

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE



Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chairman,
Committee on Tourism



September 2014

A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha!

On the evening of August 8, 2014, Tropical Storm Iselle made landfall in East Hawai'i packing 80 mph winds and torrential rain.

The aftermath of Tropical Storm Iselle left wide devastation in Puna where thousands were left without power, entire neighborhoods cut off from civilization and our precious agricultural industry wiped out. In the days and weeks that followed; our resolve, community values and the aloha spirit were put to the test.

Having arrived in Puna, three days after Iselle struck our island, I can tell you the devastation was difficult to explain. The great progress we are making with County, State and Federal agencies, along with private citizens all working together is inspiring. Through this unique collaboration of kōkua and the unbreakable aloha spirit of Hawai'i's people, Puna will rebuild.

Mahalo nui loa to the hundreds of unsung heroes who day after day continue to lend a helping hand to our island `ohana. They embody the very best of our islands, its people and this special place we all call home.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilbert Kahele".

A Hui Hou Representative Bob Herkes

1931-2014

Former State Representative Bob Herkes, one of Hawai'i's strongest champions of consumer rights passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2014.

Representative Herkes was a life long public servant, helping our people through many different facets of our communities. He once served as a Hawai'i County Police Commissioner, Councilmember, a State Senator, most recently a Representative and a board member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

He will be greatly missed, and will forever be remembered as a servant of the people who got things done.



Representative Bob Herkes and Senator Gilbert Kahele

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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's webpage

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.aspx>



Kōkua For Puna



Mahalo nui loa to the countless number of individuals that took the time out of their busy schedules to "Kōkua For Puna" in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Iselle. Thousands of bottles of water, ice, juice and hot meals were given out to hundreds of families and individuals in their time of need.

The volunteer relief efforts we and many others were a part of, made unbelievable strides in assisting our sister community speed its recovery and return to normalcy. I am proud to say that Puna is slowly recovering.

HELCO has restored much of the power that was lost, giant trees have been cleared that blocked the roads, families are slowly getting back to a normal routine and schools are re-opened but the long cleanup and rebuilding for many has only just begun.

Please continue to keep the families of Puna in your thoughts and prayers and mahalo nui loa again to all of you that answered the call for help and showed our country the true definition of the "aloha spirit".

