February 2014



Community Update

Representative Linda Ichiyama House District 32: Moanalua, Salt Lake, Aliamanu Room 327 • Phone # 586-6220



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We opened the 2014 legislative session on Wednesday, January 15th at the State Capitol. It was an exciting start to this year's session and I am grateful to have been able to share this experience with many of you.

After another busy start to the legislative session, all bills have been introduced and are now being heard within the House and the Senate. You can track bills, read and submit testimony on the Capitol website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

As we continue through the session, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. If you would like to discuss issues, community concerns, or if there is any way I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at 586-6220 or repichiyama@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Delchingama



hawai`i public access room

Updated information sheets including floor maps, seating charts and other useful information can be found on the PAR website at (<u>http://lrbhawaii.org/par/legfyi.html</u>).

Want to learn about the legislative process and how you can participate easily and effectively? Sign up for one of PAR's free workshops—offered in the PAR room (room 401).

Call 587-0478 or email <u>par@capitol.hawaii.gov</u> to sign up! It's free!

> PAR Hours during Session (Jan. 15- May 1) Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

2014 Opening Day



Opening Day marked the 55th anniversary of statehood. The State House and Senate celebrated by recognizing past legislators who have served Hawaii. Pictured above is Rep. Ichiyama with former Rep. Jake Manegdeg.



Rep. Ichiyama with former Rep. Marilyn Lee and Rep. James Tokioka.



Current Legislation Bills Introduced by Rep. Ichiyama:

HB 570: According to the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, unlicensed contractors often target elderly homeowners. This bill increases the fine from \$10,000 to \$20,000 against unlicensed contractors to deter violations committed against the elderly. HB 570 passed third reading in House and will be transmitted to the Senate.

HB 2431: Little Fire Ants were first discovered in 1999 on the island of Hawaii and have now been sited on Kauai, Maui and Oahu. The stings of Little Fire Ants are notorious for causing blindness of livestock and pets and causes large, painful welts on humans which last for several days. HB 2431 appropriates funds for the creation of a statewide public awareness campaign by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. This campaign would assist in the prevention, education and eradication of Little Fire Ants. Decision making is scheduled in the Committee on Agriculture on Thursday, February 6th.

HB 2430: I strongly support our local farmers and the healthy living of our seniors. The senior farmers' market nutrition program provides low-income seniors with vouchers for nutritious, fresh fruits and vegetables. This program has been running successfully since 2000, supporting not only seniors in need but also local farmers. This bill appropriates additional funds to the senior farmers' market nutrition program.

HB 1868: It is important that all residents have access to emergency shelters. This bill will fund the retrofitting of public school buildings so they may be used as emergency shelters, making more shelters available to public in case of natural or man-made disasters. HB 1868 passed out of the Committee on Public Safety and was referred to the Committee on Education.





Rep. Ichiyama, Speaker Emeritus Calvin K.Y. Say, Sherry Menor-McNamara (President) and Rep. Gregg Takayama participated in the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's sign waving to show appreciation for our military.

Members of the Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC) and Catherine Betts, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, stand with the family members of the late Director Loretta Fuddy, Hawaii State Dept. of Health.

Community Meeting Schedule