

**Name:**

**Joy A. San Buenaventura**



Senate District 2

**Area Represented:** Puna, Ka'u

**Committee Assignments:**

Human Services

Commerce and Consumer Protection

Health

**Background:**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura of District 2, Puna-East Ka'u is a product of the Hawaii public school system. She attended Lunalilo Elementary School, Washington Middle School and graduated from McKinley High School. After graduating from high school, Senator San Buenaventura and her family moved to Las Vegas where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, she worked at the Environmental Protection Agency as a computer programmer and with Reynolds Electrical Engineering as a law clerk. Senator San Buenaventura went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

The Senator was a lecturer of business law at the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and in 1991, she was appointed Per Diem District Court Judge, making her the youngest judge in Hawaii at the age of 32. In one of her earlier court-appointed cases, she represented the first geothermal protesters opposing the proposed geothermal well at Wao Kele O Puna. In 1992 she was the first attorney to prosecute and settle a breast implant case in the State of Hawaii. In 2013-2014 she was honored to have taken two of her clients' cases to the highest court in the State of Hawaii, the Hawaii Supreme Court; having won a petition for writ of certiorari years earlier. Senator San Buenaventura volunteers her time helping the public to access to the courts through the Self-Help Center.

Senator San Buenaventura was first elected to office as the Hawaii State Representative of District 4 in 2014. She was then elected to the Hawaii State Senate, District 2 seat in 2020. She has been a 30-year resident of Hawaii Island and currently lives in a photo-voltaic powered home in Hawaiian Paradise Park with her husband, "Weldin" Sheldon Lehman.

**Legislative Record:**

**Top Donors:**

**Any Cancer Connection (Include Article):**

**Any Personal Relationships:**

**Name: Mark M. Nakashima**



**House District 1  
Hamakua, North Hilo, South Hilo**

**Committee Assignments:**  
**Economic Development & Business**  
**Judiciary**  
**Labor & Public Employment**

**Background:**

As a former educator, Representative Nakashima understands how critical it is to evaluate program budget requests, and to set criteria for the evaluation of these appropriations. Mark will work towards the development of geothermal energy statewide as a solution to breaking the State's dependence on imported oil. Representative Nakashima will also work to create a synergy between the Big Island community, public schools and institutions of higher learning to become more collaborative, and he will continue to work with all stakeholders to develop a vision that will guide long-term decision making and future expenditures.

Representative Nakashima is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and holds a B.Ed. degree and Professional Diploma in education with an emphasis in political science.

**Legislative Record (2017):**

**SB514 (HPV Vaccination):Voted Aye in Third Reading**  
**HCR129 (Colorectal Cancer Workgroup): Voted Aye**

**Top Donors:**  
**HAWAII LABORERS\$4,000.00**

PATSY T MINK PAC\$2,000.00  
HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION\$1,500.00  
HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS\$1,000.00  
UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS LOCAL 646\$1,000.00  
HAWAII LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE LOCAL 142\$1,000.00

**Any Cancer Connection (Include Article):**

**Any Personal Relationships:**

**Name: David A. Tarnas**



House District 7

North Kona, North Kohala, South Kohala

**Committee Assignments:**

Energy & Environmental Protection

Lower & Higher Education

Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

**Background:**

MS, Washington Institute of Marine Studies

Attended, Agricultural Leadership Training Program, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, 1991-1993

MMA, Coastal and Marine Resources Management Policy, University of Washington School of Marine Affairs, 1983-1985

BA, Political Science, Kalamazoo College, 1978-1982

Candidate, Hawaii State House of Representatives, District 7, 2018

Representative, Hawaii State House of Representatives, District 6, 1995-1998

President/Principal Consultant, Marine and Coastal Solutions International, Incorporated, 1999-present

Flutist, Waimea Community Theater, present

Director of Government Affairs, Merica International Limited Liability Company, 2009-2013

Chief Executive Officer, Phase, Incorporated, 2000-2005

Project Development Leader, Doris and Earl E. Bakken Foundation, 1998-2000

Extension Agent, University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program, 1990-1994

Commissioner, Hawaii County Agricultural Advisory Commission, 2010-present

Flutist, Waimea Community Chorus Orchestra, 2010-present

Member, United States Army Garrison Hawaii Pohakuloa Training Area Community Advisory Group, 2009-present

Member, Saint James Episcopal Church, 2000-present

District Vice Chair, Democratic Party, 1994-present

Precinct President, Democratic Party, 1994-present  
Member, American Planning Association  
Member, Five Mountain Medical Community Board of Directors  
Member, Hawaii Montessori Schools Board of Directors  
Member, The Ocean Recreation Council of Hawaii  
Vice Chair, West Hawaii Coastal Monitoring Task Force  
Director, West Hawaii Mediation Services  
Chair, Hawaii County, Democratic Party of Hawaii, 2013-2015  
Co-Founding Member, Malama Kai Foundation Board, 1991-2010  
Chair, Phase, Incorporated Board, 2000-2005  
Flutist, Hulihee Palace Band, 1988-2003  
Chair, Aquasearch Board, 1999-2002

**Top Three Donors:**

**Any Cancer Connection (Include Article):**

**Any Personal Relationships:**

**Name:**

**Laura Acasio**



Senate District 1

**Area Represented:** Hilo

**Committee Assignments:**

Agriculture and Environment

Human Affairs

Human Services

Judiciary

**Background:**

Laura Acasio is a Democratic member of the Hawaii State Senate, representing District 1. She was appointed to the seat by Gov. David Ige on January 19, 2021, following the election of Kaiali'i Kahele to the U.S. House of Representatives. Acasio was sworn in on January 20, 2021.

Acasio has been an educator with the Department of Education since 1998, having served as a teacher and long-term substitute in grades K-12 at 15 schools across the state. She has served in various capacities with the Hawai'i Democratic Party since 2016, including party chair from 2018-2020.

In addition, Acasio is an executive board member with Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School and has served her community widely. Her work includes — restoration volunteer for the Hilo Women's Prison, restoration steward with Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, co-founder of the Hilo Boys and Girls Club Community, teen mentor and facilitator with the Nature Conservancy and member of the Surfrider Foundation.

**Legislative Record:**

**Top Donors:**

**Any Cancer Connection (Include Article):**

**Any Personal Relationships:**