

**Community Update** 

February 2016

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



#### Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We opened the 2016 legislative session on Wednesday, January 20th 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,

inder Chingama



City & County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER



Did you know?

The City & County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division assists seniors, persons with disabilities and caregivers with: finding information about topics associated with aging, disabilities and caregiving, referrals to community service providers, and assistance in screening and applying for governmental benefits.

Want to learn about the programs and services available for seniors on Oahu? Check out the Elderly Affairs Division's website at <u>www.elderlyaffairs.com</u> or call 768-7700.

# 2016 Opening Day



Rep. Ichiyama visits with members from ILWU Local 142 on Opening Day.



Rep. Ichiyama was interviewed by Moanalua High School student, Camryn Tabiolo, on Opening Day.

#### SAVE THE DATE! SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUN FAIR



Saturday, April 16, 2016 Salt Lake Elementary School

More information coming soon!

### **Current Legislation**

Bills Introduced by Rep. Ichiyama:

**HB 1881:** The increase in Hawaii's elderly population and the demand for services requires a commitment to ensure that our kupuna receive excellent care. Leahi and Maluhia hospitals were forced to cut 64 staff positions due to a \$3.7 million deficit in fiscal year 2016. HB 1881 appropriates funds to restore staff and long-term care services at Leahi and Maluhia hospitals within the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

**HB 2171:** As calls for emergency response services increase, a greater burden is placed on our City's emergency medical services division to respond to calls in our community. Callers in our community often experience long response times because Moanalua, Salt Lake, Aliamanu, Red Hill and Foster Village are high density areas with a sizable distance between the two nearest hospital units. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Health to provide an additional emergency medical service unit to service our district and alleviate lengthy delays in medical help.

**HB 1882:** The rising cost of education means that families are struggling to afford college. Many families make contributions to college savings plans throughout the lives of their children to meet this burden. HB 1882 will make it easier for families to save for college by allowing an annual state tax deduction when contributions are made to an eligible Hawaii college savings program account.



**Women's Legislative Caucus** 

Rep. Ichiyama participates in the panel discussion at the 2016 Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus Breakfast.



The 2016 Tax Season is here!

Need help filing your taxes?



If you make **less than \$55,000** annually, you may be eligible for **free** tax help!

Two of the many sites that provide **free tax assistance services** to low-to-moderate income workers (by appointment only):

**ALU LIKE, INC. – Central** 2969 Mapunapuna Place, Suite 200 Tuesdays, 2:00pm-6:00pm Call (808) 724–2436 Start: 1/26 – End: 4/05

#### PACT HAWAII

1545 Linapuni Street Wednesdays & Fridays, 5:00pm-7:00pm Call (808) 724-3903 Start: 2/03 – End: 3/30

For more information regarding other tax assistance locations, eligibility, required materials and answers to FAQs, visit: http://www.hawaiitaxhelp.org/free-tax-help/

## **Community Meeting Schedule**

Moanalua Gardens Community Association 7:00pm Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Moanalua Middle School

**Moanalua Valley Community Association** 6:30pm Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at Moanalua99 (Formerly 99 Ranch Market)

Neighborhood Board # 18 (Salt Lake/Aliamanu/Foster Village) 7:00pm Thursday, March 10, 2016 at Oahu Veterans Center