Minority NewsBytes & More

- Five constitutional amendment questions will appear on this year's general election ballot come this November. The following bills will be put forth as ballot questions to the voters: **HB 420** - Disclosure of the names of judicial nominees; **HB 748** - SPRBS for agricultural enterprises; **SB 886** - mandatory retirement age for judges @ 80 years; **SB 1084** - funding early childhood education; and **SB 2876** - SPRBS for dam and reservoir owners. SPRB = Special Purpose Revenue Bonds. More info on these ballot questions will appear in an upcoming report.
- The **primary election** this year will be on Saturday, Aug. 9.
- **Hawaii is #4 in State Gas Taxes.** A new survey by the Tax Foundation, Inc. lists each state by amount of state gasoline tax. Hawaii comes in #4 at **48.05¢** per gallon. California is #1 at 52.89¢. Lowest state is South Carolina at 16.75¢ per gallon. But wait, there's more. To the state rate, you must add both the General Excise Tax, Federal and City/County tax rates that boosts Hawaii even higher past 60¢.
- How does a bill become a law? Our Senate Videographer **Kim Kepner Synbounmy** and **Noelani Bonifacio** put together a video called "Life of a Bill". It is an informative, 8-minute video that simply explains what the process is that a bill has to go through in order for it to become a law. You can watch this video on our Senate Minority site at <http://www.hawaiisenateminority.org>.

Senator Slom's A Better Day

Senator Slom is winging it with a 27 minute monologue on the latest edition of "A Better Day". He talks about the "accomplishments" of the 2014 legislature and how many of the bills passed this session hurt rather than help you. The current episode as well as archived broadcasts can be found on YouTube and linked at our Senate Minority website: www.hawaiisenateminority.org. The show also airs on Olelo Channel 54. Consult your TV guide for showtimes.

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June 11, 2014 - Kamehameha Day (State Holiday)

Hawaii Senate Minority Website hawaiisenateminority.org

Hawaii Senate Watchdog

hawaiisenatwatchdog.wordpress.com/

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