

# SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

December 2012



Serving Hawai'i's  
Senate District 1  
Hilo



Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 213  
Phone: (808) 586-6760  
Toll Free From Hawai'i Island: 974-4000 ext. 66760  
Email: senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's page at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha!

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your Senator in the Hawai'i State Legislature. I am truly humbled by your unwavering support and remain dedicated to serving you and our Hilo community.

For the first time in the 54 year history of our state, Hawai'i Island will be represented by four State Senators. As 2012 comes to a close and we embark on the 2013 legislative session, our future never looked brighter! My colleagues and I remain ready and confident to take on the challenges we face as a state and a nation.

To you and your `ohana Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki Hou!

Hau`oli ka mana`o,

*Gilbert Kahele*

## Opening Day 2013



*Senator Gilbert Kahele  
cordially invites you to visit  
his Senate office following the  
Opening Day Ceremony  
On Wednesday,  
the 16th of January  
Two-thousand and thirteen  
12 noon  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Room 213*

*The Opening Day Ceremony will begin at  
10 am in the Senate Chamber. Admission  
to the Senate Gallery will be first come, first  
served.*

## Legislator of the Year

The Hawai'i Psychological Association awarded Senator Kahele with the 2012 Hawai'i Psychological Association Legislator of the Year Award for his outstanding contributions to psychology and mental health services in the State of Hawai'i.



*Senator Kahele receives his award from  
Hawai'i Psychological Association  
President-Elect Darryl Salvador, Psy.D.  
and Jill Oliveira-Gray, Ph.D.*

*(Photo Courtesy: Hawai'i Psychological  
Association)*

## International Aviation Training Center

The Twenty-Sixth Legislative session was a productive one and amongst the numerous initiatives that were accomplished there is one in particular that we remain extremely optimistic about.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 156 was passed urging the creation of an exploratory committee to consider the establishment of an International Aviation Training Center at the Hilo International Airport and an advanced aviation degree training program at Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

### The committee members are:

- Dr. Ken Morris (UHH)
- Dr. Bruce Matthews (UHH)
- Steve Santiago (DOT)
- Henry Bruckner (DOT)
- Noreen Yamane (HCC)
- Joyce Hamasaki (HCC)
- Jan Horike (HI County)
- Elizabeth Dykstra (HI County)
- Bo Masuyama (Hawai'i Aviation)
- Kai Kahele (Hawai'i Aviation)



### Technical Advisors:

- Donald Straney (Chancellor UH-Hilo)
- Gerald De Mello (UH-Hilo Ret.)
- Peter Quigley (UH/HCC)

## Reapportionment

New political legislative boundaries were redrawn this past legislative session due to the reapportionment and redistricting plan approved in March by the State Reapportionment Commission.

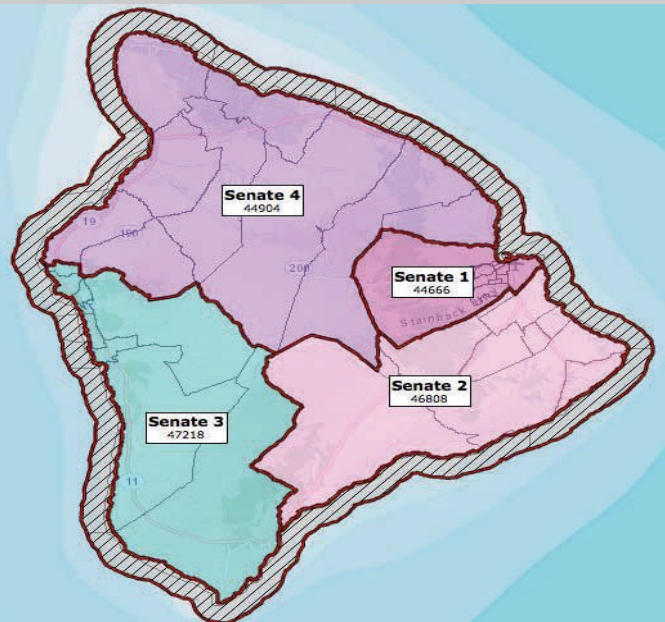
Reapportionment occurs every 10 years to redraw voter district boundaries to reflect changes in the population recorded in the most recent U.S. Census. Due to the large population increase on Hawai'i Island in the last 10 years, the new state reapportionment plan removes a Senate seat from Oahu and allocates a fourth Senate seat to Hawai'i Island. The districts and their newly elected Senators are:

District 1: Gilbert Kahele (Hilo)

District 2: Russell Ruderman (Puna, Volcano, Pahala)

District 3: Josh Green (Na'alehu, South Kona, Kailua)

District 4: Malama Solomon (North Kona, Kohala, Waimea, Hamakua)

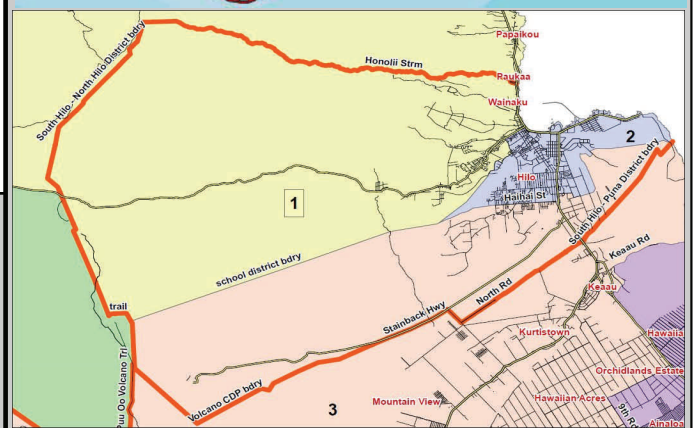


## Puainako Street Widening,

The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration held a public informational meeting on October 16, 2012 regarding the Puainako Street widening, Komohana Street to Kilauea Avenue Project.

This project involves the partial realignment and widening of Puainako Street from the east side of Kilauea Avenue intersection to Komohana Street.

Another informational meeting will be scheduled for March 2013.



New Senate District 1



If you wish to receive future newsletters and other community updates, such as the next Puainako Street Widening project meeting, please provide us with your name and email address to [senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov) with "email list" as the subject matter.

*Pupukahi I Holomua*  
*Unite to move forward*



# Out and About...



Senator Kahele at the Hilo Medical Center Foundation 10th Annual Wine, Cheese, Chocolate & More event with Mayor Kenoi and First Lady Takako



Senator Kahele attends a ceremony honoring the Nisei Veterans of World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal



Senator Kahele gives Governor Neil Abercrombie a first hand look at the dilapidated Lanakila Homes Public Housing Units



Senator Kahele and Councilmember Onishi along with Bo Saiki and Luana Saiki Kawelu honoring their father Ron "Harpo" Saiki at Hualani Park in Keaukaha



Senator Kahele attends a luncheon at Washington Place honoring Senator Daniel K. Akaka's 36 years in Congress



Senator Kahele at the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission Official Signing and Celebration at Washington Place



Senator Kahele provides the community with a Legislative update at Hilo High School cafeteria



Senator Kahele presents Auntie Ann Ebesugawa Kaya with a Senate certificate in honor of her retirement from Ebesu's flower shop after 80 years of service



Hilo Native BJ Penn opens the first signature UFC Gym in Honolulu



Senators Kahele and Solomon honors Gerald De Mello with a Senate certificate on his retirement from UH Hilo.



# Hawai'i State Senate Leadership & Committee Assignments



**Twenty-Seventh  
Legislature  
2013-2014**

**President:**  
*Shan S. Tsutsui*

**Vice President:**  
*Donna Mercado Kim*

**Majority Leader:**  
*Brickwood Galuteria*

**Majority Policy  
Leader:**  
*Les Ihara, Jr.*

**Majority Floor  
Leader:**  
*Will Espero*

**Majority Caucus  
Leader:**  
*Ronald D. Kouchi*

**Majority Whip:**  
*Gilbert Kahele*

**Majority Whip:**  
*Jill N. Tokuda*

**Minority Leader/  
Floor Leader:**  
*Sam Slom*

**AGRICULTURE (AGL)**  
Nishihara, Clarence K. (Chair)  
Kouchi, Ronald D. (Vice  
Chair)  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M.  
English, J. Kalani  
Thielen, Laura H.  
Wakai, Glenn  
Slom, Sam

**COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION (CPN)**  
Baker, Rosalyn H. (Chair)  
Galuteria, Brickwood (Vice  
Chair)  
Nishihara, Clarence K.  
Solomon, Malama  
Taniguchi, Brian T.  
Wakai, Glenn  
Slom, Sam

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND HOUSING (EDH)**  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Chair)  
Slom, Sam (Vice Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H.  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
English, J. Kalani  
Thielen, Laura H.  
Wakai, Glenn

**EDUCATION (EDU)**  
Tokuda, Jill N. (Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair)  
Ruderman, Russell E.  
Shimabukuro, Maile S.L.  
Slom, Sam

**ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENT (ENE)**  
Gabbard, Mike (Chair)  
Ruderman, Russell E. (Vice  
Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Ihara, Jr., Les  
Slom, Sam

**HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (HWN)**  
Galuteria, Brickwood (Chair)  
Kahele, Gilbert (Vice Chair)  
Hee, Clayton  
Kidani, Michelle N.  
Shimabukuro, Maile S.L.  
Solomon, Malama  
Slom, Sam

**HEALTH (HTH)**  
Green, M.D., Josh (Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Nishihara, Clarence K.  
Slom, Sam

**HIGHER EDUCATION (HRE)**  
Taniguchi, Brian T. (Chair)  
Kahele, Gilbert (Vice Chair)  
Ige, David Y.  
Kidani, Michelle N.  
Kim, Donna Mercado  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Slom, Sam

**HUMAN SERVICES (HMS)**  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
(Chair)  
Green, M.D., Josh (Vice Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle N.  
Taniguchi, Brian T.  
Slom, Sam

**JUDICIARY AND  
LABOR (JDL)**  
Hee, Clayton (Chair)  
Shimabukuro, Maile S.L. (Vice  
Chair)  
Gabbard, Mike  
Ihara, Jr., Les  
Slom, Sam

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)**  
Espero, Will (Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair)  
Galuteria, Brickwood  
Green, M.D., Josh  
Slom, Sam

**TECHNOLOGY AND  
THE ARTS (TEC)**  
Wakai, Glenn (Chair)  
Nishihara, Clarence K. (Vice  
Chair)  
Gabbard, Mike  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Slom, Sam

**TOURISM AND  
GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS (TSG)**  
Kim, Donna Mercado (Chair)  
Kouchi, Ronald D. (Vice Chair)  
Espero, Will  
Galuteria, Brickwood  
Hee, Clayton  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Slom, Sam

**TRANSPORTATION  
AND INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS (TIA)**  
English, J. Kalani (Chair)  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Vice  
Chair)  
Espero, Will  
Gabbard, Mike  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Kim, Donna Mercado  
Kouchi, Ronald D.  
Solomon, Malama  
Slom, Sam

**WATER AND LAND (WTL)**  
Solomon, Malama (Chair)  
Shimabukuro, Maile S.L. (Vice  
Chair)  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M.  
Ihara, Jr., Les  
Ruderman, Russell E.  
Thielen, Laura H.  
Slom, Sam

**WAYS AND MEANS (WAM)**  
Ige, David Y. (Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice  
Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M.  
English, J. Kalani  
Espero, Will  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Kim, Donna Mercado  
Kouchi, Ronald D.  
Ruderman, Russell E.  
Thielen, Laura H.  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Slom, Sam

## Hilo Medical Center

On November 29, 2012 Governor Neil Abercrombie announced the release of more than \$3.7 million in capital improvement projects for Hilo Medical Center. As part of the Hawai'i Island delegation, Senator Kahele was instrumental in requesting the release of these funds. The funds will be used for various improvements and upgrades at the Hilo Medical Center which is the largest facility in Hawai'i's public hospital system and one of the largest employers in Hilo. Allotment of funds will be used to complete the following projects below:

- \$1,052,000 - Construction and required works of art to renovate the acute care hospital at Hilo Medical Center, including renovations to bathrooms, replacement of inoperable and corroded facility doors, soundmasking to reduce noise, and other repairs as necessary
- \$728,000 - Design and construction for the replacement of the medical center's atrium walls and roof, which need to be repaired to address the water leakage causing damage to the hospital interior
- \$650,000 - Planning, design and construction to repair leaking roofs of the West Wing, Hospital Cottage
- \$350,000 - Replace chiller pipes more than 25 years old to prevent loss of air conditioning for the hospital.
- \$235,000 - Parking lot improvements/renovations, such as re-designation of parking to accommodate patient and visitors' needs, signage, fencing and lighting.
- \$233,000 - Materials abatement, relocation of utilities, and demolition of an old two-story building on the campus that has partially collapsed, and an obstacle to the helipad adjacent to this structure.
- \$200,000 - Construction to bring existing storage tanks into compliance with new EPA regulatory standards; project includes construction of a concrete footing, metal roof overhang, and installation of new chain link fence.
- \$160,000 - Equipment to replace an existing washer, which is more than 25 years old and is no longer operable.
- \$134,000 - Design and construction to replace existing chain link fence with a higher masonry fence that will increase security for the behavioral health unit and additional privacy for patients.

## Staff Members

For the 2013 Session, Senator Kahele has compiled a staff of diverse backgrounds which provides a comprehensive outlook on the various issues that come before them.

Our office manager, Linda Menda, has 6 years of legislative experience and has been with Senator Kahele since his appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie on January 11, 2011.

Our newest staff member is Micah Alameda, a Hawai'i Island native. Micah was born in Hilo and raised in Keaukaha. He is our Legislative Aide.

Together, Senator Kahele's staff will work diligently towards helping the people of our state, Hawai'i Island, and more so the communities of Senate District 1. They will continue to work hard each day and look forward to working with Senator Kahele to help serve his constituents.

