

# SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE

Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona

Newsletter

May 2019

## The Session Comes to an End

As the curtain falls on the 2019 Legislature, it's time to look back on what the Hawai'i State Legislature did this session. Session was mostly good as some of my priority bills got a fair shake and passed out of the legislature.

Disaster relief was a top issue of mine from the beginning of the session. Heavy rains in February prompted the legislature to give emergency appropriations (**SB 1091**) to fix landslide and flood damage along Oahu's Pali Highway and Maui's Honoapiilani Highway. For the Big Island of Hawai'i we passed a \$60 million emergency appropriation bill (**HB 1180 / Act 9**) to help residents in the Puna district recover from the lava flow damage that occurred during the 2018 volcano eruption.

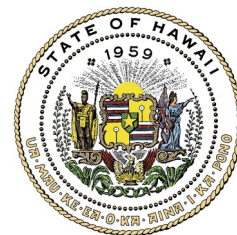
While it did not take a bill to do it, we helped farmers in my district get FDA approval for Kulana Foods to resume processing of small livestock animals.

The somewhat controversial red light camera bill (**SB 663**) passed this session and awaits the Governor's signature. The bill establishes a red light running committee to develop policy recommendations for red light running pilot programs for the four counties in the state, and make recommendations on staffing requirements, capital improvements, and evaluation and efficacy metrics.

I voted in favor of the bill (**SB 1292**) to have the hosting platforms (AirBnB, etc.) collect GE taxes and TAT. The bill narrowly passed by a 13 to 12 margin. The additional tax collections generated by the hosting platforms will help fund various programs and entities that impact many people in the state.

While we had those victories, there were also a few setbacks. These included another year of the Airport Corporation Bill (**SB 666**) not making it to final vote after being bogged down with no hearing

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Governor David Ige signed **HB 1180 SD 1** into law as **Act 9** on April 16. Act 9 will provide the Puna district on the island of Hawaii with \$60 million in disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities in the wake of the Kilauea volcanic eruption that devastated the area last year.



**Senator Lorraine Inouye**  
Majority Whip  
Chair  
Transportation  
Vice Chair  
Government Operations  
Member  
Energy, Economic  
Development & Tourism  
Member  
Ways & Means

# How My Bills and Others Fared This Session Continued from page 1.

in the House Finance Committee. At one point I would have voted for Senator Kahale's amended version of **HB 1326** related to "Water Rights". We heard a lot from people on both sides. That was a tough one.

In the end we can celebrate in our victory, learn from our defeats and look forward to the future.

Here is a list of some of the other bills that made it through the process:

**HB 2 CD1 (Act 5):** State Budget – Appropriations for operating budget of Executive Branch for fiscal years 2019 – 2020 and 2020 - 2021.

**SB 512 SD1 HD1\* (Act 6):** Appropriation Operating Expenses, Dept. of Transportation.

**HB 1180 HD1 (Act 9):** Appropriation \$60 Million Emergency Funding – Disaster Relief County of Hawaii, Volcanic eruption damage and recovery.

**HB 465 HD1 SD2:** Kupuna Care Appropriation.

**SB 411 SD2 HD2\*:** Exemption of Marine Terminal Equipment from safety checks, registration and licensing documentation on movements between terminals.

**SB 464 SD2 (Act 13):** Albizia Trees, private property, control.

**SB 600 HD2:** Prohibits individuals under 21 from bringing a firearm into the state.

**SB 1033 SD2 HD2 CD1:** Midwives licesure.

**SB 1091 SD2 HD2\*:** Emergency appropriation of \$7 million to the Dept. of Transportation for Pali Highway emergency repairs after recent landslides.

**SB 1378 SD HD1\* (Act 31):** Certificate of Registration; ownership; chassis-container.

**HB 333 HD1 SD2 CD1:** Parking violation surcharge on State Highways.

**HB 116 SD1 CD1:** Appropriation for the operating budget for the Executive Branch.

**HB757 HD1 SD1 CD1:** "Vision Zero" policies to prevent and eliminate traffic fatalities.

**HB 812 HD2 SD1 CD1:** Definition low-speed electric bike, regulations.

**HB 1259 SD1 CD1:** Appropriations capital Improvement Projects.

**HB 1548 HD1 SD2 CD1:** Appropriation DLNR study – rapid ohia death.

**SB98 HD1 CD1:** Crosswalk safety

**SB162 SD2 HD3 CD1:** Rental vehicle surcharge tax.

**SB409 SD2 HD1 CD1\*:** Annual surcharge for registration of electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

**SB 660 HD1 CD1\*:** Non-compliant State I.D. card.

**SB 661 SD1 HD1 CD1\*:** Procurement priority for fuel cell electric vehicles for state and county.

**SB 663 SD2 HD1 CD1\*:** Red Light Camera pilot program.

**SB 693 SD2 HD1 CD1:** Crosswalk pedestrian countdown timer.

**SB 1091 SD2 HD2\*:** Emergency appropriation for flood damage repair to Pali Highway and Honapiilani Highway.

**SB 1148 SD2 HD1 CD1:** Agriculture disaster funds; loan revolving fund; appropriation.

**SB 1236 SD2 HD2 CD1:** Disabled Persons; Parking; Placards and Plates; Violations.

**SB 1292 SD2 HD3:** Tax collections, hosting platforms, vacation rentals.

*\*Bills that I introduced.*

List of Acts: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/advreport.aspx?year=2019&report=deadline&rpt\\_type=go v\\_acts&measuretype=HB,SB&title=Acts](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/advreport.aspx?year=2019&report=deadline&rpt_type=go v_acts&measuretype=HB,SB&title=Acts)

## Legislature at a Glance

Session Days: 60  
Bills Introduced by Senator Inouye: 45  
Total Bills Introduced in the Legislature: 3,142  
Senate Committees: 16  
Total Senators: 25  
Total Representatives: 51  
Session No.: 30th Biennial

## Interim Calendar

2019 Session: Jan. 16 – May 2, 2019.  
May 2, 2019 – Adjournment *Sine Die*

Deadline Date for Governor Bills Intended to Veto: June 24, 2019.

Deadline Date for Bills to Be Signed or Vetoed by the Governor: July 9, 2019.

### REMINDER

Now is a good time for you to drop off your bill ideas. We have a lot of time to draft them now to December. You can email them to me.



## Airport Corporation Bill Dies in the House

The Airport Corporation Bill which I introduced (again) this session quietly died in the House of Representatives after passing out of the Senate. **SB 666 SD2 HD2** would have placed authority over the state's airports in the hands of an independent corporation. It failed to get heard in the House Finance Committee after passing out of the two previous House committees.

Also not passing this year is the controversial water rights bill, **HB 1326 HD2** which would have extended water permits for a number of farmers and the Alexander and Baldwin corporation.



Taking notes before a speech on the floor.



# Advise and Consent at the Hawaii State Senate

This year the Hawaii State Senate advised and consented to numerous personnel on various Boards and Commissions, as well as appointed members of the Executive Branch and nominees to the Judicial Branch.

Advise and Consent is a process in which the Senate vets and recommends whether or not a nominee is qualified for his or her appointed position. Like the U.S. Congress, the Senate is the only entity that can approve nominees in the Hawaii State Legislature.

Here is a list of some of the executive level positions that were approved by the Senate this session:

GM 540 – **Catherine P. Awakuni Colon**, Director of the Dept. of Commerce & Consumer Affairs

GM 541 – **Bruce S. Anderson**, Director Dept. of Health

GM 542 – **Cathy Y. Ross**, Deputy Director Dept. of Health

GM 543 – **Nolan P. Espinda**, Director of Public Safety

GM 570, GM 571, GM 572 – **Robert Westerman, Alapaki Nahalea, Kelli Acopan** Board of Regents, University of Hawaii

GM 577 – **Jade Butay**, Director of Transportation

GM 578 – **Lynn Araki-Regan**, Deputy Director of Transportation

GM 579 – **Curt T. Otaguro**, Comptroller Dept. of Accounting and General Services

GM 596 – **Phyllis Shimabukuro**, Board Chairperson Dept. of Agriculture

GM 597 – **Glenn K. Muranaka**, Deputy Director Dept. of Agriculture

GM 598 – **Clare E. Connors**, Attorney General

GM 599 – **Arthur C. Logan**, Adjutant General, Dept. of Defense

GM 600 – **Kenneth S. Hara**, Deputy Adjutant General, Dept. of Defense

GM 602 – **Linda Chu Takayama**, Director Dept. of Taxation

GM 603 – **Damien Elefante**, Deputy Director Dept. of Taxation

GM 605 – **Pankaj Bhanot**, Director Dept. of Human Services

GM 606 – **Scott T. Murakami**, Director Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations

GM 607 – **Leonard Hoshijo**, Deputy Director Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations

GM 608 – **Suzanne D. Case**, Chair of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources

GM 664 – **Mike McCartney**, Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism



Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda with Governor Ige at the April 24 Senate confirmation session. His appointment was approved by a 17 – 8 margin.

A complete list of all the nominees to various executive level positions is at the Reports Link under Governor Messages.

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Information on the Advise and Consent process: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/Advise-and-Consent-Process.pdf>



## Road Usage Charge Demonstration

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has been holding public meetings seeking input on the proposed Hawaii Road Usage Charge (HiRUC). This proposal addresses the diminishing revenue stream from the gasoline tax as motorists buy more fuel efficient or alternative energy vehicles, such as electric cars.

The DOT is seeking volunteers for the HiRUC demonstration project. Two meetings were held on the Big Island. The last meeting will be held in Hilo on **May 9** at **361 Haihai St.** starting at **5:30 p.m.** More information on HiRUC at their website: <https://hiruc.org/event/community-meeting-hawaii-hilo/>

## High Honor for Former Governor George Ariyoshi



Former Gov. **George Ariyoshi** received one of the state's highest honors when he was inducted into the Hawai'i State Aloha Order of Merit on April 29. Ariyoshi was Hawai'i's third governor, and the country's first governor of Japanese ancestry. He was elected Governor in 1974 and served three terms as the State's top executive until 1986.

# 2019 Capital Improvement Projects and Grants in Aid

## HB 1259 SD1 CD1

### Capital Improvement Project Senate District 4 – North Hawaii Island

Title.....	Amount
Honokaa Elementary School – Architectural Barrier Removal .....	\$300,000
Honokaa High and Intermediate School – Architectural Barrier Removal.....	\$450,000
Paauiilo Elementary & Intermediate School – Design for ADA Transition .....	\$180,000
Waimea Elementary School – Building and Site Improvements .....	\$376,000
Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School – Various items .....	\$1,200,000
Hale Ho’ola Hamakua Hospital- Renovations, various building .....	\$2,100,000
Pu’u Wa’awa Forest Reserve – Design, Construction Removal of Hazards.....	\$200,000
Mauna Kea Fence, Hawaii – Construction to Modify or Replace Fencing .....	\$500,000
North Kona Game Management Habitat – 92 Acre Fence on Cone at Pu’u Wa’awa .....	\$200,000
Pololu Trailhead, Hawaii – Plans, design for parking, restroom and trail restoration .....	\$500,000
Clean Water for Reefs, Puako, HI – Plans/design sewer system; cesspool replacement .....	\$1,500,000
Clean Water for Reefs, Puako, HI – Plans/design sewer system; cesspool replacement .....	\$300,000
Lalamilo 10-million Gallon Water Reservoir Pump Storage – Construction Hawaii County.....	\$8,750,000
Non Potable Water Well, North Kohala, Hawaii – Plan, design, construction exploratory well .....	\$2,500,000
Non Potable Water Well, North Kohala, Hawaii – Plan, design, construction exploratory well .....	\$500,000
Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport – Terminal improvements .....	\$15,721,000
Kawaihae Harbor Improvements – Various improvements.....	\$4,000
Kawaihae Harbor Improvements – Various improvements.....	\$4,000
Kawaihae Harbor Improvements – Various improvements.....	\$4,000
Kawaihae Harbor Improvements – Various improvements.....	\$1,988,000

For a detailed look at these C.I.P. items and many others see the link for **HB 1259 SD1 CD1**

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1259&year=2019](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1259&year=2019)

### 2019 Final Capital Improvement Projects Grant In Aid

BIG ISLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL for HAWAII ULU PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE	\$150,000
BIG ISLAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL	\$100,000
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE BIG ISLAND	\$500,000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAWAII ISLAND, INC.	\$100,000
HAMAKUA YOUTH FOUNDATION	\$60,000
HAWAII ISLAND PORTUGUESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER	\$150,000
INNOVATIONS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION	\$200,000
KANU O KA’AINA LEARNING ‘OHANA	\$100,000
THE OUTDOOR CIRCLE	\$200,000

### 2019 Final Operating Grant In Aid

BIG ISLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT FOR BIISC	\$300,000
BRIDGE HOUSE, INC.	\$30,000
FRIENDS OF CHALLENGER CENTER HAWAII, INC.	\$90,000
GOING HOME HAWAII 2	\$125,000
HAMAKUA HARVEST	\$30,000
HAWAII FLORICULTURE AND NURSERY ASSOC.	\$200,000
HAWAII INSTITUTE FOR PACIFIC AGRICULTURE	\$100,000
HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION	\$175,000
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF KONA	\$75,000
WEST HAWAII COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER INC.	\$220,000

For a detailed look at these G.I.A. items and many others see the link for **HB 809 SD1 CD1**

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=809&year=2019](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=809&year=2019)





Mary Begier of Mary Begier Realty was recognized on the Senate floor as the 2019 Small Business Advocate for Business & Industry by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Ms. Begier is a realtor and operates out of both Hilo and Honolulu.



The Grammy Winning Honokaa High School Jazz Band played a free concert at the Capitol Rotunda on April 26, one of several stops the renowned group under the director of Gary Washburn made on their latest road trip. The band is nominated for a Na Hoku Hanohano Award for Best Jazz album this year.



Konawaena School Future Farmers of America visited in April.



Tonya Ozone, representing Boys and Girls Club of the State of Hawaii stopped by my office last month for a short chat with me. Some of their members were recognized and honored on the Senate floor during our session for being finalists for the 2019 Youth of the Year.

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