

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 7, 2008

CROSSOVER

It's midpoint in the State Legislature, time when bills passed by one chamber crossover to the other chamber for their independent review. These are some of the bills that the Senate approved and sent over to the House, that I introduced, co-sponsored, or passed out of my Public Safety Committee.

Public Safety

Teacher Licensure. Teaching licenses would be revoked for those convicted of sexual offenses against a minor. SB 2080

Electronic Monitoring. Those convicted of violating a domestic abuse temporary restraining order or protective order would be electronically monitored. SB 2218

Extended Terms of Imprisonment. Crimes against pregnant women carry longer terms. SB 2301

Harassment. The felony of harassment would include computer communications, and non-consenting computer communication would be included as a form of harassment by stalking. SB 2456

Public Safety. Law enforcement will be able to prosecute for two additional forms of sex offenses committed against minors, through use of computers: electronic enticement and lewd acts. SB 2962

Criminal Impersonation. It will be a class C felony to criminally impersonate someone, with the intent to cause physical injury or without regard to the risk of causing physical injury. SB 2458

Pseudoephedrine Sales. Sale logs of pseudoephedrine, a nasal decongestant used by illegal drug manufacturers, would be transmitted electronically on an Excel spreadsheet to make search and tracking easier for law enforcement. SB 2373

Personal Information. Additional measures to protect the security of personal information collected and maintained by state and county government would be implemented. SB 2803

Public Safety. Child abandonment would be a class C felony. Leaving a child with a person who may not be who the person claims to be or has no ascertainable address, would be a crime. SB 2886

Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles. Leaving children unattended in a car would be a new traffic violation. Rental cars would carry notice of this. Knowledge of it would be on driving tests. SB 2245

Economic Development and Health

Advanced Flight Simulator Training. State "enterprise zone" benefits would extend to businesses engaged in advance flight simulator training for pilots, dispatchers, mechanics, or airt traffic controllers. The tax breaks would give incentives for the expansion of this industry. SB 2088

Electronic Device Recycling. Certain electronic devices can be recycled in a new program. SB 2843

Health. An Alzheimer's advisory task force would be created to study the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii within the John A. Burns School of Medicine. SB 2545

Taxation. Families that modify their home to accommodate aged or disabled persons can take a tax credit for those modifications. SB 2047

Sustainability

Solar Energy. Farms would be permitted to have solar energy facilities on agricultural land. SB 2847

Household Energy Demand. To save energy by reducing dryer use, clotheslines would be allowed on privately owned homes, regardless of association covenants that prohibit them. SB 2933

Sustainability. A state department of planning and sustainability would be created by combining the Office of Planning, Commission on Water Resource Management, Land Use Commission, Office of Environmental Quality Control, and Hawaii Community Development Authority. SB 2555

Reorganization of State Agencies. The Legislative Reference Bureau will be directed to research how other states administer energy policies, what state agencies are integral to achieving state energy objectives, and recommend agency reorganization to advance state energy policy. SB 2845

Non-School Hour Programs. TANF funds would be used for non-school-hour programs. SB 2822

Burial Sites. Island burial councils would have authority over inadvertently discovered Native Hawaiian burial sites. The burial councils would have 60 days to determine burial site treatment or removal. If the council cannot decide, the DLNR will decide within 30 days. The DLNR will have authority to immediately remove a burial site or human remains in case of imminent harm. SB 2557