



# Mid-Session Snapshot

From  
State Representative  
Cindy Evans

This preliminary report summarizes some of the accomplishments of the Hawaii House of Representatives during the 2018 Regular Session, as of March 6, 2018. Please be advised that the status of the House measures listed will continue to evolve as the session progresses. Prepared by the House Majority Staff Office as an informational service, this report contains digests of selected House measures and is not intended to represent a comprehensive record of all actions taken by the House during the 2018 Regular Session. The measures presented in this report are grouped by subject matter committee.

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## MEASURES ON THE MOVE

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**Rat Lungworm Disease; Prevention and Eradication.** Addresses the increase of reported cases of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii by appropriating funds, on a matching basis from anticipated non-state sources of funding, for programs, studies, and activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease, including developing clinical guidelines and conducting case studies on rat lungworm disease patients.

**HB474 HD1**

**Economic Development; Statewide Innovation Industry; Appropriation.** Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to continue the Neighbor Island Innovation Initiative Program. Requires the Corporation to include information on the impact of the Program in providing outreach and mentorship assistance to innovative small businesses on the Neighbor Islands in its annual report to the Legislature. Authorizes and appropriates funds for the Corporation to participate in and contribute funding towards activities related to the development of a Hawaii cyber ecosystem focused on cybersecurity that includes an education and higher education curriculum, workforce development efforts, innovative approaches to preparedness, and expansion of the State's innovation economy.

**HB2084 HD1**

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**Economic Diversification; Innovative Technology Sector; Software Applications.**

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to provide grants and to support software application challenge events where participants develop proofs of concept into prototypes suitable for local and state government use. Requires the Corporation to seek additional public and private funding for grant awards and program implementation. Establishes criteria for grant applications and awards.

**HB2080 HD1**

**Charter Schools; Facilities Funding; Infrastructure.** Supports student learning in public charter schools by appropriating funds to the State Public Charter School Commission for charter school infrastructure costs, lease or rent assistance, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure.

**HB2508 HD1**

**Department of Education; Computer Science Development.** Promotes computer science education in the State by requiring the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide computer science curricula plan for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12. Authorizes the Department to contract for computer science teacher development programs and establishes contract requirements. Appropriates funds for these purposes.

**HB2607 HD1**

**Environment; Sewage Contamination; Marine Areas; University of Hawaii; Department of Health.** Directs the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center, in cooperation and consultation with the Department of Health, to conduct a statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas. Appropriates funds for the study.

**HB2612 HD1**

**Hawaii Clean Economy Initiative Program; Advisory Board.** Establishes the Hawaii Clean Economy Initiative Advisory Board to advise the State on the transition to a clean energy economy and to accelerate the realization of the State's climate and clean energy goals. Appropriates funds from the Energy Security Special Fund to support the Board and an Executive Director for the Board. Changes the name of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Program to the Hawaii Clean Economy Initiative Program. Expands the role and duration of the Program to include management of the State's transition to a clean energy and transportation economy that, by 2045, sequesters more atmospheric carbon than it produces.

**HB2719 HD1**

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**Homelessness; Housing; Ohana Zones; Housing Assistance; Diversion.** Establishes and appropriates funds for an Ohana Zones program within the Department of Human Services to provide immediate housing and on-site support services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for public housing improvements and renovations and for rental assistance supplements for families who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for housing first and rapid rehousing programs, outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Pilot Program for homeless individuals experiencing substance abuse.

**HB2281 HD1**

**End of Life Care; Our Care, Our Choice Act.** Permits an adult resident of the State with a medically confirmed terminal disease and less than six months to live to choose to obtain a prescription for medication to end the adult's life. Establishes safeguards to confirm the patient's medical status and mental capacity to make an informed decision. Imposes criminal sanctions for tampering with a patient's request for a prescription or coercing a patient to request a prescription. Limits liability and exposure to professional sanctions or adverse actions for providers of care who act in good-faith compliance with applicable requirements and safeguards.

**HB2739 HD1**

**Dialysis Centers; Certification; Health Care Facilities.** Addresses the shortage of dialysis centers in the State by establishing positions within the Department of Health and appropriating funds to reduce the time required to review, certify, and recertify dialysis centers and other health care facilities.

**HB1895 HD1**

**Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.** Specifies that certain sections of the Internal Revenue Code relating to the installment method, deductions limited to the amount at risk, and passive activity losses and credits limited do not apply to investments made in buildings and projects claiming the Low-income Housing Tax Credit. Clarifies that all allocations to partners of their distributive shares of income, loss, and general excise tax deductions shall be made in proportion to the partners' allocation of Low-income Housing Tax Credits. Limits the total amount of state credits allocated to a qualified low-income building to fifty percent of the amount of federal credits allocated to the building.

**HB2332 HD1**

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**Affordable Rental Housing; Rental Assistance Program.** Increases the percentage of units that a rental housing project must maintain for income-eligible tenants from twenty percent to thirty percent in order to remain eligible for rental subsidies. Appropriates funds to the Rental Assistance Revolving Fund to support rental assistance program contracts.

**HB2745 HD1**

**Small Broadband or Wireless Facilities.** Upgrades and supports next-generation wireless broadband infrastructure throughout Hawaii by establishing a permitting, application, review, and approval process for installation by broadband or wireless service providers of broadband or wireless facilities on state or county solely-owned utility poles, or installation of associated utility poles, in the right of way.

**HB2651 HD2**

**Virtual Currency.** Protects consumers by adopting certain operative provisions of the Uniform Regulation of Virtual Currency Businesses Act, extending the Money Transmitters Act to expressly apply to persons engaged in the transmission of virtual currency, and requiring licensees dealing with virtual currency to provide a warning to consumers prior to entering into an agreement with them. Requires licensure or registration through the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for any person or entity engaged in virtual currency business activity with or on behalf of a State resident.

**HB2257 HD2**

**Elections by Mail; Appropriation.** Establishes a process to conduct all elections in the State, beginning with the 2020 primary election, by mail. Establishes procedures for ballot distribution, return, counting, and electronic transmission in limited circumstances. Establishes voter service centers to accommodate personal delivery of ballots. Allocates responsibility for election expenses and duties between the State and the counties. Repeals procedures for deciding a tie election result, mail-in absentee ballots, and conduct of in-person voting at designated precincts. Appropriates funds to the Office of Elections and the counties.

**HB2541 HD1**

**Paid Family Leave.** Lays the groundwork to implement a framework of laws and policies for paid family leave in the State so that all employees can access leave benefits during times when they need to provide care for a family member. Establishes the Paid Family Leave Implementation Board and the Paid Family Leave Special Fund to assist in establishing paid family leave for all workers in the State. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to implement paid family leave by January 1, 2020.

**HB2598 HD2**

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**Training; Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian Rights; Office of Hawaiian Affairs.** Expands requirements that members of boards, commissions, and councils complete training on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust to include additional elected and appointed decision-making officials in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the State and the counties.

**HB1999 HD2**

**Training; Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian Rights; Office of Hawaiian Affairs.** Expands requirements that members of boards, commissions, and councils complete training on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust to include additional elected and appointed decision-making officials in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the State and the counties.

**HB1999 HD2**

**Disaster Preparedness; Disaster Planning.** Establishes and appropriates funds for a Hawaii Disaster Preparedness Task Force within the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii to review current disaster management coordination and protocols and develop recommendations to support the State's disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts. Requires the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, with the assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, to draft a Hawaii Disaster Preparedness Plan that incorporates the Task Force's recommendations and submit the Plan to the Legislature.

**HB2582 HD1**

**Abandoned Vehicles; Removal; Counties; Public Roads; Derelict Vehicles.** Requires the counties to take custody of abandoned vehicles on public roads within 10 business days. Removes the requirement that written notice be sent to the abandoned vehicle's owner. Requires the designated county agency to give an abandoned vehicle's owner 20 business days to claim the vehicle, unless it is reported as stolen. Authorizes the designated county agency to waive the requirements for public auction in all cases. Specifies that a vehicle without a current registration shall be considered derelict and subject to immediate disposal.

**HB2442 HD2**

**Watersheds; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriations.** Appropriates moneys from the Natural Area Reserve Fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for improvements, repairs, and maintenance of watersheds throughout the State.

**HB2595 HD1**

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