



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Representative Lynn Pualani DeCoite is now serving her third term representing District 13 in the Hawaii State Legislature.

Representative DeCoite was born in Honolulu and has lived on Moloka'i since she was four years old. She is a third generation homestead farmer, where she and her three siblings were raised to work hard and live off the land. A graduate of Moloka'i High School, she then attended Moloka'i Community College. She is a devoted wife and proud mother of three children and one granddaughter. Representative DeCoite and her husband, Russell, own and operate L&R Farms Enterprises, LLC where they raise the famous Moloka'i purple sweet potato.

Along with being a small business owner Representative DeCoite has a history of being very involved in her community including the Annual Moloka'i Christmas Parade, the Moloka'i Ag Festival, the Annual Prince Kuhio Day Event, and the Moloka'i Annual Charity Walk. She also served as the Parent Teacher Student Organization President for Molokai Middle School.

Until her appointment to the House of Representatives, Representative DeCoite served on the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance as the president (2006-2015), Farm Service Agency as the Chair (2007-2015), and as a member on the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture (2012-2015).

Representative DeCoite has engaged in issues and been involved at both the Maui County Council and the state legislature advocating for the people of Hawaii. She has participated in various working groups including the Maui Water Community



Working Group and the Molokai Workforce Development Agricultural Working Group. She was instrumental in having Molokai Irrigation System audited and lobbying for it to have the necessary funds to fix the system so that farmers can continue to farm.

On February 20, 2015 Representative DeCoite was sworn in to represent the 13th District in the Hawaii State House of Representatives. She was appointed by Governor David Ige to fill the remainder of the two-year term left by the passing of Representative Mele Carroll.

During her time at the legislature Representative DeCoite has worked collaboratively with her colleagues to get key legislation passed. Focusing on the needs of the agriculture community, she worked to get two Food Safety Assistance bills passed and signed into law (HB 2582 and HB 2657) to help with compliance of the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Representative DeCoite has served on the House Committee on Agriculture, acting as the Vice Chair since 2017. She is currently the only legislator that is also a farmer/rancher with first hand experience of working farm and ranch business. This is a role that she takes very seriously, trying to bring perspective and background to the committee. Representative DeCoite advocates for all components of agriculture actively seeking out practices that can benefit the entire state.

Committed to keeping her ears and mind open, Representative DeCoite strives to listen and work with everyone to make the State of Hawai'i a better place for all of its people.



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CSG/ CSG West participation includes: 2016 Western Legislative Academy Alumni; 2017-18 Member, CSG West Agriculture & Water Committee; 2019-20 Chair, CSG West Agriculture Committee; 2019-20 CSG West Executive Committee Member