



The House of Representatives
STATE OF HAWAII

NEWS RELEASE

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**REP. MANAHAN'S BILLS ADVANCING AT THE
LEGISLATURE**

HONOLULU. Four noteworthy measures introduced by freshman legislator Joey Manahan (District 29 – Sand Island, Mokauea, Kalihi Kai, Kapalama) are making their way through the state legislature.

"As a newcomer to the House, I am very grateful that my colleagues have taken an interest in these bills," said Rep. Manahan, who serves as Vice Chair of the Committee on Tourism and Culture. "These measures address some very important matters in our community. I'm looking forward to hearing the discussions they generate and the progress they make in the weeks ahead."

A summary of the bills is as follows:

HB1513, Election Fraud, Increased Penalties, increases the financial penalties levied against those who are found guilty of an election fraud to a minimum of \$1000 and no more than \$5000. Besides the punishment, this measure requires that the person be disqualified from voting and from being elected to, holding or occupying any office, elective or appointive.

HB1512, Relating to Public Meetings, authorizes public input and discussion on issues not specifically noticed for consideration at a forthcoming neighborhood board meeting, and specifies that the board may only make decisions on the matter at a future meeting for which an amended agenda has been filed. The bill also allows two or more neighborhood board members, but less than a quorum, to attend meetings relating to board business. It also clarifies neighborhood board actions on unanticipated events.

HB991, Relating to Tourism, requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to set aside a percentage of its annual marketing budget for local marketing campaigns which might include resident satisfaction surveys, an Internet website hub containing information on employment opportunities, and local programs to develop an image acceptable to marketers and local residents. The bill allows HTA to promote the tourism industry's interest and projects and positions within the state and adds workforce development to the list of items for which HTA may enter into contracts.

(more)

HB993, Relating to the Performance Arts, requires the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to develop a program for performance art such as theater, music, and dance, emphasizing performances by students and community members. Venues administered by state agencies will be considered as possible sites for program performances. This bill attempts to make performance arts, which are sometimes overlooked in favor of other art forms, a more integral part of Hawaii's art community.

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