

## Legislative Update:

**On June 22nd, the legislature reconvened** to finish the state’s business after being suspended in March due to COVID-19. As a result of the pandemic, the legislative priorities at the beginning of the session; employment practices, minimum wage increases, tobacco restrictions, and renewable energy mandates, had changed considerably, and the legislature’s focused was on the State’s budget, COVID-19, and police reform. When the session concluded on July 10th, a total of 82 bills were sent to the governor for signature. Governor Ige has until September 15, 2020 to decide to sign or veto bills. Only two of the 40+ bills that HPMA was monitoring at the beginning of the session were included on this list.

**HB2148:** Extends Hawaii family leave to include care for employees’ grandchildren and expands the definition of sibling.

**SB2193:** Limits the convictions that may be used in employment decisions, from all convictions in the most recent ten years, to felony convictions that occurred in the most recent seven years and misdemeanor convictions that occurred in the most recent five years.

LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS:	2020	2019
Bills introduced by the Senate	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,545</b>
Bills introduced by the House	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,597</b>
Bills enrolled to the governor for signature	<b>82</b>	<b>304</b>
Bills signed by the governor	<b>??</b>	<b>270</b>
Bills that became law without the governor’s signature	<b>??</b>	<b>16</b>
Total number of bills enacted into law	<b>??</b>	<b>286</b>
Bills vetoed by Governor Ige	<b>??</b>	<b>18</b>
Vetoes overridden	<b>??</b>	<b>0</b>

## Hawaii Economy:

**Hawaii’s tourist dependent economy continues to be hit hard** by the pandemic. The mandatory 14-day quarantine for people entering the state was supposed to end on August 1, 2020 but was extended to September 1, 2020 in July. Given the high infection rates on the mainland and a recent spike of infections in Hawaii, rumors are that the quarantine could be extended yet again. The impact has been staggering. Visitor arrivals are down over 95% compared to 2019. Hotel occupancy rates for June were 15.6% compared to 84.0% for the prior year, and the state unemployment rate was 14.4% with Maui (22.6%) and Kauai (20.2%) hit the hardest. According to a University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) survey, 40% of businesses said they cannot continue to operate until tourism reopens. If there is a bright spot, construction was deemed an essential service, and both jobs and activity have been stable during the pandemic.

The State of Hawaii has been hit hard by the pandemic as well. Tax collections for May were down 52% compared to the prior year. On July 6, 2020, Governor Ige projected a budget shortfall of \$2.3 billion looming in fiscal year 2021. To put this into perspective, Hawaii's total budget for fiscal year 2020 was \$15.4 billion. Among other initiatives, the State will deplete the rainy-day fund and the Hawaii hurricane relief fund and borrow \$900 million from the U.S. Treasury to meet the 2021 shortfall. Pay cuts and furloughs for state employees have been discussed but have not yet been implemented.

## **New Board Members:**

*Robert Hood and Alton Higa recently joined* the HPMA board. Both Robert and Alton work for Aloha Petroleum. Thank you for your time and efforts, and I look forward to working with you.

## **The HPMA Golf Tournament:**

*Please join us on November 2nd* for this year's HPMA Golf Tournament at Oahu Country Club. Great course, great people, and a lot of fun. Don't miss it! Register now at [www.wpma.com/hawaii](http://www.wpma.com/hawaii).