



# South Maui Community News

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**Representative  
George Fontaine  
House District II:  
KThei, Wailea, Makena**

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## From Representative Fontaine

I hope that each of you have been able to spend time with friends, family and significant others this holiday season. It's important that we connect with those that are close to us and let them know how much we appreciate them—not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year.



**Hawai'i State Capitol**

The year 2011 has been an exciting and energizing year for me. It has been my pleasure to serve you, the citizens of South Maui. Each day that I am here at the

legislature I am reminded of the fact that I am representing you and that you have entrusted me to speak up for our community as your representative.

During the 2011 legislature I represented you both on the floor of the house and on five committees: Education, Judiciary, Labor and Public Employment, Public Safety and Military Affairs, and Transportation.

With the experience of last year and with your support and input, I am motivated to jump back into the lawmaking process and represent you once again during the 2012 legislative session.

I will continue to focus on legislation that will help our economy, improve our schools, keep our citizens safe and preserve the beauty of our communities. Finally, I want to wish you and your families a prosperous and successful 2012.

Mahalo,

**Representative George Fontaine (HD II)**  
House District II, KThei, Wailea, Makena

## Legislature Opening Day - January 18

The second half of the 26<sup>th</sup> State of Hawai'i Legislative Session will commence on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

Senators and Representatives will convene in their chambers for opening remarks and a brief meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. and should conclude before noon.

An open house will follow in my office located on the third floor of the Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 311. Please stop by so that I can meet you and introduce you to my staff. We can talk about your thoughts about South

Maui while we share refreshments.

This is a great time to visit your State Capitol, learn a little more about the legislative process, and meet with my staff and I, along with other legislators who are serving their communities.

For more information regarding the 2012 Legislative calendar, go to:

<http://www.capitol.Hawaii.gov/legcal.aspx>

Come visit us in Room 311, on January 18.



## New Laws that take effect in 2012

Below are a few of the bills that passed the legislature and have now become law for 2012. Below are a few major bills that passed out of the 2011 Hawai'i legislative session and will become law.

### New State Laws Effective January 1, 2012

#### Hawai'i Supreme Court

The time period to file an application for an appeal with the Hawai'i Supreme Court will be shortened from 90 days to 30 days after issuance of a decision by the intermediate appellate court. A 30-day extension may be allowed.

#### Deputy Sheriffs

First and second deputy sheriffs will become civil servants.

#### Domestic Violence

Employers will be prohibited from discriminating against victims of domestic violence and required to make reasonable accommodations in the workplace for the victim.

#### Civil Unions

Civil union law will go into effect, recognizing the legal relationship of a civil union and providing the same benefits as marriage to partners in a civil union.

#### Privacy in the Courts

Courts will be allowed to permit certain anonymous legal filings to protect the privacy of the petitioner.

#### Legal Assistance

Court surcharges will be raised to increase monies for the indigent legal assistance fund. Certain filings in circuit and appellate courts, currently \$25, will increase by \$25. Certain filings in district court, currently \$10, will increase by \$15.

#### Life Insurance Training

Additional training requirements will be necessary for those involved in selling life insurance. Those selling life insurance will not be allowed to market senior-specific products if they have not been properly certified and designated to do so.

#### Federal Law Effective January 1, 2012

Consumers will not be able to purchase the traditional 100 watt incandescent light bulbs. Rather, all light bulbs sold must be 30% more efficient than the traditional 100 watt bulb.

For more details, look up new Hawai'i laws (called Acts) on the Capitol website:

<http://www.capitol.Hawaii.gov/>



## Bills that Rep. Fontaine will Introduce in 2012

It is important to understand that all bills that were introduced in the Hawai'i state house during the 2011 legislative session are still technically alive in the 2012 session.

Here are some of the bills that I am submitting during the 2012 legislative session.

#### Cybercrime

This summer, I convened an informational meeting at the State Capitol on cybercrime. In the briefing we learned that in Hawai'i, there are over 31,000 average daily Internet attacks; the highest one day average registered at over 94,500. Every day, spyware and malware are making millions of attempts to gain access to information that belongs to someone else. It is a crime that can happen to any of us.

Because of this growing threat of cyber-crime to everyone who uses a computer (or computing device such as a tablet or cell phone), I will be introducing legislation that will allow law enforcement to pursue and prosecute cyber-attacks that are coming from outside of the State of Hawai'i.

#### Debit Cards for Teachers (P-Card)

We need to support our public school teachers. Many of them continue to use their own paychecks to purchase school supplies. Parents are also asked every year to purchase supplies for their children. For many families in our state—this is a hardship. Therefore, I am introducing legislation to allow school principals to use P-Cards (a debit purchasing card) to buy needed school supplies.

#### Portable Classrooms for Kīhei Elementary

During the 2011 legislative session I introduced legislation to fund portable classrooms for Kīhei Elementary School. The measure passed and was supported in the Senate.

At the last minute in conference, a Senate companion bill from Sen. Rosalyn Baker requesting CIP funding for portable classrooms in Kīhei was eliminated from the budget.

Because of this, I am submitting the legislation again for 2012. Our community is growing and our children need adequate classroom space at Kīhei Elementary School.

If you are a parent with children at Kīhei Elementary please contact the Finance Committee and let them know that you support this legislation. Hopefully, we will be successful in 2012, to secure this funding.

# Town Hall Meeting in Kihei

On December 3rd, I hosted, along with Senator Rosalyn Baker, a Town Hall meeting at the Kihei Charter School. Also present at the meeting was Don Couch from the Maui County Council.

A number of important questions were raised at the meeting including public pensions, the future Kihei High School and the Kihei traffic flow project.

This year, the Governor proposed taxation of public employee pensions. I voted against this measure, but some in the majority said that the issue will come up again. If it does, I will be certain to let you know about it so that you can call and write letters to the Finance Committee. I don't think it is right to work all your life, pay taxes, be promised a pension, and then be taxed again when the pension money is used in retirement.

The next important step toward building the Kihei High School is land acquisition. I have been told that the land will cost about

\$20 million. I am also working closely with the Maui County Council regarding water for the school. Don Couch commented that the Water Resources Committee is aware of the issue and is working to resolve current policy of "show me the water."



Rep Fontaine Speaking at May Town Hall Meeting

There was also news that the Kihei round-about traffic project is ahead of schedule.

Don Couch commented that it may be completed four or five months before the original projected completion date in August.

I understand that it is not possible for most of you to come to Oahu and visit my office to share your concerns. Town Hall meetings are an important way to open the door for conversation between myself and you. This helps me to stay informed about the concerns and issues that are facing our community.

Secondly, Town Hall meetings are another way that I can share with you personally what is taking place at the legislature. In a sense, my staff and I are your eyes and ears at the legislature. This means that when we hear of proposed legislation to raise your taxes or other issues that affect our community, I will be letting you know. My newsletters are always posted on-line at:

[www.repfontaine.com](http://www.repfontaine.com)

# 2011 Pictures Year in Review



Minority Caucus at Kaheawa Wind Farm/ Maui Front Row—Rep. Fontaine, Rep. Ching, Rep. Pine Back Row—Rep. Marumoto, Rep. Riviere, Rep. Ward



Rep. Fontaine with Chevy Volt at Maui Energy Conference



# 2011 Pictures Year in Review (continued)



Rep. Fontaine Speaking to Farmers at Maui County Farm Bureau 2nd Annual Ag Day



Little League Baseball Opening Day in Kihei



Maui Smart Grid—Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Japanese companies



Rep. Fontaine and Rep. Marumoto in Judiciary Committee

Watch the "Fontaine Factor" On Akaku Channel 53 Wednesdays 8:00pm



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