

# SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING  
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY  
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA



## ALOHA NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS!

Voting by mail in 2020, liver and bile duct cancer research, and marijuana decriminalization are some of the key issues that were discussed in the final days of this legislative session. House and Senate members met in conference committees to negotiate any differences they had on these measures and then they were taken to vote on the Senate Floor. In total, nearly 300 bills made it out of the Legislature, most of which are awaiting final decisions by Gov. David Ige.

In March of this year, the Council on Revenues lowered their economic forecast from 4.2% to 3% for fiscal year 2018-2019. This means less money carried over for this fiscal year, and essentially less money to go around for programs and services. On top of that, the administration negotiated new collective bargaining agreements which is expected to cost the state approximately \$100 million over the next two fiscal years. A decreased economic forecast coupled with increasing public costs are just some of the concerns the Legislature will have to take up and deliberate next session. Rest assure that I will continue to remain vigilant with how your tax payer monies are being used and work to keep wasteful and inefficient spending practices to a minimum.

### BILLS THAT PASSED

#### KUPUNA CARE - \$8,300,000

Funding of the Kupuna Care Program.

#### KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM - \$1,500,000

Allocates funds, subject to availability, up to a maximum of \$210 per week to cover costs for various services. (Note: this bill changes the current law, which was a max. of \$70 per day).

#### UH PROMISE PROGRAM - \$700,000

Provides additional funding for the Hawaii Community College Promise Program, which provides financial assistance to students with financial need to meet the cost of tuition, fees, books, and transportation.

#### LIVER AND BILE DUCT CANCER - \$700,000

Appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii cancer center to determine the etiologies of the high incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in Hawaii.

#### ELECTRIC AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES SURCHARGE

Establish an annual vehicle registration surcharge fee of \$50 for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles to be deposited into the state highway fund.

#### MANDATORY VOTE RECOUNT

Requires a mandatory recount of election votes and ballot measures when the margin of victory for election contests or tabulation for ballot measures is equal to or less than one hundred or one-quarter of one per cent of the votes cast, whichever is greater.

#### VOTING BY MAIL IN 2020

Enacts voting by mail uniformly across all counties for all elections commencing in 2020.

#### MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION

Provides for the expungement of criminal records pertaining solely to the possession of three grams or less of marijuana. Decriminalizes the possession of three grams or less of marijuana and establishes that the possession is a violation punishable by a monetary fine of \$130. Establishes a marijuana evaluation task force to make recommendations on changing marijuana use penalties and outcomes in the State.

MAY 2019

## BILLS THAT PASSED - CONTINUED

### RED LIGHT RUNNING COMMITTEE

Establishes within the DOT a red light running committee to develop policy for pilot programs in the C&C of Honolulu, and Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.

### CROSSWALK SAFETY

Clarifies that a driver shall stop for a pedestrian who is crossing an intersection or crosswalk when the pedestrian is either (1) upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling; or (2) approaching the vehicle so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger, and shall not proceed until the pedestrian has passed the vehicle and the driver can safely proceed.

## MEASURES DEFERRED

### MINIMUM WAGE

Increases the minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2020, and to \$15.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2023 and establishes an income tax credit for qualifying small businesses to offset the increase in the wages that employers pay to employees

### FAMILY LEAVE FOR GRANDCHILD

Provides grandparents with 1 week of family leave to care for a grandchild with a serious health condition.

### GENERAL EXCISE TAX INCREASE

Increases the general excise tax and use tax by 0.5% to provide a dedicated funding source for the department of education and the University of Hawaii.

## FUNDING SECURED FOR DISTRICT



### MOANALUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- o \$100K - Design for due diligence effort to construct electrical upgrades and air conditioning improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

### MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL

- o \$2.1M - Construction to replace stadium light poles; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.
- o \$1.5M - Plans, land acquisition, design, construction, and equipment for a centralized area for students to be dropped off and/or picked up. the area needs to be covered and cemented with seating and will be located between the cafeteria and administration office; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.



### MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC.



- o \$300,000 - Design for restoration and realignment of Kamanui Valley Road.

## CITY TO DEBUT BULKY-ITEM PICKUP BY APPOINTMENT



Starting May 15 residents from Foster Village to Hawaii Kai — including busy Waikiki — will have to go online to schedule appointments for bulky-item pickup service.

To schedule appointments, single- and multi-family households within the Department of Environmental Services' zones 1-8 may log on to [opala.org](http://opala.org). Pickup service begins June 3. Those unable to schedule online should call the department at 768-3200 between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Single-family homes may schedule up to five bulky items per appointment, while multi-unit residential buildings may schedule up to 20 bulky items per appointment, according to the city.

Associations of apartment owners, property managers or residential managers are required to consolidate bulky-item collection appointments for tenants and store items in onsite holding areas between appointments, according to the city.

Those unable to wait between appointments may drop off items at convenience centers listed at [opala.org](http://opala.org). A map illustrating the various pickup zones is also available on the website.

