

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - GIST

1. **Increasing the State Minimum Wage.** *Increase minimum wage to \$15.00 by 2023.*
 - Various pending legislative measures SB 789, SD2, HD2.
 - 18 States had higher minimum wages in 2019.
 - 8 States increase rates based on cost of living.
 - Highest rate is DC at \$14. Federal Minimum Wage is \$7.25
 - https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=789&year=2019
 - <https://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm>
 - <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx>
2. **Reform of the Civil Asset Forfeiture Law.** *Prohibits civil asset forfeiture unless the covered offense is a felony for which the property owner has been convicted. Requires the Attorney General to deposit the net proceeds of the forfeited property to the credit of the state general fund.*
 - Governor Age Vetoed HB 748 HB2 SD2
 - https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/HB748_SD2_.htm
 - <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/06/auditor-hawaii-ag-mismanaged-asset-seizure-program/>
3. **Fair Pay for Play Legislation for Student Athletes.** *To permit student athletes to benefit from their likeness.*
 - California, Colorado, New York and Florida passed or considering laws. Federal bill pending.
 - <https://www.theringer.com/2019/10/11/20909171/california-sb-206-ncaa-pay-college-players>
4. **Adoption of a Statewide Noise Prevention Code.** *For better enforcement enact a state uniformed code of noise regulations for dogs, radios, cars, mufflers and other noise.*
 - Inconsistent enforcement and regulation. Until recently police required a sworn statement from neighbors.
 - Community conflicts and quality of life issues. Noise is a common complaint.
 - <https://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/archives/1966-noise-pollution-a-city-planning-problem>
 - <https://health.hawaii.gov/irhb/files/2017/08/noiserefoahu.pdf>
5. **Requiring the State Legislature to adhere to Notice Requirements of the Sunshine Law.** *Requesting that the State Legislature require by law (not rule) that all meetings follow the notice requirements (6 days) of the Sunshine Law.*
 - Current statute §92-10, Legislative Branch applicability open meeting law adherence is left to legislative rules. https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol02_Ch0046-0115/HRS0092/HRS_0092-0010.htm
 - Legislature findings for Chapter 92 via OIP: “And a government of the people must be accessible to the people. In a democracy, citizens must be able to understand what is occurring within their government in order to participate in the process of governing.”
6. **Establishing Hawaii as a Global Telecommute and Remote Work Center.** *Encouraging the State of Hawaii adopt policies to develop Hawaii as a Global Telecommute and Remote Work Center as part of its long-term economic and technology strategies.*
 - Diversify economy, mitigate traffic and personal benefits to residents, especially those with two jobs and families.
 - Several States such as Virginia, Vermont and Washington have already begun to offer incentives for businesses to develop remote work centers.
 - <https://www.virtualvocations.com/blog/telecommuting-news/7-remote-work-states/>
7. **Enacting Term Limits for the State Legislature.** *Limiting the number of consecutive terms someone can serve in the Hawaii State Legislature.*
 - 17 states that currently have term limits for legislators.
8. **Strengthening Anti-Nepotism Laws for Government Contracts, Grants and Employment.** *Clearly setting out in statute that nepotism is illegal for all State employment, contracts and grants.*
 - Almost half of states have clear anti-nepotism laws. The City and County of Honolulu has an anti-nepotism law.
 - The State of Hawaii relies on unfair treatment and conflict of interest provisions
 - <http://files.hawaii.gov/ethics/advice/ROC2014-1.pdf> *Ethics opinion on nepotism*
9. **Increasing Pay for Teachers.** *Support funding for increased pay and benefits for public school teachers.*
 - Various pending measures, including housing programs
 - https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1445&year=2019
 - <https://www.hsta.org/News/Recent-Stories/educators-parents-speak-out-asking-for-higher-teacher-pay>
10. **Funding for Affordable Housing Programs.** *Support funding for affordable housing programs to address current housing shortage*
 - Various pending measures including those related to TOD and HHFDC

- https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=DC&billnumber=81&year=2019
 - https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/DC82_.pdf
11. **Implementing the Recommendations of the Prison Reform Task Force.** *Support immediate implementation of the recommendations made by the Prison Reform Task Force.*
- https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/JC15_.pdf
12. **Increasing Capital Funding for Schools in Pearl City.** *Increased funding for capital projects at Pearl City schools including, but not limited to cooling systems, recreational facilities and parking structures.*
- http://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/FIC_10032019_Action%20on%20DOE%27s%20Supplemental%20CIP%20Budget%20for%20FY%202020-2021.pdf
 - http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/budget/FIC_05162019_CIP.pdf
13. **Mandating Paid Maternity Leave in the State of Hawaii.** *Enact paid family and/or maternity leave for Hawaii.*
- The US has no federal paid family leave (PFL) legislation.
 - The 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act provides unpaid leave.
 - Six States & DC have passed PFL.
 - Benefits working and disadvantaged families.
 - US is the only 1 of the 35 member Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries that does not offer paid leave
 - <http://lrhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/lrb/2020/paidfamilyleave.pdf>
 - <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44835.pdf>
14. **Prohibiting Rental Discrimination for Section 8 Tenants.** *Outlining by Statute that landlords cannot discriminate against Section 8 tenants.*
- Use of “Section 8 not accepted” perpetuates discrimination.
 - https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=122&year=2019
15. **Regulating Medical Billers and Coders.** *Requiring registration and/or regulation of medical billers & coders in the State of Hawaii to protect patient information and privacy.*
- <https://www.americanmedicalbillingassociation.com/>
 - <http://www.mb-guide.org/medical-billing-laws.html>
16. **Funding to Increase Voter Participation in the 2020 Election.** *Funding to increase voter participation in Hawaii.*
- 2018 voter turn-out is about 52%
 - <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/06/how-low-is-hawaii-voter-turnout/>
 - <https://elections.hawaii.gov/resources/registration-voter-turnout-statistics/>
17. **Banning All Flavored Electronic Vaping Products.** *Ban all flavored vaping products.*
- Board adopted resolution. Various pending legislative measures.
18. **Adoption of a Comprehensive Climate Change Plan.** *Adopting more of the recommendations of the Climate Commission and the Climate Science Center at the State level.*
- <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/27/>
 - https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf
19. **Penalties for Government Agencies that Violate the Uniformed Information Practices Act.** *Increased penalties for governments that fail to adhere to UIPA by not releasing, maintaining & processing public data as required by law.*
- Real ramifications for violations Chapter 92 is needed. There is more than a year turn-around for OIP.
 - Legal action often the only recourse and prevents the public from pursuing and receiving information.
 - Various bills pending - HB1854, HB1738, SB2142
20. **Funding of an “Aloha Spirit” Civic Education Program per Hawaii Revised Statutes §5-7.5 (b).** *Incorporating HRS 5-7.5 into the function of Governments & supporting a public education program.*
- §5-7.5 (b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit". https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol01_Ch0001-0042F/HRS0005/HRS_0005-0007_0005.htm
21. **Pearl City Library Improvements.** *Funding for needed improvements at the Pearl City library.*
22. **Recall Provisions for all State Elected Officials.** *Allowing for voter recall of any state elected officials.*
- Currently 19 states allow for recall of legislature officials