



# Senate President Donna Mercado Kim

~ Senatorial District 14 ~

• Kapalama • 'Alewa, Kalihi Valley • Ft. Shafter • Moanalua Gardens & Valley  
• Portions of Halawa & 'Aiea

February 2015

## Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2015 session of the Legislature convened on January 21. While the mood of legislators on opening day was optimistic and hopeful, it was also tempered by the realities of our fiscal condition. Yes, the economy continues to show strength, with tourism arrivals and spending up, construction proving resilient, and the military maintaining its spending.

But the Legislature must find ways to deal with the collective bargaining pay increases negotiated by the previous administration. We have major financial obligations for long-term pension and health care costs for current and future retirees. Our public buildings and infrastructure need major investment that cannot be defrayed. These are some of the reasons the Legislature is taking a very cautious approach to spending and the biennium budget.

For my part, I am continuing my push for greater transparency and accountability in government. My legislative proposals call for the creation of an inspector general to investigate reports of fraud, corruption, and mismanagement in government; the inclusion of long-term repair and maintenance cost projections for public construction in our six-year financial plan; using hotel room tax revenues for beach replenishment projects; and expanded ethics training for public officials, candidates for office, and lobbyists, among others. I've also called for greater state and county oversight on vacation rentals, which continue to be a source of controversy—and lost tax revenues—throughout the islands. While my proposal is one of several, I believe a concerted, intergovernmental effort would produce the best means of resolving this long-standing problem once and for all.

On a matter of immediate concern to District 14 residents, an intergovernmental task force formed to examine leaking underground fuel storage tanks on Red Hill is recommending that the Navy double-line 18 tanks to prevent future leaks, within the next 10 years. I had introduced the resolution calling for the formation of the task force, immediately after the Navy announced last January that a major fuel leak had occurred at Red Hill. I expect the Legislature can contribute to a settlement that ensures the safety of our water supply without affecting military readiness.

I will keep you apprised of further developments regarding the Red Hill situation, as well as our work at the Legislature.

*Senate President Kim with Lt Governor  
Shan Tsutsui and Governor David Ige*





*Senate President Donna Mercado Kim and Vice Speaker John Mizuno coordinated the Flu Immunization Clinic participated by HMSA and Kaiser Permanente at the Capitol for all legislators and staff on Tuesday, February 3—in picture: Vice Speaker Mizuno, Senate President Kim and representatives of HMSA and Kaiser Permanente.*

**DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST THE FLU**

- ◆ Flu is a contagious respiratory illness that infects the nose, throat and lungs which may cause fever.
- ◆ It is spread by droplets when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk, or touch a surface.
- ◆ Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe. In some years, flu-associated deaths reached a low of 3,000 and a high of 49,000.
- ◆ The best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated.

**CONTACT US:**

Hawaii State Capitol Room 409  
 Phone: (808) 587-7200; Fax: (808) 587-7205  
 E-mail: [senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
 Web: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

**MARK THIS IN YOUR CALENDAR**

**February 19, Thursday 7:00—8:30 pm**

Aiea-Pearl City Community Town Meeting sponsored by Senator Breene Harimoto on transportation issues— at the Pearl Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria. Contact Robert Sato at 586-6230.

**February 20, Friday, 8:00—10:00 am**

Moanalua Elementary School's Tech Trek—join and run with 620 kids to raise funds for additional technology equipment. Contact Moanalua Garden Community Association 372-1777.

**February 26, Thursday, 5:30—9:00 pm**

The 11th Annual Kina'ole Awards Banquet and Silent Auction at the Honolulu Country Club— organized by the Moanalua High School Parent-Teacher Association to raise supplemental funds for equipment, supplies and school programs. Contact Andrea Iwamoto at 221-7448.

***Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Farrington High School's Edward Thompson Skippa' Diaz Stadium***

*held at Kusunoki Field on February 9, Monday.*

*With Senator Glenn Wakai, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, former Principal Catherine Payne, and Rep. Romy Cachola.*

