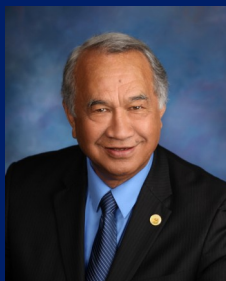
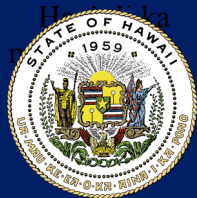


SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

May 2013



Serving Hawai'i's
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Hilo



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A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha!

The 2013 Legislative Session has officially come to a close and I would like to thank the people of Hilo for allowing me the opportunity to serve on your behalf.

New leadership in both the House and Senate brought about many initial changes; however, with combined efforts from both bodies, the Legislature conducted business both efficiently and productively.

The budget deficit we faced this year, forced us to make difficult decisions on the various competing and equally deserving interests of our State. Amongst the numerous initiatives we pursued this session, my colleagues and I worked hard to upgrade our schools, invested \$3 billion in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) over the biennium, focused on keeping our ports and roads safe and accessible, and most notably we invested in early childhood education and took care of our precious senior citizens.

Although 2013 was a very challenging year at the legislature, I believe we made significant progress and have set a strong foundation for the remainder of the biennium.

Hau'oli ka mana'o,

Gilbert Kahele

Hilo International Airport ARFF Facility

A responsible and invaluable investment of the budget is the proposal of a new Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Station (ARFF) at Hilo International Airport. This will complement the new Kona International Airport ARFF which is currently underway. Both these projects will benefit the entire Island of Hawai'i as it is critical that we provide our airports with the emergency services and facilities needed to combat any situation should it ever occur.

The CIP budget included an appropriation of \$19M provided by both the State of Hawai'i and the Federal Government. I can assure you that my office will stay on top of this project and will assist the efforts of both State and Federal agencies until this project grows to



Rendering image of the new ARFF Facility at the Kona International Airport at Keahole. (Courtesy of WRSA)

Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center

On April 6, 2013 the USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (PBARC) held a special open house event at their facilities in Hilo. On hand was Governor Abercrombie who presented a \$200,000 check from the state Department of Agriculture that will go towards the Hilo centers Zero Waste Biofuel and High Protein Feed program.

PBARC along with BioTork LLC have invested more than \$1M to successfully develop an economically sustainable zero waste conversion project producing biofuel and high protein animal feed from unmarketable papaya.

The state's investment will assist PBARC in moving the project to pilot scale as a prelude to commercial production.



Governor Abercrombie and Senator Kahele tour the facility of PBARC.

End of Session Legislative Measures

- **SB1221: Relating to Higher Education;** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$100K for FY14 to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to hire a program coordinator and a technical support staff member for an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs at UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.
- **SB1256: Relating to PISCES;** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$400K to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) for personnel costs and to support its operations and purchase equipment, which will encourage the development and expansion of the aerospace, robotics, and related industries in Hawai'i.
- **SB106: Relating to Aging;** The purpose of this measure will establish and fund a position for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Services coordinator. Appropriates funds for programs and services that support the State's elderly population. Establishes the Task Force on Mobility Management.
- **HB417: Relating to the Hawai'i Health System Corporation;** The purpose of this measure is to address the shortage of primary care providers in the State by appropriating \$1.8M for FY14 for the interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center.
- **HB546: Relating to the Hawaii Employer –Union Health Benefits Trust Fund;** The purpose of this measure is to reduce the unfunded liability of the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.
- **HR30/HCR48;** The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of forming a UH Hilo men's volleyball team.
- **SR94/SCRI132;** The purpose and intent of this measure is to help disadvantaged youth from the Keaukaha/Panaewa Hawaiian Homes Communities in the Hilo district succeed academically by requesting the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to establish a formal association with the RISE 21st Century After School Program along with joint coordination in an effort to provide early preparation for college readiness.
- **SR98/SCRI137;** The purpose of this measure is to request the Coordinator on Homelessness to assemble a working group to identify innovative housing solutions for homeless Native Hawaiian families, to investigate suitable and available federal, state, county, and private land for innovative housing projects, and to prepare a plan to develop a demonstration housing project for homeless Native Hawaiian families that can serve as a model statewide.



Neighbor Island Senators: Russell Ruderman, Josh Green, Ronald Kouchi, Malama Solomon, Rosalyn Baker, J. Kalani English, Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Gilbert Kahele

Capital Improvement Projects and Grant-In-Aid

- **\$5.9M;** Youth Challenge Academy Upgrade and Improvements, Keaukaha Military Reserve.
- **\$1.5M;** Waiakea Elementary School; Plans, design, construction for covering of existing play court; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.
- **\$450K;** Waiakea High School; Plans, design, construction for a new batting cage; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.
- **\$19M;** Hilo International Airport, New AARF Facility; Construction for a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station and other related improvements.
- **\$6.25M;** Puainako St. Widening/Realignment, Kanoelehua Avenue to Komohana Street. Land acquisition and design for widening and realigning Puainako St. from 2 to 4 lanes from Kanoelehua St. to Komohana St.
- **\$643K;** The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services; Plans, design, construction and equipment for reconstruction and/or renovation of the Family Intervention Service Facility in Hilo, Hawai'i.
- **\$1M;** Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation; Construction for a new Adult Day Care Facility.
- **\$170K;** Hawai'i County Economic Opportunity Council; Equipment for the purchase of vehicles for transportation program.



*Adjournment
Sine Die*

Kulani Correctional Facility

In 2009 the Kulani Correctional Facility closed its doors as a cost-saving mechanism initiated by the Lingle Administration. The facility dates back to the 1940's where it was well known throughout the state for its excellent treatment programs and how instrumental these programs were in helping inmates transition back into the general population.

Immediately after assuming the Governorship, Governor Abercrombie debuted his outline for *A New Day in Hawai'i*. One of the headlining initiatives was to reactivate the Kulani Correctional Facility. After years of hard work and dedication on behalf of the Abercrombie Administration, the Legislature has echoed their efforts by appropriating \$2.4M for FY14 and \$5.1M for FY15. In hindsight, re-opening the facility would save the State \$5M annually. The facility is slated to re-open the Summer of 2014.

Waiakeawaena Elementary School Band



Waiakeawaena Elementary School Band performs at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

On May 1, 2013 we had the honor of hosting the Waiakeawaena Elementary School Band at the State Capitol. The young and talented boys and girls of Waiakeawaena Elementary performed several renditions for the Big Island Delegation along with other members of the legislature, their staff, and the general public.

Under the direction of James Kudo, the students of Waiakeawaena Elementary have learned how to read music and interpret it into sounds of joy. Mr. Kudo has been extremely devoted to serving the students of Waiakeawaena Elementary for over thirty years. He is the sole teacher in the State of Hawai'i to develop and maintain the only Elementary School band program. His passion for music is evident through the countless hours he has dedicated to instructing young students to play a wide range of instruments.



Senators Kahele and Solomon present a Senate certificate to Band Director James Kudo for his 55 years of service to educating Hawai'i's students.



Senators Kahele and Solomon, Representatives Tsuji, Onishi, and Coffman along with Band Director James Kudo and his Ohana. Mr. Kudo's family from Hilo and Oahu surprised him when they joined him for the certificate presentation and performance.

Lanakila Homes

As a young boy growing up in Hilo in the 1950's I have fond memories of my youth as my 'ohana and I resided in the Lanakila Public Housing Complex.

Over the last 15 years I have watched, as many of you have, as the remaining tract of 60 plus homes known as the "Block 4" have fell into total disrepair and neglect.

With so many of our Hawai'i Island families struggling to find affordable housing, I made the restoration of the Block 4 homes at Lanakila one of my top priorities when I took office. After a collaborative effort with my colleagues, the 2012 legislature appropriated \$7.5M in general obligation bond funds.

I am pleased to announce on April 5, 2013 Governor Abercrombie released the \$7.5M to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to initiate the first phase of the restoration of Block 4 at Lanakila Homes. The Abercrombie Administration is dedicated to accelerating Hawai'i's economic recovery through a broad-ranged series of CIPs called the *New Day Projects*.



In June 2012, Senator Kahele and Governor Abercrombie visited the dilapidated units on Block 4 at the Lanakila Housing complex in Hilo.

Hawai'i State Senate Honors our Constituents



On April 1, 2013 the Hawai'i State Senate recognized and congratulated Challenger Center Hawai'i and the W.M. Keck Observatory. Both organizations marked their 20th Anniversary.



After 37 years as head coach of UH-Hilo Men's baseball team, Joey Estrella's Vulcans rewarded him with double header wins. From L-R: Chancellor Donald Straney, Councilman Dennis Onishi, Lincoln Ashida, Senator Gilbert Kahele, Coach Estrella, Representatives Mark Nakashima, Richard Onishi, Clift Tsuji and Athletic Director Dexter Irvine.



On April 20, 2013 Senator Kahele presented a proclamation to Russell Oda on behalf of Governor Abercrombie for being selected as the Big Island inductee to the Junior Achievement of Hawai'i's Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Oda is a Hilo-based architect whose firm has designed over 1,000 structures throughout Hawai'i. Mr. Oda was also recognized in the Hawai'i State Senate on March 8, 2013.



The State Senate recognized Jeff Law for his 15 years of commitment and dedication to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Men's basketball program.

He is currently the Vulcans 2nd winningest coach of all time.

Senator Kahele Out and About...



Senator Kahele at the Hawai'i Japanese Center in Hilo. Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i along with volunteers preparing for the showing of the *Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i*.



Senator Kahele at Sangha Hall for the East Hawaii Coalition to prevent child abuse and promote pono health measures.



Senator Kahele and Jeff Cabral, President of the Waiakea Uka Sports Association, converse at Waiakea Uka park prior to attending the annual membership meeting of the Ainaola-Mauka Kumiai.



Senator Kahele with Sharon Scheele and Herb Segawa, former House of Representative, at the Hilo Hawaiian Moku Ola Room honoring the distinguished Russell Oda.



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