



House District 7:
North & South
Kohala, North
Kona

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Read inside for:

- Updates on the 2021 Legislative Session
- COVID-19 relief resources

The Capitol adapts to COVID-19

To keep the Legislature running smoothly this session, the Capitol is taking increased COVID-19 safety precautions:

- Face masks required
- Temperature screening required to enter the building
- Frequent sanitizing of workspaces
- Limiting in-person interaction between staff
- Improving paperless processes
- Remote testimony in committee hearings, as the building remains closed to the public

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A. TARNAS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February/March 2021

Aloha, friends and neighbors,

I hope that you and your 'ohana have remained safe and healthy during these difficult times. I am honored to serve as your District 7 representative, and look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of our community.

The State Legislature is considering important legislation to help our State navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, and recovery. This session, I have the honor of serving as the Chair of the House Committee on Water and Land, which focuses on issues related to Hawai'i's land, water, fisheries, boating, marine resources, forestry, wildlife and resource conservation enforcement. This newsletter outlines the session's top priorities for the House of Representatives as a whole, and priority bills moving through the House Committee on Water and Land.

The Hawai'i State House of Representatives is focusing this session on legislative actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes stabilizing the State's budget, supporting public health infrastructure, and fostering economic recovery. In the Water and Land committee, I am prioritizing initiatives that promote Hawai'i's agricultural industry,



protect our environmental resources, support sustainable fisheries, and address climate change and sea level rise. Please read on for more details on all these initiatives.

As the legislative session and pandemic-related guidance can change quickly, I encourage you to sign up for my email newsletter at bitly.com/reptarnas-signup, for more frequent updates.

My staff and I remain here to serve you. Please feel free to reach me at (808) 586-8510, or reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov, with your questions and comments.

Mahalo,



Sign up for my email newsletter to receive the latest information about Hawai'i's pandemic response, community events, and other legislative updates.

"With so much going on and so much information going around during the pandemic, I appreciate a condensed version of everything taking place." - District 7 resident

bitly.com/reptarnas-signup

Water and Land Committee Priorities

The House Committee on Water and Land reviews legislation on a wide range of issues critical to our district. As Chair of the Water and Land Committee, I am responsible for making decisions as to which bills pass through this committee. Below are some of the priority bills that I have moved through the Water and Land Committee this session for consideration by the next subject matter committee.



Environmental Protection

HB1021: Authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact or similar agreement to assist in the enforcement of wildlife laws.

HB1019: Establishes the Ocean Stewardship Special Fund for the collection and use of moneys for the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the State's marine resources, and authorizes DLNR to collect user fees.

***HB95:** Authorizes the issuance of special license plates for recognition and protection of the State's natural resources.

HB1016: Requires any person who provides fishing charter services to obtain a commercial marine license, and clarifies that a valid commercial marine vessel license shall satisfy the commercial marine license requirement for all persons taking marine life for commercial purposes on that vessel.

***HB46:** Requires all habitat conservation plans to include an agreement for participants to enter into an annual service contract with a stand-by and response facility available to provide wildlife emergency services.

***HB98 HDI:** Makes violations of the aquatic resources law a misdemeanor, authorizes a criminal fine, and specifies that any equipment or other asset used in intentional violation of the aquatic resources law is subject to forfeiture.

***HB498 HDI:** Authorizes the department of land and natural resources to use in-lieu fee mitigation to restore, create, enhance, or preserve aquatic habitats or resources as compensatory mitigation.



Climate Change

***HB554:** Requires sellers to disclose whether the real property lies within the sea level rise exposure area.

***HB243:** Requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, assess mitigation options, improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, and submit annual reports.



Affordable Housing

HB902 HDI: Exempts lands set aside by the governor or leased to HHFDC by state agencies from classification as public lands subject to DLNR management. Requires legislative approval prior to the sale or gift of those lands, and requires HHFDC to return any of those lands no longer needed for housing, finance, or development.

HB260 HDI: Authorizes the counties to reclassify lands in certain rural, urban, and agricultural districts, provided that a certain percentage of the housing units on the reclassified lands are set aside for affordable housing projects.



Agriculture and Food Production

HB1346: Requires the department of agriculture to prepare and update a functional plan for seafood sustainability, including wild seafood as a viable food source.

HB1014: Authorizes BLNR to amend and extend existing pasture leases and issue new leases by negotiation to further DLNR public purposes. Gives DLNR priority for lands transferred for productive agricultural uses, and requires a third-party advisory committee to be established before the disposition or transfer of any disputed lands.

HB469 HDI: Supports ranchers by requiring DLNR and DOA to meet and determine by mutual agreement the transfer of agricultural lands. Establishes a third-party committee to review transfers of lands in which DLNR and DOA are unable to reach a mutual agreement.

HB1144: Exempts interisland transportation and related loading and unloading of livestock from the general excise tax (GET). Requires the public utilities commission to authorize preferential water carrier service rates for farm and ranch operators in any county with a population of 500,000 or less.



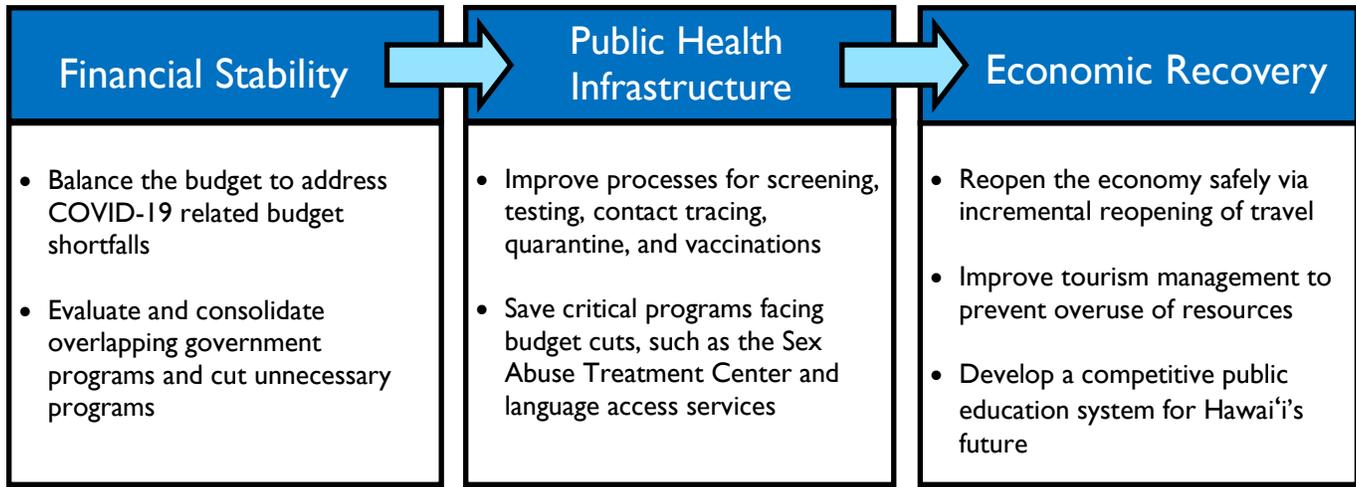
Effective Government

***HB1149:** Reorganizes and integrates the Land Use Commission within a modified Office of Planning, which is renamed as the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD). Reclassifies the Coastal Zone Management Program and Statewide Sustainability Branch as divisions of within OPSD.

* denotes bills for which I am the first primary introducer

House Legislative Priorities

This session, the Hawai'i State House of Representatives is focusing on legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the areas that the House has identified as priorities:



Sources of help for those in need

During these difficult times, please make sure to take care of yourselves and others around you. I encourage you to reach out to any of these resources if you need them, or pass this information on to those who may need a hand.



Financial Assistance

- **Economic Impact Payments:** irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments
- **Small Businesses:** sba.gov
- **Unemployment Insurance:** labor.hawaii.gov/UI



Health Insurance

- **Federal Healthcare Marketplace:**
Phone: 1-800-318-2596 (24/7, 7 days/week)
Online: healthcare.gov/



Food Assistance

- **SNAP:** Call 808-775-8854 or 808-775-8856, or visit humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap
- **Hawai'i Food Basket:** 808-933-6030, hawaiifoodbasket.org



Renters and Homeowners

- **Guidance for Renters and Homeowners:** <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/renters-homeowners>



Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- **Department of Health 24-hour Hawai'i Crisis Line:** Please call 1-800-753-6879, or text the word ALOHA to 741741 for resources for depression, anxiety, or a mental health crisis.
- **Big Island Substance Abuse Council:**
Phone: 808-322-3100, Visit: www.bisac.org
- **West Hawai'i Alcoholics Anonymous:** www.westhawaiiiaa.org
- **Narcotics Anonymous:** na-hawaii.org



Domestic Violence

- **Hawai'i Domestic Violence Action Center:** Hotline available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. via:
Text – 605-956-5860
Call – 808-531-337
Toll-free – 1-800-690-6200
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** Please call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), available 24/7, or visit www.hotline.org/help

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**Read inside for more
information and
resources for you and
your 'ohana!**



Subscribe to my email newsletter:
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COVID-19 Information

Call 2-1-1 from any location in the state, open daily between 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Text 877-275-6569

Email info211@auw.org

Visit hawaiiicovid19.com or coronavirus.gov

Sign up for DOH's daily email updates at health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates

Learn about the COVID-19 vaccine and sign up at: <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine-info/>

Browse the County of Hawai'i's COVID-19 Resources at bitly.com/coh-covid19resources

Call Hawai'i County call center at 808-935-0031

Get involved in the legislative process

The Capitol website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov, allows you to track bills, submit testimony, sign up to testify remotely, and learn more about the legislative process.

For more information, please visit the Public Access Room website at lrb.hawaii.gov/par, email par@capitol.hawaii.gov, or call (808) 587-0478.

Remote Testimony

This session, in response to COVID-19 restrictions and safety precautions, **testifiers can now participate in committee hearings remotely.**

To learn more and to sign-up to testify via Zoom, please visit the Capitol website.