



**The House of Representatives  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**House Majority Caucus Welcomes Rep. Karen Awana**

**Honolulu, Hawaii.** Members of the House Majority Caucus today welcomed Rep. Karen Awana after she announced that she has switched political parties to become a Democrat. There are a total 51 members of the House, with 44 members in the majority and seven members in the minority.

Rep. Awana was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 2006 as a Republican. She represents District 44 – Honokai Hale, Nanakuli, Lualualei on the Waianae Coast of Oahu.

"Within the past year, I have learned that it would be in the best interest of the community which I serve to join the Democrats," said Rep. Awana. "As a new member of the legislature, I have learned more about the legislative process and the relationships that are important to effectuate positive change. It is my belief that this change, to become a Democrat, will allow me to better serve my community and my constituents."

"I support Rep. Awana in her decision," said House Speaker Calvin Say. "Over the past year, I have observed that Rep. Awana's first priority is helping her district, which has a severe homeless and housing situation, large unemployment numbers and a serious drug problem. I believe she is doing what she needs to do to help her community."

Rep. Awana's committee assignments will be reviewed and possibly changed by the Speaker's office. She currently serves on the Committees on Finance, Health, Human Services & Housing, and International Affairs.

"The Majority Caucus welcomes Karen Awana and looks forward to working with her during the next legislative session," said Majority Leader Kirk Caldwell. "She is a promising freshman legislator, and we value her new voice and future contributions to our caucus."

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