



Senator Jill N. Tokuda

2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

24th Senatorial District - Kaneohe, Kaneohe MCAB, Kailua, Heeia, Ahuimanu

June 2014

Dear Friends,

While the 2014 legislative session presented us with significant fiscal challenges, we made a number of targeted investments that will benefit our communities and passed measures that will result in meaningful changes for Hawaii's people in the months to come.

As Senate Education Chair, many initiatives we worked on this session came from our statewide listening tour, going out and meeting with all 255 public school Principals. We also met with teachers, preschool directors, our postsecondary educator programs, and charter school advocates.

As a result of these conversations and recognizing the broader needs of our community, we will spend the interim focused on areas such as school based public health and modernizing our technology infrastructure. These kinds of collaborations will potentially benefit not just our schools, but our families & communities, and can improve state government operations.

We have also continued our efforts to increase participation in the legislative process by taking our Education Committee Videoconference Testimony Project statewide. Building on our success, we now utilize videoconferencing for informational briefings, allowing our Committee and the general public to hear from and communicate with experts from across the state and country on important issues.

We have also remained vigilant on what is important to you: whether opposing clean and sober home permit applications, while finally successfully passing legislation to establish a registry and complaints process for homes; or addressing roadway repair needs; or focusing on safety concerns.

Session is over, but still there is much to be done! We look forward to seeing you soon and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Mahalo,



Mahalo to Marine Corps Base Hawaii for volunteering at the Windward District Fitness Meet held at Castle High School.

Over \$20.5 Million for Senate District 24

Since 2007, Senator Tokuda has brought home over **\$148 million** in CIP funding for the 24th Senatorial District. During the 2014 Legislative Session, she fought to ensure that the following priority projects were funded for fiscal year 2015 so that our community's needs could be met:

H-3	\$5,000,000
<i>Design and construction for a divided highway from Junction H-1 to Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station</i>	
Hawaii State Hospital	\$2,501,000
1) Design and construction for a new patient facility at the site of Goddard building	
2) Design and construction for various repairs and improvements	
	\$784,000
Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery	\$6,354,000
<i>Plans, design and constructions for upgrades and improvements</i>	
Heeia State Park	\$250,000
<i>Constructions for the renovation and improvements of Main Hall, parking lot and access to fishpond</i>	
Hina Mauka Facility (Grant-In-Aid)	\$1,500,000
<i>Construction for the expansion of the facility</i>	
Kahekili and Kamehameha Highways	\$1,550,000
<i>Plans, land acquisition, design and construction for multi-use pathways</i>	
Kailua High School	\$150,000
<i>Design, construction and equipment for performing arts and media presentation center</i>	
Kapunahala Elementary School	\$750,000
<i>Plans, design and construction for covered walkways between Buildings A, B, and C</i>	
Kawainui Marsh	\$1,200,000
<i>Plans, design, construction and equipment for environmental clean-up and the restoration of endangered habitat and wetlands</i>	
KEY Project (Grant-In-Aid)	\$64,000
<i>Design and construction for repair and improvement of parking lot and related infrastructure</i>	
Maunawili Trail	\$200,000
<i>Plans, design and construction for a parking area and trailhead improvements</i>	
Pacific American Foundation (Grant-In-Aid)	\$500,000
<i>Plans, design and construction for a new facility for education, research and employments programs</i>	

TOTAL **\$20,803,000**

In addition to that, over \$6.5 million for capital improvement projects were appropriated during this legislative session at the following schools: Aikahi Elementary, Ben Parker Elementary, Castle High, Heeia Elementary, Kailua High, Kalaheo High, King Intermediate, Maunawili Elementary, Mokapu Elementary, and Olomana School

Lawmakers remained vigilant throughout the legislative session striking a balance on measures supporting keiki, kupuna, workers and environment

2014 Legislative Session in Review

After weeks of negotiating, the Legislature passed a fiscally responsible \$12.1 billion supplemental budget for fiscal year 2014-15. HB1700 includes funding for core services such as education, health, the University of Hawaii, human services, the environment, public safety, and supporting and caring for Hawaii's people. The graphic depicts means of financing allocated to each department.

End of Session Highlights:

Minimum Wage Increase, SB2609:

Increases minimum wage rate to \$7.75 per hour beginning on 1/1/15, \$8.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/16, \$9.25 per hour beginning on 1/1/17, and \$10.10 per hour beginning on 1/1/18. Increases the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning on 1/1/15, and 75 cents per hour beginning on 1/1/16; provided that beginning 1/1/15, the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage.

TAT for Counties, HB1671: Increases the current cap on transient accommodations tax revenues to be distributed to the counties for two fiscal years. Establishes a working group to determine future county allocation ceiling amounts and the appropriate division of the provision of public services between the State and counties.

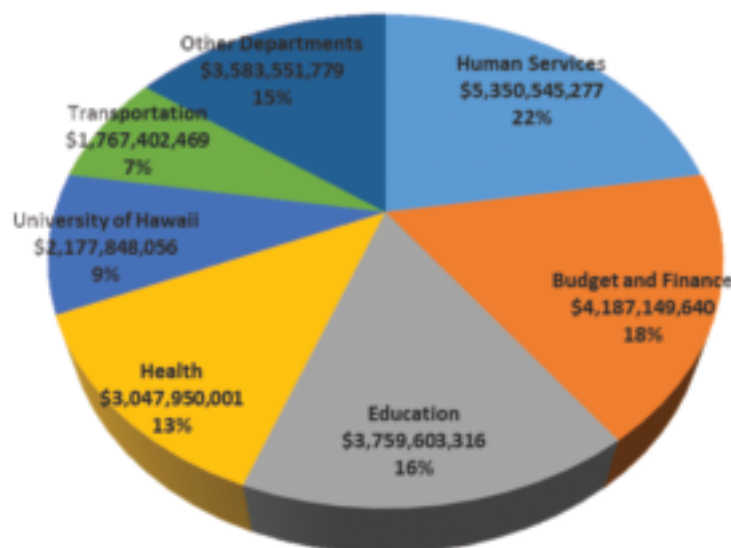
Turtle Bay Resort Conservation Easement, HB2434:

Establishes a method to use transient accommodations tax revenues to pay the debt service on revenue bonds issued by the Hawaii tourism authority to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu.



Rep Ken Ito, Sen Tokuda, and her son Matt (kindergarten) at the Kaneohe Elementary May Day.

Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015



Protecting the Environment, HB1716:

Appropriates \$5 million to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning, passed out of committee earlier this month.

Supporting Hawaii's Kupuna, HB1713 and SB2346 supports Hawaii's kupuna through funding of aging, long-term care and investor education programs.

Voter Registration, HB2590: Allows voter registration at absentee polling places beginning in 2016 and late voter registration, including on Election Day, beginning in 2018.

Other Notable Bills:

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Lobbyist Disclosure, SB2629: Requires lobbyists and specified individuals to report to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, within 30 days of adjournment sine die of a special session of the Legislature, on contributions and expenditures made to lobby on legislative matters considered during that special session.

SB2634: Requires individuals who spend more than \$750 on lobbying during a statement period to itemize each expenditure in certain categories, as applicable.

Police Misconduct, SB2591: Police departments will have to disclose more information about police misconduct. They will need to report to the Legislature how

many officers were suspended or fired in a given year, and whether the disciplinary action resulted in criminal charges or was subject to a union appeal.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Rental Housing Trust Fund, SB2542: Increases the allocation of conveyance tax collections to the rental housing trust fund from 30 percent to 50 percent. It is

estimated that restoring the allocation of conveyance tax collections to 50 percent will generate \$33, 100,000 for the rental housing trust fund for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Housing Choice Voucher, HB1539:

Requires the return of a housing choice voucher to the HPHA upon the death or removal from assistance of the last original household member or upon the youngest minor of the family reaching the age of 21 or 23 if the minor is a full-time student. Prohibits adding legal guardians to the household unless the legal guardian is also eligible for participation in the program.

Hula Mae Multifamily Revenue

Bond, HB2251: Increases the Hula Mae Multifamily Revenue Bond authorization limit from \$750,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000. Hula Mae helps qualifying first-time homebuyers with 30-year mortgages at competitive rates and offers some down payment assistance.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nonviolent Offender Reentry Pilot Project, HB2363: Establishes and funds a reentry pilot project for nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders.

Statute of Limitations on Sex Abuse

Cases, SB2687: Extends the period during which a victim of child sexual abuse may bring an otherwise time-barred civil action against the victim's abuser or an entity.

HB2034: Removes the statute of limitations for criminal actions arising



Sen Tokuda visited Moanalua Middle to observe the use of technology in our schools as a part of the state's Common Core Digital Curriculum Pilot Project.

from sexual assault in the first and second degrees and continuous sexual assault of a minor under the age of fourteen years.

Habitual property crimes, HB2205:

Imposes a mandatory minimum term of one year imprisonment upon conviction for the offense of habitual property crime. Authorizes probation only for a first conviction of the offense of habitual property crime.

Prostitution, HB1926: Amends the offense of prostitution and clarifies that a law enforcement officer shall not be exempt from the offense while acting in the course and scope of duties. Amends the offense of solicitation of a minor for prostitution. Clarifies sentencing of repeat offenders and enhanced sentences for repeat violent and sexual offenders.

Internet Crimes Against Children, HB702:

Establishes an Internet Crimes Against Children Fee for each felony or misdemeanor conviction. Establishes an Internet Crimes Against Children Special Fund.

HEALTH

Hawaii Health Connector Oversight, SB2470:

Establishes the Hawaii health connector as the State of Hawaii Health Insurance Exchange.

Cost-Effective Healthcare, HB1752:

Appropriates funds to provide primary medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare to uninsured and underinsured patients and restores basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees; and appropriates funds to community health centers to provide outreach.

EDUCATION

Mandatory Kindergarten, SB2768: Makes kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year.

Charter Schools, HB1745: Authorizes the State Public Charter School Commission to assess fees on non-state entities and individuals to help offset its operating costs. Establishes pre-opening procedures and requirements for charter applicants. Clarifies that appropriations for the state public charter school commission are separate and in addition to appropriations for charter schools.

Restraint and Seclusion, HB1796:

Prohibits the use of seclusion in public schools; establishes conditions and procedures for the use of restraint in public schools; and requires collection and review of data to ensure proper implementation.

Superintendents Salary, HB2257:

Adjusts the salary cap of the Superintendent of Education to \$250,000. Requires an annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Education tied to performance measures.

AGRICULTURE

Coffee Berry Borer, HB1514:

Establishes a Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2019, for the purchase of pesticides to combat the coffee berry borer.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Utilities Regulation, SB2809:

Aligns statutory language regarding utility ratemaking with widely accepted utility ratemaking principles and practices already applied in Hawaii by allowing utilities in the State the opportunity to earn a fair return on utility property that is used.

Environmental Courts, SB632:

Establishes environmental courts as divisions of the circuit courts and district courts to hear proceedings. Convenes a working group to report to the Legislature the number of environmental-related cases filed in the last five years and recommendations for implementing environmental courts in the State.

Public Utilities

Commission, SB2948:

Transfers the administrative placement of the public utilities commission from the department of budget and finance to the department of commerce and consumer affairs. Clarifies the public utilities commission's authority concerning standard administrative practices. Enables the chair of the public utilities commission to appoint, employ, and dismiss an executive officer, fiscal officer, and personnel officer.

Grid Modernization, HB1943: Eliminates technical and economic barriers that prevent customer-generators from interconnecting to the Hawaii electric grid.

VETERANS

General Excise Tax, HB1772: Exempts from the general excise tax amounts received by a contractor of the Patient-Centered Community Care Program for costs or advances to health care providers.

Veterans Cemetery, HB1564: Requires counties to obtain approval from the Office of Veterans' Services before any action that may impact the establishment and maintenance of veterans cemeteries.

Driver's License, HB1770: Requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant.

LAND

HCD Reform, HB1866: Amends requirements for notice, hearing, approval, and vesting of rights for development permits. Amends HCD membership and appointment. Permits sale of reserved housing units. Permits cash-in-lieu payments for reserved housing requirements. Establishes legislative oversight of HCD bond authority. Prohibits HCD acquisition of public land by set aside. Creates height limit for Kakaako.

Kaneohe Bay Regional Council, SB2330:

Introduced by Sen Tokuda in an effort to revitalize the Council, the bill amends its leadership as was requested by community advocates and requires the Council to hold quarterly meetings on the status of the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan. A report on any updates and needed statutory changes to maximize the relevance and operation of the Council is due to the Legislature prior to the next session.



Sen Tokuda introduced and passed SB2768 making kindergarten mandatory for all 5 year olds as a part of the foundation for Hawaii's publicly funded early learning system.

Senate District 24 Talk Story and Legislative Wrap Up

*Hosted by Senator Jill Tokuda
and Representative Ken Ito*

*Special Guest Senator David Ige,
Chair of the Ways and Means Committee*

**Thursday, June 26, 2014
Windward Community College,
Hale Akoakoa 105
7:00pm-8:30pm**

Please join us as we discuss the outcomes of the 2014 Legislative Session and highlight the State budget while providing you with an opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns about issues facing our community. For more information, please contact our office at 587-7215.



Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
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Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program

STAR continued for its 8th year during the 2014 legislative session showcasing the artistic talents of students from Windward Oahu. This year we had the privilege of having art displayed at the State Capitol from more than 275 artists at 7 schools in Senate District 24, including: Castle High, Heeia Elementary, Kalaheo High, Le Jardin Academy, Mau-nawili Elementary, Puohala Elementary and Windward Nazarene Academy. For the first time we also had preschool art on display from across the state: Kamehameha Schools, KCAA Preschools, and Seagull Schools.

Senator Tokuda Named a 2014 "Champion for Charters"

Senator Tokuda was one of seven lawmakers throughout the country chosen by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools as a 2014 "Champion for Charters." Senator Tokuda was part of a group of federal, state and local elected officials including U.S. Senator Mark Kirk, U.S. Representative George Miller, and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, honored at a ceremony in May at the US Capitol in Washington DC for working to advance the growth and success of high quality public charter schools. Senator Tokuda was chosen for this award for chairing a task force on charter school governance and accountability that resulted in the complete recodification of Hawaii's charter school laws. These changes balanced accountability with autonomy, allowing for that innovation charter schools need to be creative, and it also increased Hawaii's national ranking among all states from 35th in 2012 to 14th in 2013.



US Senator Mazie Hirono with Sen Tokuda in Washington DC receiving her award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Clean and Sober Homes

After two years of task force meetings with state, county and provider participation, and knowing that clean and sober homes have raised serious concerns in our community for years, the Legislature passed HB2224 this session. HB2224 establishes a voluntary registry within the Department of Health for clean and sober homes and amends county zoning statute to better align functions of state and county jurisdictions with federal law. The bill sets minimum standards for the way the houses are operated and provides a framework for monitoring. The Department of Health will maintain a public website with the listing of homes on the registry as well as take calls about complaints. The Department will also have the authority to revoke the certificate of registration. The Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to the Department of Health to implement this registry of group homes.



Sen Tokuda spoke with 6th grade students visiting the State Capitol from Le Jardin Academy.

CONTACT SENATOR JILL TOKUDA

Majority Whip • Chair, Committee on Education • Member: Committee on Higher Education, Committee on Technology and the Arts, Committee on Ways and Means
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