

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Laura Thielen

DISTRICT 25: KAILUA - WAIMANALO - HAWAI'I KAI

May 2018



*Aloha
Hawaii Kai!*

We've wrapped up the 2018 session on May 3rd. As usual,

there were some **winners**—good bills and good programs, and some **losers**—either good bills that didn't pass, good programs that didn't get funded, and bad bills that passed.

It was an honor to represent the district. Thank you to the many residents who got involved in the Legislative process. Your testimony, emails, calls, and comments when we pass in the grocery store or meet in the district, are a big help.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me for any legislative questions.

Mahalo,

Laura



Working with Senator Dr. Josh Green, we were able to pass the Juvenile Justice Reform bill, SB2791, at the end of session to provide much needed services for at-risk young adults.

WINNERS

Sex Assault Kits HB2131/SB2345 Creates a sex assault response team to address the method in which sex assault kits are handled. This bill is a follow up to HB1907, passed in 2016, requiring an inventory count of all untested sex assault kits and appropriated funds for the testing of 500 of these kits in inventory.

Police Standards Board HB2071 Establishes a law enforcement standards board for the certification of county and state safety officers. Also, prohibits a law enforcement officer who has been terminated for misconduct from being hired as a law enforcement agent by another department.

Sunscreen SB2571 Bans sunscreen with oxybenzone or octinoxate.

Pesticides SB3095 Beginning 1/1/19:

- Requires disclosure of Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) use to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA).
- Prohibits the use of a RUP within 100 feet of a school.
- Prohibits the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos; provided DOA grant permits allowing the use through 2022.
- Requires the DOA to develop a pesticide drift study by 7/1/19.

Sea Level Rise HB2106 Requires that the Environmental Council consider sea level rise in EA and EIS reports.

Abandoned Cars HB2442 Requires Counties to remove abandoned vehicles within ten business days.

Affordable Housing HB2748 Appropriates \$200 million for low-income rentals. And provides for tax credits of up to \$360 million in 12 years, a maximum of 30 million a year, for the development of affordable housing.

Safe Zones SB2401 Establishes and appropriates moneys for three pilot programs for homeless:

- The ohana zones program provides temporary shelters with accessible services for groups of homeless, \$30 mil.
- The emergency department homeless program, provides services to reduce excessive emergency room visits, \$1 mil.
- The medical respite program provides medical services to homeless discharged from the hospital, \$1 mil.

Yay! Bad Bill that Died.

Financial Disclosure SB2609 Exempts volunteer members serving on state boards and commissions from public financial disclosure.



LOSERS

Good Bills That Didn't Make It

Mentally Ill Homeless SB2330/HB2021

Establishes a pilot project for a contracted service provider to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness. Provided that adult protective and community services or a designated physician request court-ordered assisted community treatment or court-ordered guardianship for homeless individuals with severe mental illness.

Airports Corporation SB2996 Yet another year our airports remain under the authority of DOT and remain in poor shape.

Domestic Violence SB2343 A groundbreaking bill that would have ensured intervention at early stages of domestic violence to reduce chance of escalation and reduce violence with families and dating relationships.

Title IX HB1489 Passed a watered down bill that doesn't ensure we provide girls with equal educational opportunities.

Retirement SB2333 Requires private sector employers to offer a retirement plan to workers.

Paid Family Leave SB2990 Although this passed, it was weakened. In the last hour it became yet another study; even though there are already hundreds of studies showing the positive impacts of paid family leave.

Minimum Wage SB2291 This bill would have increased the minimum wage from \$10.10 today, to \$15.00 in 2020.

Bad Bill That Passed

Hilo Redevelopment SB3058 Sweetheart deal for specific state tenants — giving them nearly 100 years of exclusive leases without public bids.

You Decide

Two big issues will be up to you to decide on the General Election on November 6, 2018.

1. **Shall the legislature be authorized to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on investment real property to be used to support public education?**

(This power is normally reserved for the Counties. Other states use property tax because all other states operate their education system on a county or local level, Hawaii is the only state in the nation that operates their education system on a state level.)

2. **Shall Hawaii have a Constitutional Convention?**

Hawaii's Constitution mandates that once a decade the people of Hawaii be granted the right to call a State Constitutional Convention, where delegates convene and citizens get to act as the legislature. The last convention we had was in 1978, when OHA was created.

If a majority of people in the General Election vote yes, then the measure passes. Blank votes count as a "no."