

March 10, 2023

MEMO TO: Members of the Council

F R O M: Legislative Analyst Ellen McKinley *EBM*
Legislative Analyst Jarret Pascual *JPP*
Legislative Attorney Richard E. Mitchell *REM*

SUBJECT: **MID-SESSION REPORT ON THE 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Overview on 2023 State Legislative Session

The 2023 State Legislative Session opened on January 18. The Legislative Tracking Team members are monitoring proposals in the 2023 Maui County Council and the Hawai'i State Association of Counties ("HSAC") Legislative Packages and other high-priority measures under the Council Chair's guidance. Research Section staff members are drafting testimony at the Council Chair's direction.

Submitted testimony is posted to <http://mauicounty.us/2023StateLeg/>.

March 9 was the "First Crossover" deadline for bills to remain under consideration. This deadline marks a point in the session when many bills fail.

This memo provides a status report on pending State legislation of interest.

Maui County and HSAC Legislative Packages

None of the Maui County Council package proposals remain alive.

One HSAC package proposal, House Bill 118, has moved to the Senate, without amendment. This measure would clarify that each county may prohibit or restrict stopping, standing, or parking in certain sections of county highways.

The HSAC package included a proposal to exempt from Special Management Area permit requirements certain lower-impact, beneficial projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, native-habitat preservation, native-seabird protection, security at public facilities, and Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, to be exempt from special management area permit

requirements. Legislation with a similar purpose remains alive, including House Bill 365, HD1, and Senate Bill 74, SD1.

The HSAC Executive Committee is supporting House Bill 1326, HD1, which would establish a zero-waste initiative and a packaging waste reduction and reuse program.

Other High-Priority Measures

Chair Lee has testified in support of the following pending measures.

Rental Assistance: House Bill 1054, HD2 would establish the Rental Deposit Loan Program and Rental Deposit Loan Program Revolving Fund and fund the program and personnel. Zero-interest loans would be provided for security deposits up to \$2,500 to qualified individuals and families.

Wild Game Meat: House Bill 1382, HD2 would allow for the donation of wild game meat to under-resourced communities and establish a task force to develop and implement meat-processing capacity.

West Maui Hospital and Medical Center: House Bill 1255, HD1 and Senate Bill 1476, SD2 would authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc. in the construction of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. These measures would require the County of Maui to serve as a guarantor of any debt service on the bonds.

Central Maui Ambulance: House Bill 1245, HD1 would appropriate funds for the purchase of an ambulance and related equipment and personnel in Central Maui.

GET Authority: Senate Bill 1568, SD2, Senate Bill 1099, SD1, and House Bill 1363, HD3 would allow Maui County to adopt a surcharge on General Excise Tax by the end of the year.

School-Employee Housing: Senate Bill 1596, SD1 would establish a pilot program to make on-campus housing available for employees at Lahainaluna and Kūlanihākoʻi high schools.

Honolua Bay: Senate Bill 1153, SD2 would establish the Honolua Bay Special Fund for upkeep and maintenance of Lipoa Point and establish the

Honolua Bay Advisory Board to administer the fund, create a permit structure, and oversee conservation.

Local Commerce and Hawaiian Culture: Senate Bill 1609, SD2 and House Bill 1508, HD1 would appropriate funds for:

- 1) a virtual marketplace that supports local artisans and businesses to adapt to e-commerce;
- 2) a physical co-working space and an innovation, entrepreneur, and resource center; and
- 3) the repatriation and reburial of Native Hawaiians nationally and internationally.

Food Security: The Council adopted Resolution 23-43 to urge the Legislature to pass measures to support priority food policies, including the following:

- House Bill 1248, HD1, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program and provide matching funds to beneficiaries participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Senate Bill 430, SD2, which would establish the Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program and the Hawaii Food Assistance Program Fund to alleviate food shortages.
- House Bill 612, HD2, which would create an income tax credit to alleviate the high costs of production for farmers, ranchers, and fishers, and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector.
- House Bill 619, HD2, which would create an income tax credit for qualified farms that donate eligible food products to food banks.

Emergency Dispatchers: House Bill 1398, HD1 would allow emergency dispatchers to collectively bargain.

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Upcoming Deadlines

The next major deadline is Second Crossover on April 13. The Legislature adjourns on May 4.

If you have any questions, please email them to legislative.tracking@mauicounty.us or call Remi at ext. 7662, Ellen at ext. 7661, or Jarret at ext. 7141. Mahalo.

ocs:proj:legis:23legis:first_crossover:ebm

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