

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE



Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chairman,
Committee on Tourism



May 2014

A Message from Senator Kahele

The 2014 Legislative Session has officially come to a close and I would like to thank the people of Hilo and our State for allowing me the opportunity to serve on your behalf.

When I began this session in January, I set out on one goal, one mission for the residents of Hilo which was to "deliver" the \$33,000,000 needed for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy building. Today, I am pleased to announce through a collaborative effort of many and the commitment of State Leadership, the funding for the new building was included in the state budget bill. A project like this will have a tremendous impact, as it will bring much needed construction jobs, new students, new faculty and most importantly accreditation to the program. It is an accomplishment we can ALL be proud of!

In addition to this flagship project, we were able to secure an additional \$19 million which will fund other critical programs and projects like the Hilo Medical Center Residency Program, the widening of Puainako Street and the Lyman House Memorial Museum just to name a few.

As a legislative body, we raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, invested \$3 million to fund early learning through our kindergarten program, preserved and protected the environment with the State's acquisition of 665 acres of conservation land at Turtle Bay and continued to support our kupuna through aging, long term care and investor education programs.

In closing, I wish all of you a great summer! I look forward to seeing you in Hilo and the conversations we will have as we all enjoy this special place we call home.

Hau'oli ka mana'o,

2014 Achievements

This Session our priorities included increasing the minimum wage, supporting our keiki, and helping our counties. Below are just a few of the bills I'm most proud of passing.

- **SB3093 Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo:** This measure appropriates \$200K to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to establish staff positions within the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. It also supports the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Memorandum of Understanding with the Revealing Individual Strengths for Excellence (RISE) 21st Century After School Program specifically helping Native Hawaiian children.
- **SB2609 Relating to Minimum Wage:** Minimum wage will increase from its current \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 an hour by 2018. To help protect small businesses, we kept the tip credit (allowing employers to deduct 75 cents per hour from tipped employees) but raised the trigger to \$7 above minimum wage.
- **HB1671 Relating to Transient Accommodations Tax:** For 2014 and 2015, the amount of transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the counties will increase from \$93,000,000 to \$103,000,000. This means an extra \$1.8 million per year for Hawai'i County!
- **HB1716 Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning:** This measure provides \$5,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to support invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. Little fire ants better watch out!

We Got Funding!
Capital Improvement Projects
HB1700 (State Budget)
Grant-In-Aid

- **\$33,000,000**; University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Plans, design, construction and equipment for a new instructional facility for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy. Project to include ground and site improvements, equipment and appurtenances, and all project related costs.
- **\$2,000,000**; Youth Challenge Academy upgrade and improvements, Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hawai'i.
- **\$500,000**; University of Hawai'i at Hilo, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Reserve Management; Plans, design, construction and equipment to establish the temporary site for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo International Flight Training Center.
- **\$500,000**; Puainako Street widening/realignment, Kanoelehua Avenue to Komohana Street, land acquisition and design for widening and realigning Puainako Street from 2 to 4 lanes from Kanoelehua Street to Komohana Street.
- **\$2,500,000**; University of Hawai'i at Hilo Astronomy; Construction for the modernization and repair of the 2.2 meter telescope on Mauna Kea.
- **\$500,000**; Hilo Harbor Modifications; Plans to modify the turning basin, entrance channel, and other physical features to improve navigational safety and operational efficiencies at Hilo Harbor.
- **\$2,000,000**; Hilo Medical Center Primary Care Residency Program.
- **\$8,502,936**; Foster Care Payment Rate Increases.
- **\$500,000**; Lyman House Memorial Museum; Construction of a new Island Heritage Gallery. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS.
- **\$329,000**; Hawai'i County Economic Opportunity Council; Plans, design, construction and equipment for a Botanical Garden at Rainbow Falls. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS.
- **\$250,000**; The Food Basket, Inc.; Construction for infrastructure repairs and deferred maintenance. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS.



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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's webpage
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.aspx>



Hilo Native Stanley Roehrig was confirmed to the Board of Land and Natural Resources on April 17, 2014. From left to right: Senators Nishihara, Dela Cruz, Shimabukuro, Nate Roehrig (son), Stanley Roehrig, Senators Hee, Solomon, Kahele and Galuteria.

Out and About....



Senator Kahele, his nine-year-old grandson Maka'i Okalani Snyder, and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Ben Villaflor enjoy music performed by the Hawai'i Youth Symphony during the 6th Annual Art at the Capitol.



Senator Solomon and Senator Kahele enjoy the festivities at the Merrie Monarch Parade.

The YWCA of Hawai'i Island is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Senator Kahele was proud and honored to present YWCA Remarkable Person honorees Audrey Wilson and Sharon Scheele with a Hawai'i State



Senate Certificate. Both their husbands, Jim Wilson and Al Inoue, were there to help celebrate this special occasion with them.



The Senate Ways and Means and House Finance Committees open the budget conference on April 15, 2014.



The Hawai'i Island delegation met on April 16, 2014 with members of the UPW Hawai'i Island Shop Stewards at the State Capitol to discuss local issues.



Senators confirm the appointment of Hilo lawyer Henry Nakamoto as the family court judge on the Big Island. His wife Joyce and sons Jordan and Timothy were also present for his confirmation.

Neighbor Island representatives visit with Legislators to lobby for various bills that affect their counties. House Bill 1671 is just one of the many bills that were supported by the counties. The increase of Transient Accommodations Tax revenues to the counties will allow them to better provide for public safety, parks, road maintenance and visitor-related services.

Mayor Billy Kenoi, Maui Councilmember Mike Victorino and Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. visit with Senator Kahele.



Senate Leadership met regularly to discuss the progress and issues that occur during the legislative session. From left to right: Senators Kahele, Ihara, Kidani, Ige, Mercado Kim, Espero, Tokuda, Kouchi and Galuteria.



Senator Gilbert Kahele

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COMMUNITY UPDATE:

Please join Senator Kahele and other Hawai'i Island Legislators for an update of the 2014 Legislative Session on:

Thursday, May 29, 2014
6:00pm to 7:00pm
University of Hawai'i at Hilo,
UCB #127

Hilo International Flight Training Center Takes Big Step

The proposed aviation program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) and Hawai'i Community College (HawCC) took a big step this session as Senator Kahele was able to secure \$500,000 of capital improvement project funding for the startup classrooms and other facilities for the new program.

Ray Bedard, UHH adjunct faculty adviser and aviation program expert has completed the ATP and RFP for the proposed programs and will be presenting to the Board of Regents later this year. Although the aviation appropriations in SB3092 were unable to clear the conference committee deadline, Senator Kahele will continue pursuing the funding for the aviation program next session.



HILO

**FLIGHT
TRAINING
CENTER
HAWAII**

University of Hawai'i at Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy is coming together - literally. On Friday, April 25, 2014 it was announced by the Senate Ways and Means and House Finance committees, that the state will invest \$33,000,000 to build a permanent facility for the DKI College of Pharmacy. This has been a long time coming and was accomplished with communities of people coming together and working towards a unified goal!



Senator Kahele and pharmacy students James Ng, Nick Rovang, Tina Kordkheili, Nishant Gandhi, and Kevin Flores