



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi Community Update

**DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA,
KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU**

July 2017

Governor Ige Signs Kupuna Caregivers Program Into Law

Governor David Ige signed HB607, CD1, Relating to Kupuna Care, into law on June 6, 2017. This bill authorizes the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program to assist family members obtaining care for elders while remaining in the workforce. It is a first step to ensure that families receive the help they need to provide care for their Kupuna.

The program provides support for working caregivers, up to \$70 per day, to care for aging family members or other loved ones. It provides needed in-home assistance for kupuna who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid and do not have sufficient resources to pay for daily services of professional caregivers. This daily benefit helps keep family members in their regular employment.

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawaii. Ninety percent of people over age 65 would prefer to remain in their homes as long as possible. According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawaii than the national average.

This program does not cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home or an assisted living home. Instead, it helps to pay for a home care aide for a couple of hours, transportation to adult day care or adult day health, or chores or homemaking services. This program alleviates the financial burden of long-term care for our kupuna and provides a helping hand caregivers so desperately need.

KAIMUKI HIGH SCHOOL'S LATER STARTING TIME HELPS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Kaimuki High School starts its school day at 9 am, one hour later than most public schools in Hawaii. School Principal Wade Araki changed the starting time in 2015 to help students improve their grades and alleviate school tardiness.

Arakai identified research that claimed adolescents were not getting enough sleep during the school week. Most studies confirmed that students need eight hours of sleep for their brains to work and function properly.

A study completed by Chaminade University psychology professor Tracy Trevorrow noticed that the school's juniors and seniors who started at 8 am as freshmen and sophomores and then switched to the later start time of 9 am felt more rested during the day and improved their grades.

Araki said many of his students take younger siblings to school before they go to campus. Kaimuki does not provide school bus service, so some students need to transfer between city buses to get to school. The later start has helped cut down on tardiness but does not affect Kaimuki High Schools athletic teams or clubs which practice and play after school.

Trevorrow also surveyed the school's teachers, who now have an extra hour before the bell to hold meetings and other activities traditionally done after school. Araki said the 9 am start may not be right for all schools, but it works for his.

Hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) recommends residents prepare an “emergency kit” of a minimum of 14 days of food, water and other supplies. With Hawaii’s remoteness, in a major disaster it could be as long as 14 days before a full relief operation is in place. Enclosed please find a Hawaii Red Cross emergency planning flyer for your information.

Residents also should maintain high awareness when an active tropical cyclone system is near to Hawaii. The Department of Emergency Management will issue Emergency Public Information over TV and radio. Residents can also receive emergency information by calling the Department of Emergency Management at (808) 723-8960 or State of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency at (808) 733-4300.

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE WILL NOT CONVENE OVERRIDE SPECIAL SESSION

House Speaker Scott K. Saiki and Senate President Ron Kouchi announced that the State House of Representatives State Senate would not convene a special session to override any bills on Governor David Ige’s Intent to Veto list.

On June 23, Gov. Ige notified the legislature of his intent to veto 15 bills passed during the 2017 Legislative Session. The Hawaii State Constitution requires the governor to notify the Legislature of the bills he intends to veto by June 26.

The Governor had until July 11 to veto any of these measures by returning them to the Legislature with his statement of objections. The House and Senate will review the Governor’s rationale for returning any measure and consider those concerns next session.

LEGISLATORS TARGET AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 FOR PROPOSED RAIL FINANCING SPECIAL SESSION

House and Senate leadership have asked their members to be available for a proposed Special Session on August 28 to September 1, 2017. The purpose of the special session is to address rail financing and the City and County of Honolulu’s adherence to its Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration.

Negotiations between the House and Senate have occurred and are ongoing. There is optimism that the lead committee chairs will continue to have productive discussions to craft an acceptable plan.