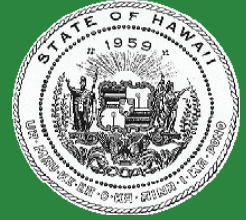




Ko'olau Konnections



From the Office of State Senator Jill N. Tokuda

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Senate District 24 (Kaneohe and Kailua)

Chair of Senate Education Committee
Member of the Agriculture; Water, Land and Housing; and Ways and Means Committees
Majority Whip

ON THE MOVE...

January 8th, Senator Tokuda co-sponsored Aloha Aina Earth Day Recycling Project at Castle High School to benefit the Castle High School Band Program.

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Senator Tokuda attended the AINA In Schools Garden Party at Aikahi Elementary on January 22 where she helped prepared vegetable beds and helped with composting.

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On January 25th, Windward area legislators held our semi-annual Talk Story Town Hall Meeting at Windward Community College.

...

Attended and spoke at the sign dedication for Na Pohaku O Hauwahine on January 29th, which highlights the 2005 designation of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh as a Ramsar wetland of international importance.

...

Senator Tokuda will participate in the Hawaii Workforce Development Council Meeting on February 10th.

As we begin the month of February, things are picking up and this session is already beginning to pass quickly. We have hired our ACE (A Capitol Experience) Intern for the session who will work three afternoons a week. Fredrene Balanay is a resident of Waimanalo and a Journalism major at Windward Community College. We also welcome two seasoned volunteers, Joanne Swearingen and Carol Pang, to our office. Joanne and Carol have retired from the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, respectively. They will be a great to our office where our Senate Committee on Education handles both areas of lower and higher education.

The Legislative hearings begin this month on all of the various bills introduced this session. Some of the bills that I introduced that may be of particular interest to our community:

SB8 Relating to Education - Establishes implementing legislation for the appointment of board of education members. Establishes considerations for the senate during the advise and consent process. **Passed by EDU and WAM. Crossed over to House Education Committee.**

SB237 Relating to Cyberbullying - Establishes an offense of harassment by cyberbullying, with the first and second offenses as misdemeanors, and any third and subsequent offense as a class C felony. **EDT Hearing on 2/9**

SB289 Relating to Education (Families for R.E.A.L.) - Appropriates funds for the Families for R.E.A.L. program and professional and curriculum development. **EDU Hearing on 2/11**

SB811 Relating to the State Hospital - Requires the department of public safety to provide security at the Hawaii State Hospital. Requires a report to the legislature on strategies and plans to address the needs for appropriate security and the needs of the increasing and aging forensic population at the Hawaii state hospital. **HTH/PGM Hearing on 2/8**

SB812 Relating to Clean and Sober and Halfway Homes - Establishes a temporary clean and sober home and halfway house task force. Requires the task force to submit a report to the legislature containing findings and recommendations and any proposed legislation that may be necessary to effectuate those recommendations.

SB1487 Relating to Education - Requires the department of education to close and consolidate certain schools within two years of notification; provided that a school may remain open if it meets certain requirements. **EDU Hearing on 2/4**

SB1538 Relating to Healthcare - Directs the department of health and state civil defense to report to the legislature on progress in implementing the recommendations of the statewide dialysis emergency plan. Appropriates funds to upgrade dialysis facilities and implement the plan.

For more information, please visit the Capitol website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Please remember to visit my Senate Webpage. We will be working on keeping it updated with important information regarding this Legislative Session as well as events for the Kaneohe and Kailua communities.

Website: www.tinyurl.com/sentokuda

Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program

Enchanted Lake and Kaelepulu Elementary School students artwork is on display at the Hawaii State Capitol as a part of the STAR Program for the month of February.

The public is welcome to view the artwork at the Hawaii State Capitol, Chamber Level, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (excluding holidays) and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Castle High School FLEX Intern Sadman Mondalib from Bangladesh spent the day shadowing Senator Tokuda and was able to sit on the Senate Floor during Session.



Aikahi Elementary second grader Ahokovi (center), family and Senator Tokuda pose with Ahokovi's artwork which was on display at the Capitol during the month of January.

Windward area legislators held a Talk Story Town Hall Meeting at WCC on January 25th. Senator Tokuda and Representatives Chris Lee, Ken Ito, and Pono Chong introduced themselves and answered questions from constituents about the state budget, homeless problems in various areas, and speeding on Mokulele Drive.

Thank you for attending and sharing with us your concerns. We appreciate hearing from our constituents.



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