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2024 Matsumoto Bill Package

H.B. 1754 Relating to Election Ballots

The State of Hawaii currently allows the use of ballot images instead of physical ballots when auditing an election. To ensure fair election audits, this bill will require physical ballots to be used in the election auditing process.

H.B. 1720 Relating to Medical Services to Firefighters

Firefighters face an increased risk of cancer from prolonged exposure to hazardous materials while fulfilling their duties. To help increase the chance of early detection, this bill will provide cancer screening for full-time state firefighters every three years under the state health benefits program.

H.B. 1721 Relating to the Department of Human Services

Remote access to ultrasounds and fetal nonstress tests allows individuals to receive medical care from the comfort of their home. This bill will authorize reimbursements for remote ultrasounds and fetal nonstress tests.

H.B. 1722 Relating to Health

Individuals at an elevated risk of breast cancer or those needing follow-up imaging after an abnormal mammogram encounter significant patient cost sharing, often amounting to thousands of dollars, even before a potential breast cancer diagnosis. This bill seeks to increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging by eliminating burdensome patient cost sharing requirements.

H.B. 1699 Relating to General Excise Tax

Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation. This bill will exempt essentials such as food and medical services from the general excise tax to alleviate the financial burden on Hawaii residents.

H.B. 1702 Relating to Housing

The lack of affordable homes along with the high cost of living, compel residents to move elsewhere. To keep our kama'aina home, this bill will promote affordable housing development by reducing harmful zoning restrictions.

H.B. 1703 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS

Term limits are important to prevent the concentration of power, encourage fresh perspectives, and maintain accountability in the political system. This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a maximum of twelve years in the house of representatives or senate, or both, for terms beginning on or after the general election of 2024, with a grandfather clause for those already in office.

H.B. 1704 Relating to Election Integrity

Election integrity is essential for sustaining public trust and preserving the legitimacy of democracy by ensuring fair and transparent electoral processes. This bill improves the integrity and accuracy of voter rolls, ballot security, increases the number of voter service centers, and requires ballots be sent by mail only upon voter request.

H.B. 1705 Relating to Emergency Powers

Granting unique authority to government officials during crises, emergency powers aim to steer the state through challenging times. This legislation seeks to ensure responsible use of such powers by specifying compliance with the Hawaii State Constitution while also enhancing the legislature's influence in extending emergency proclamations.

H.B. 1706 Relating to Government Transparency

While Hawaii has taken steps to enhance government transparency, there remains a lack of a unified financial system with accessibility to the public. This legislation proposes that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility of adopting a more transparent and efficient statewide system by comparing Hawaii's current financial databases with those of other states.

H.B. 2787 Relating to the Individual Housing Account Program

Saving for a down-payment on a home loan continues to be a barrier for many Hawaii residents with few programs available to assist in this endeavor. The purpose of this Act is to update the Individual Housing Accounts statute by increasing the contribution levels, and maximum account levels, to reflect current housing prices more accurately.

H.B. 2788 Relating to Mental Health

Hawaii's current standard for involuntary hospitalization requires proof that a person is "imminently dangerous to self or others", requiring the point of danger and potential harm to have already been reached. This bill makes the standard more flexible by allowing individuals to receive treatment before the point of danger has been reached and avoidable harm occurs.

H.B. 2789 Relating to Education

Prioritizing the safety of our keiki during their school attendance is a key concern for both me and the legislative body. This proposed legislation mandates that the Department of Education develop an emergency management plan for every school, aimed at preparing for and addressing emergencies or disasters.

H.B. 2790 Relating to Housing

The Hula Mae housing loan and mortgage program aided first-time home buyers in receiving down-payment assistance and mortgage loans at a competitive interest rate. This bill would reactivate the Hula Mae program to offer Hawaii residents another way to achieve homeownership.

H.B. 2791 Relating to Housing

Many units in Hawaii's public housing inventory remain vacant due to the need for repairs and renovations. To expedite the preparation of these unoccupied units for prospective residents, this legislation seeks to allocate funds for necessary repairs. Additionally, it grants the Hawaii Public Housing Authority the ability to engage private companies to execute these required repairs.

H.B. 2583 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for Schools in the Thirty-Eighth Representative District

Capital Improvement Projects involve fixing and upgrading buildings and landscapes, building new structures, and acquiring land. This year, I put in request from the Mililani schools and the Mililani Neighborhood Boards.

H.B. 2584 Relating to Equity

Universal changing accommodations are designed to assist individuals with disabilities or specific care needs, providing a safe and convenient space for personal care and hygiene. This bill would require all public facilities to construct universal changing accommodations in public restrooms.

H.B. 2585 Relating to Theft

The increase in theft carried out by organized retail crime rings poses a threat to communities and businesses across Hawaii. To discourage this surge in retail theft, this legislation aims to establish the felony crime of organized retail theft with harsher penalties.

H.B. 2586 Relating to Family Leave

Many working families in Hawaii cannot afford unpaid leave to care for a new child or attend to the needs of a family member with a serious health condition. This bill would establish paid leave for state and county employees.

H.B. 2587 Relating to Income Tax

Despite grappling with the high cost of living, Hawaii residents face additional challenges from state-imposed tax burdens. This legislation aims to alleviate the tax burden for Hawaii residents by eliminating income taxes for single and heads-of-household filers earning less than \$20,000 annually or \$40,000 for joint filers.

H.R. 5/H.C.R. 15 Resolution Relating to a Mililani Satellite City Hall

Due to the lack of a satellite city hall in Mililani, residents need to travel outside their community to access essential government services, which may be challenging for kupuna in our community. This resolution urges the City and County of Honolulu to establish a new satellite city hall in Mililani.

H.R. 6/H.C.R. 16 Resolution Relating to a Mililani Police Substation

Given the recent surge in crime, Mililani currently depends solely on the Wahiawa District Police Station for community services and safety. To increase police presence in the community, this resolution urges the City and County of Honolulu to establish a new police substation in Mililani.

H.R. 12/H.C.R. 21 Resolution Relating to a Mililani Mauka Emergency Road

Mililani Mauka has one road in and out. This resolution is requesting the State Department of Transportation to build an emergency road for the use of residents during a crisis.

H.R. 7/H.C.R. 17 Resolution Relating to Non-Profits

Local nonprofits play a crucial role in serving homeless populations across various communities throughout the state. This resolution encourages Hawaii's Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to contract with a local nonprofit, ensuring ongoing support and care for the homeless community in central Oahu.

H.R. 8/H.C.R. 18 Resolution Relating to Hawaii National Guard Veterans:

As beneficiaries of the Hawaii National Guard's courageous and dedicated service, the State bears a sacred responsibility to Hawaii National Guard veterans and retirees who proudly and faithfully served the United States, the State of Hawaii, and communities. To express the State of Hawaii's appreciation for their service, this resolution urges the Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services to prioritize policies and services expanding financial and other forms of benefits for Hawaii National Guard veterans, retirees, and veteran-owned small businesses.

H.R 9/ H.C.R 19 Resolution Relating to Wildfire Recovery

In November of 2023, wildfires damaged 2.5 square miles of the critical ecosystem in Mililani Mauka, including the Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge and Koolau Mountains. Mililani Mauka's impacted lands featured a native forest of koa trees, uluhe fern, and twenty-two federally 23 designated endangered or threatened species that will be vulnerable to invasive species takeover during ecosystem recovery. To ensure the safety of Mililani Mauka's ecosystem during this recovery period, this resolution urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to initiate a project to implement native plant seeding on the lands impacted by the Mililani Mauka wildfires.