



CINDY EVANS

State Representative

E-News -- June 2015

Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway Widening

Goodfellow Brothers, Inc. has a website that has updates and announcements on the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway Widening Project, go to <http://buildqueenk.com/>. The goal of this design-build project is to improve traffic flow from Keahole Airport Road to Kealakehe Parkway. This 5.2 mile section of the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway will be widened from the existing two lanes to four lanes.

Hawai'i Department of Transportation anticipates starting construction in August or September. HDOT will hold a Public Information Meeting at least thirty days before construction begins so that the public may be fully informed of what to expect and how the project will address community concerns. Further updates and announcements will be posted on the website.

2006 Ethanol Gasoline Mandate Repeal

The Governor has yet to take action on Senate Bill 717 which repeals existing requirement that gasoline for motor vehicles be composed of ten percent ethanol.

The Legislature found that the requirement of blending ethanol into Hawai'i's gasoline does not produce any economic benefit for the State, and the import of ethanol creates an economic burden for state residents. The repeal of the ethanol gasoline requirement will ensure that any added costs associated with ethanol blending will not affect gasoline price and supply.

"There were some great intentions by different sugar companies and some plantations that were to produce ethanol," said Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director of Blue Planet Foundation. Lawmakers are now banking on other alternatives like biodiesel. There are also electric cars and vehicles that run on hydrogen gas as the way to go environmentally on the road. If you would like to review the bill, go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawai'i's Environmental Court

The University of Hawai'i Law School, the Hawai'i State Judiciary, and environmental organizations are gearing up for the launch of Hawai'i's Environmental Court scheduled on July 1 — the second of its kind in the nation. This new court is the effects of Act 218, session laws of Hawai'i 2014.

Under the new system, the Hawai'i Supreme Court Chief Justice designates one or more environmental judges for each circuit and for a district court within each circuit.

Those who advocated for the court's creation say the environmental court will be a more effective way of enforcing existing environmental laws. In the past, cases might have received different outcomes depending on which court received the complaint.

The court will have exclusive jurisdiction over proceedings that involve cases in historic preservation, litter control, recycling, solid waste, safe drinking water, air pollution, environmental impact statements and more.

To review this initiative, go to http://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/reports/reports.html under Initiatives.

Governor's Deadline

Per Article III, Section 16 of the Hawai'i State Constitution: "The governor shall have forty-five days, after the adjournment of the legislature sine die, to consider bills presented to the governor less than ten days before such adjournment, or presented after adjournment, and any such bill shall become law on the forty-fifth day, unless the governor by proclamation shall have given ten days' notice to the legislature that the governor plans to return such bill with the governor's objections on that day."

Governor Ige needs to notify his intent to veto by Monday, June 29. He then has until July 14th to change his mind, pass the rest of the bills by signing or allowing them to pass without his signature. To review bills pending governor's action go to <http://governor.hawaii.gov/> then click on Bills Signed or Vetoed.

'Now What' With Representative Cindy Evans

'Olelo Community Media has a studio at the State Capitol which allows Representative Evans to interview organizations or individuals on topics that affect Hawai'i Island and her communities. Her show is called "Now What".

On July 1, 2015, you can view the premier of the following shows on www.olelo.org – click on What's On, then scroll and click on 'OleloNet Video on demand, insert "Now What" in the search box and then click on search with these titles:

- State Department of Health – Interview with the Director
- Outdoor Circle
- Rachael Wong DrPH - Vice President and COO of Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH).

To view older "Now What" shows on the website, follow the directions above.

Invasive Rodent and Mongoose Control Public Comment Period Will Close on Oct 27

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comments as part of the development of a Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PDEIS) on control or eradication of invasive rodents and mongooses in native ecosystems in Hawai'i.

Rodents and mongooses, which are not native to the Hawaiian ecosystem, are known to kill and eat native seabirds, and eat plants and their seeds. They have caused extinctions and severe declines of many native species in Hawai'i including the Oahu elepaio, Oahu tree snails, and native palms. The PDEIS will evaluate methods to protect native wildlife and plants, including federally listed threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitats.

The Service's Notice of Intent will publish June 30, 2015 in the Federal Register. In early summer, Hawai'i's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is expected to publish an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice in The Environmental Bulletin, published by the Hawai'i State Office of Environmental Quality Control. Following the publication of the state document, public meetings will be held throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Meeting dates, locations, and times are yet to be determined.

Comments regarding the proposed action and the proposed PDEIS may be sent by one of the following methods:

Electronically: <http://www.regulations.gov> Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–R1–ES–2015–0026.

U.S. Mail: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R1–ES–2015–0026; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

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