



# SENATOR KAIALI'I KAHELE

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## Senator Kahele Looks Back at the 2016 Session

Aloha! Now that the 2016 Legislative Session is over, I'd like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve you, the people of Hilo and Hawai'i Island in the State Senate. My father, the late Senator Gilbert Kahele, taught me to respect the values which make our island unique: empathy, honesty, community service and stewardship of our environment. I am honored to carry on those values and his legacy.

The legislature passed a \$13.7 billion budget for 2017, including funding for education, housing and health care services. \$89 million dollars in new projects are coming to Hilo, including:

- ◆ \$1.5 million for a covered play court at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School;
- ◆ \$600K to complete a full service kitchen at Keaukaha Elementary School; and
- ◆ \$21 million for the Hawai'i Community Correctional Center.

These projects will make a huge difference in creating local jobs, supporting our kupuna, preserving our unique culture, and investing in our keiki.

During the next few months, I will be in Hilo, getting out into the community and talking story with you. One of the things that made my Dad special was you would always find him somewhere in town visiting or talking story with a friend. Suisan, KTA, the various Farmers Markets and Downtown Hilo were places you would always find my Dad – you can expect to find me there too. I look forward to seeing you and talking about your issues. How can I help to improve your quality of life as well as your friends and neighbors? What we can do together to move Hawai'i forward? I welcome your ideas and suggestions and look forward to listening to you as I travel our beautiful district and the special town we all call home. Together, let's make Hawai'i a better place for our future generations.

Hau'oli ka mana'o,



Senator Kaiali'i Kahele was sworn in to the Hawai'i State Senate on February 17, 2016.



**Daniel K. Inouye  
College of Pharmacy**

Senator Kahele was instrumental in securing an arrangement in securing an arrangement where UH Hilo was able to reduce the cost of the construction of the pharmacy building by reconfiguring the research laboratories into teaching laboratories. This savings of approximately \$1.3 million allowed UH Hilo to award a \$31.3 million contract to Isemoto Contracting Co., whose originally bid was \$32.6 million.

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# Senate District 1 Receives \$89 Million

*These capital improvement projects are vital to improving schools and facilities, address aging infrastructure, and establish additional safety measures for our island.*

## Education

◆ Cafeteria equipment installation; ground and site improvements for Keaukaha Elementary	\$600,000
◆ Covered play court for Ha'aheo Elementary	\$2 million
◆ Covered play court for Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary	\$1.5 million
◆ Renovation for Building A for Hilo Intermediate	\$2.1 million
◆ New baseball batting cage, electrical upgrades and covered walkways for Waiākea Intermediate	\$961,000
◆ Construction of portable trailers for Hawai'i Community College	\$1.5 million
◆ Allocated to the Department of Education to assist in moving forward their program to install air conditioning and other heat abatement measures in our public schools and providing students with a better learning environment. This measure is another step towards helping Hawai'i reach its goal of 100% renewable energy dependency by the year 2050.	\$100 million statewide

## State Facilities

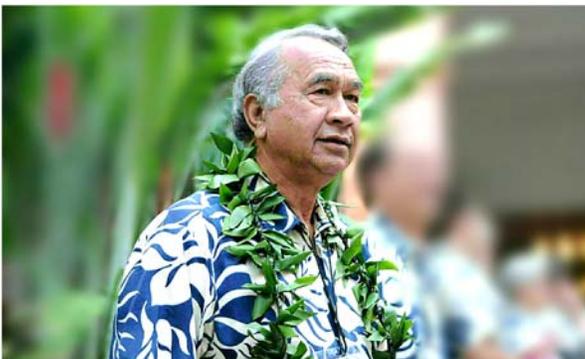
◆ Improvements at Hilo International Airport	\$7.1 million
◆ Support building, housing and security system for Hawai'i Community Correctional Center	\$21 million
◆ Hilo Harbor Improvements	\$7.95 million
◆ Renovation on the Keaukaha Military Reservation	\$31.8 million

## Healthcare

◆ Improvements for the Hilo Counseling Center and Keawe Center	\$6.75 million
◆ Construction for a new adult day care facility, the Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation	\$300,000
◆ Plans, design and construction for a health facility for Panaewa Community Alliance	\$1 million

## Community

◆ Rapid 'Ohia Death Research	\$300,000
◆ Education facility for Hawai'i Island Portuguese Chamber of Commerce	\$1 million
◆ Construction for a new Island Heritage Gallery Exhibit at Lyman House Memorial Museum	\$500,000
◆ Rainbow Falls Botanical Garden and Visitor Center	\$217,000
◆ Assist with at risk and low income school students to prevent from dropping out of High School in Hilo	\$200,000
◆ Kamoleao Laulima Community Resources Center	\$150,000



We extend our most sincere gratitude and appreciation for your support in honoring my father, the Late Senator Gilbert Kahele this past February at the Hawai'i State Capitol and in Hilo.

The Late Senator Kahele was a fisherman of the deep sea. The testimony and heart-felt tributes to his family, friends, colleagues, and constituents, has made it clear that he prepared himself to reach as far as his people needed him to reach, and many times, farther. His service is an inspiration to all of us, and his loss will be felt across all of our islands. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in all of us.

**He lawai'a no ke kai papa'u, he pōkole ke aho; he lawai'a no ke kai hohonu he loa ke aho. Ua pau ua hala lākou a ko'e no napua.**

# 2016 Legislative Session in Review

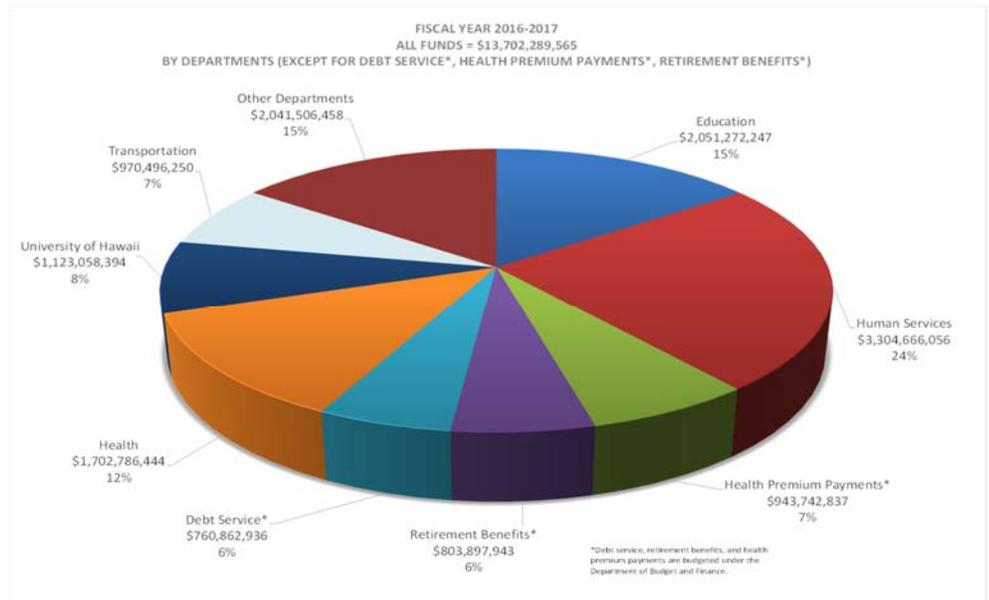
State lawmakers passed more than 270 bills that address the wide range of needs and concerns of Hawai'i residents during the 2016 Session of the 28th Legislature.

Here is a summary of some of the bills passed this legislative session:

**State Budget HB 1700 CD1:** Adjusts the Fiscal Biennium 2017 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects to \$13.7 billion in State spending. Includes \$23.9 million in funding for the state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands administration and operating support; \$81.9 million to pay down the unfunded liability for public workers and retiree health benefits that the state is required to pay in the years ahead; \$12 million for homeless programs which provides the opportunity to change the way the State deals with the challenging problem of homelessness; \$10 million for the Preschool Open Doors program; eliminated \$1.5 million in general funds for vacant positions across various departments. **HB 2317 CD1:** Appropriates \$150 million for the State's "Rainy Day" budget reserve fund. **SB 3126 CD1:** Appropriates \$100 million to install air conditioning and other heat abatement measures in public school classrooms to promote the health and safety of students and teachers, and to provide a more comfortable and productive learning environment. **SB2559 CD1:** Makes available more emergency and transitional shelter space by establishing minimum requirements for emergency shelters and transitional shelter space and establishing positions and funds to assist in the operation of the homeless program.

**Organic Food Production Credit HB1689 CD1:** Establishes an organic food production tax credit of up to \$50,000 for farmers, ranchers, and producers seeking to obtain organic certification starting on 1/1/17.

**Voter Registration HB 1055 SD1:** Requires on an application to register to vote, a Hawai'i driver's license number or a Hawai'i state identification card number or, if no license or identification card has been issued, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number. If the applicant does not have a social security number, requires an election official or county clerk to assign the applicant a unique number for voter registration purposes. Takes effect on 1/1/18.



## Other Notable Bills:

**EDUCATION HB2772 CD1:** Adopts the preliminary recommendation of the affirmative consent task force including requiring the University of Hawai'i to train employees and students on sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking policies. **SB2607 (Act 40):** Limits the ways in which the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application working with the Department of Education can use student data. **HB2494 (Act 10):** Authorizes Department of Education employees to volunteer to administer or assist a student with blood glucose monitoring.

**HEALTH HB2707 CD1:** Amends our medical marijuana law to ensure the efficient and responsible operation of medical marijuana dispensaries. Also allows advanced practice registered nurses to certify patients for medical marijuana use. **SB2392 CD1:** Takes steps to reduce opioid-related drug related overdoses in the State by encouraging the use of opioid antagonists to assist individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. **SB2384 CD1:** Requires the Department of Health to conduct unannounced visits and inspections for state-licensed or state-certified care facilities beginning 7/1/19 and medical marijuana production centers and dispensaries beginning 7/1/16.

**TRANSPORTATION HB2086 SD2:** Appropriates and deposits \$37 million into the state highway fund as a subsidy to continue certain highway maintenance and capital improvement projects and ensure funding for emergency repairs. Addresses recent past practices and unsound budgetary practices by requiring the Governor to provide a plan to sustain the state highway fund.

**PUBLIC SAFETY HB1907 CD1:** Requires all law enforcement agencies and departments charged with maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits to conduct an inventory of all stored kits and report to the Attorney General. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to report to the Legislature on the number of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits being stored, plans and procedures for the disposition of new and untested kits, and related information. **HB625 SD1:** Specifies that harassment by stalking and sexual assault are among the offenses that disqualify a person from owning, possessing, or controlling any firearm or ammunition. **HB2391 CD1:** Addresses the problem of overcrowding of jails by authorizing the Director of Public Safety to release pretrial or convicted misdemeanor offenders to relieve overcrowding in Hawai'i jails. People who has been arrested for a violent crime or whose bail is set at more than \$5,000 are not eligible for release.

**ENVIRONMENT SB 2647 HD2:** Addresses the trafficking of animals facing extinction by prohibiting the sale, purchase, trade, possession with intent to sell, or barter any part of product from various animal and marine species. **HB2030 CD1:** Prohibits the discharge of treated or raw sewage into state waters after 2026 except when used for a beneficial purpose as provided by law. **HB2675 CD1:** Appropriates \$300,000 for research to combat rapid ohia death.

**VETERANS SB2256 SD1:** Authorizes issuance of driver's licenses with the notation of "veteran" for persons who are veterans of the Korean conflict and who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea, who fought under the command of the United Nations led by the United States during the Korean conflict and are currently U.S. citizens.

# Legislative Highlights

(continued from page 3)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SB3109 CD1 (Act 65):** Appropriates \$1 million to fund the High Technology Development Corporation manufacturing development program to assist companies with qualified manufacturing expenses. **SB3110 CD1 (Act 66):** Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide \$2 million in grants to assist small businesses conducting innovative research with their efforts toward commercialization and promote manufacturing.

To view the full text of the bills, go to the Legislative website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>



Hawai'i State Senators on the floor of the Senate chambers on the last day of the regular 2016 Legislative Session.



Celebrating 100 years of outstanding service with KTA Super Stores. This family built business focuses on people, relationships, and partnerships that they have established over the last century. L to R: Toby Taniguchi, Barry Taniguchi, Amanda Taniguchi and Sen. Kahele.



## Ho'omaikai'i ana Judge Darien Nagata

The newly appointed First Circuit Court Judge confirmed by the Hawai'i State Senate.



Proud of Hilo's very finest from Keaukaha Elementary School; Chaz Agpoon, Principal Stacey Bello, Breeani Lee and Aukai Chu Hing with Senator Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education. They testified before Senator Kidani expressing their strong support for a full service commercial kitchen at Keaukaha Elementary School.



Hawai'i State Legislators led by Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Majority Leader Sen. Kalani English, Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole and Sen. Brickwood Galuteria welcome the students of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīkalanī 'ōpu'u (Kea'au, Puna) with a proper Hawaiian protocol before entering the State Capitol. They began with an oli since the chanting of an oli represents an intimate connection to our environment.

## “No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola”

A meaningful life takes place in one's homeland, therefore one's major contribution to the quality and standard of living is made in Hawai'i.



On March 28, 2016, the Honorable David Y. Ige held a proclamation ceremony in the executive chambers at the State Capitol to honor the University of Hawai'i Warriors and Rainbow Wahine Basketball teams. L. to R.: Sen. Kahele, Rep. Choy, UH Rainbow Warriors Head Coach Eran Ganot, Gov. David Y. Ige, UH Rainbow Wahine Basketball Head Coach Laura Beeman, Sen. Taniguchi and Sen. Kouchi.