



The House of Representatives
STATE OF HAWAII

NEWS RELEASE

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REP. HANOHANO'S BILLS ADVANCING AT THE LEGISLATURE

HONOLULU. Several important bills introduced by freshman legislator Rep. Faye Hanohano (District 4 - Puna, Pahoa, Hawaiian Acres, Kalapana) are making their way through the state legislature.

"These bills reflect some of the critical issues facing the people of my district," said Rep. Hanohano. "As a freshman legislator, I am encouraged that the bills have received support and attention at the legislature. We still have a ways to go, but the bills have generated meaningful discussion, and I'm hopeful that they will advance successfully through the session."

HB1440, Relating to Public Safety, clarifies the Office of the Ombudsman's authority to investigate any complaint submitted by a family member of a Hawaii inmate, including one held at a contracted correctional facility. In addition, the Ombudsman would be required to investigate any incident where a death or riot has occurred at a correctional facility, or where a Hawaii inmate, including one held at a contracted facility, has sustained serious bodily harm as a result of actions by a correctional officer, employee, or other person held in custody.

The bill establishes oversight for Hawaii inmates in out-of-state jurisdictions by giving the ombudsman the authority to investigate contractual acts involving contracted facility personnel, or in a third-party contracted facility or agency.

HB1442, Relating to Kikala-Keokea, provides a follow-up to Act 314, which in 1991 authorized the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to negotiate long-term leases with Kalapana families who were displaced by volcanic eruptions and lava flow on the island of Hawaii. The bill authorizes DLNR to award leases to the remaining 19 lots at Kikala-Keokea. The goal is to help these displaced families to maintain their heritage in the Kikala-Keokea homestead area adjacent to the Kalapana-Kapoho Beach Road and enable them to continue to develop the land and enjoy their traditional way of life.

(more)

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HB1931 extends the authorization to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hui Enekinia Hawaii to establish a cogeneration facility on the Island of Hawaii. The bill aims to decentralize and increase reliability in the production of electric energy on the Big Island.

HB385, Medicaid, Reimbursement Rate, increases the reimbursement rate for Medicaid and QUEST psychiatric services according to county population and appropriates funds for the reimbursement rate increase.

HB1559, Relating to Highways, requires that flexible highway design be considered when designing improvements to the Koolau Loa Coastal Highway from Kaaawa to Waimea on Oahu, and to Lower Puna to Kapoho Coastal Road on the island of Hawaii.

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