

Capitol Connection

Issue 8

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Second Crossover for bills fell on Friday, April 5. Many of the bills voted on during Second Crossover will have been amended in the non-originating chamber. Should the Senate disagree to the House amendments, or vice-versa, a bill will be referred to a conference committee where appointed conferees from both houses will attempt to reach an agreement on the final language of a bill.

If you have any questions or comments on *Capitol Connection*, please write me at sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov

While you're at it, let me know if you want certain issues or bills covered in future issues.

Sincerely,

David Ige

David Y. Ige
State Senator
17th District

Health Issues

As Hawaii's population grows older, the State needs to address complex issues such as long-term care financing, the rising cost of prescription drugs, and physician-assisted suicides.

HB2638 HD2 SD1 enacts the Hawaii long-term care financing Act; creates the Hawaii long-term care benefits fund to hold the premiums and to pay benefits; establishes a board of trustees to administer the fund. HB2638 HD2 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.



HB1950 SD2 establishes the Medicaid prescription drug expansion program to offer discounted prescription drugs to qualified individuals whose income is at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. HB1950 SD2 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB2834 SD2 establishes a pharmaceutical discount program for all state residents under which the State obtains manufacturers' rebates on drugs that are offered at discounted prices to program participants. HB2834 SD2 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB2487 HD1 allows a terminally ill, competent adult to obtain a prescription for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner through a self-administered oral lethal dose. Prohibits mercy killings, lethal injections, and active euthanasia. The Senate committee on Health and Human Services deferred the measure.

Digital Media Update

Sustaining a viable film industry is part of our continuing efforts to help diversify the State's economy and establish Hawaii as a place to do business.

SB3021 SD2 expands the tax credit for motion picture and film production to include up to an unspecified amount of the costs of wages and salaries, capped at \$25,000 per employee; includes commercials in motion picture and film production. SB3021 SD2 passed Third Reading in the House and was transmitted to the Senate.

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Community Corner

Kudos to **Justin M.P.N. Kawale** and **Jason Satomi Abe** for



receiving the award of Eagle Scout, the highest rank achievable in the Boy Scouts of America. Justin's Eagle Project was the beautification of the Highlands Child Care Center and Jason's Eagle Project was the renovation of the recreation center at Hoae Park.

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HB2576 HD 1 SD1 clarifies the application of certain high technology tax incentives; allows high technology development corporations to use federal funds and enter into undertakings with agencies of the federal government; and to agree to lawful donor conditions where funds are donated. HB2576 HD1 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

Bills on Education

Public education is the most important function of government and numerous bills have been introduced to improve our public school system.

HB1959 HD1 SD1 and **SB2067 SD2 HD1** repeal the HOPE endowment special fund and transfer the remaining balance to the University of Hawaii tuition and fees special fund to be used for programs to support underrepresented students and promote diversity. HB1959 HD1 SD1 was recommitted to WAM. SB2067 SD2 HD1 passed Third Reading in the House and was transmitted to the Senate.

HB2164 HD2 SD1 amends provisions relating to the Hawaii educator loan program and the Hawaii educator loan program special fund to clarify provisions and support teacher education and retention. HB2164 HD2 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB2172 HD1 SD1 appropriates funds for agricultural research and development and for the development of the agribusiness incubator initiative. HB2172 HD1 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB2235 HD2 SD1 creates the Pacific Center for Ecosystem Science and appropriates funds. HB2235 HD2 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

HB2558 HD1 SD1 creates an incentive for students to become teachers and to ensure that these graduates teach in our public schools by providing tuition reimbursements over a period of years if a graduate teaches in a public school. HB2558 HD1 SD1 passed Third Reading in the Senate and was transmitted to the House.

SB2816 SD2 HD1 creates a tuition reimbursement program for a person who completes a state-approved teacher education program in Hawaii and who teaches in the Hawaii public school system for a minimum of 6 consecutive years. SB2816 SD2 HD1 passed Third Reading in the House and was transmitted to the Senate.

SB3018 SD1 HD1 implements decentralization of education governance and management to the school-community level and other aspects of full education reform. SB3018 SD1 HD1 passed Third Reading in the House and was transmitted to the Senate.

SB2662 SD2 allows a nonprofit organization to manage and operate a new century conversion charter school as a division of the nonprofit organization, in which the charter school's local school board would consist of the board of directors of the nonprofit organization. SB2662 SD2 was approved by the Governor.



Spotlight on Services

The Hawaii State Ombudsman is responsible for investigating complaints against executive branch agencies of the state and county government. The Ombudsman serves as a neutral, independent intermediary between the citizen and an agency. Their website (www.ombudsman.state.hi.us) explains what citizens should do if they have a complaint. It also has annual reports and other useful information.

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