

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · SUMMER 2013

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ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

I recently held a legislative town hall meeting, where I discussed funds allocated in the state budget that would directly benefit our community along the Leeward Coast. I was pleased that community members turned out and provided feedback in an open, public forum.



Since the town hall meeting, I have had the honor of attending the Ka Pa'alana Preschool graduation. I was touched to see the proud parents and family bonds forged between the young children as a result of the hard work by Danny Goya and others at Ka Pa'alana and Partners In Development.

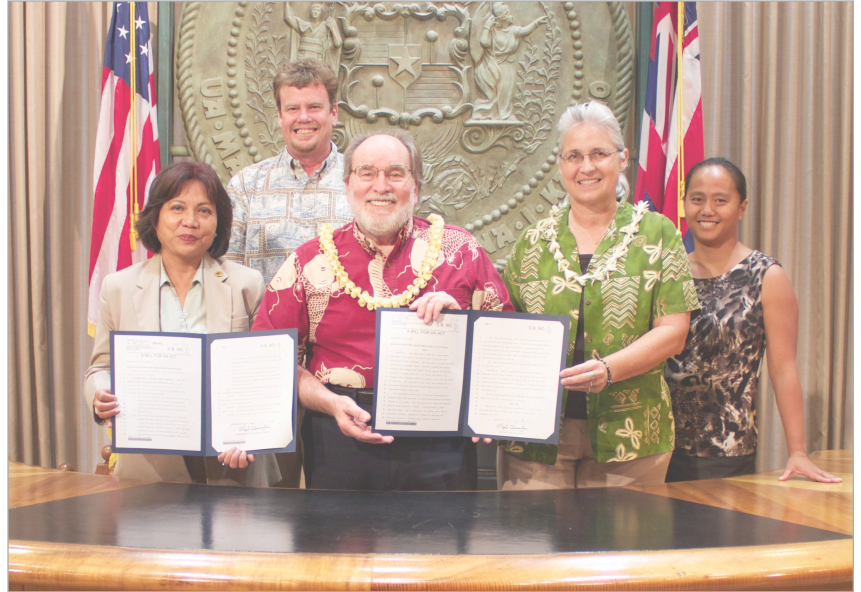
I have also had the opportunity to witness Governor Abercrombie sign a few key bills into law. Act 212 requires care home operators to have liability insurance. Act 221 establishes an assisted community treatment program. Act 222 allocates funds for housing and homelessness prevention. As the Representative for Waianae, Makaha, Makua, and Maili, I believe it is imperative that we continue to work on combating chronic homelessness and establishing community assistance for those who most need it.

During the interim, my colleagues and I on the House Finance Committee will be conducting site visits throughout the state. A report will be provided in a future newsletter.

It is my honor to continue to serve you. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

MAHALO,

JO JORDAN,
DISTRICT 44 REPRESENTATIVE



Governor Signs Bills Into Law, Vetoes Three

Governor Abercrombie signed three important bills into law on June 27 that would benefit the Waianae community and the state of Hawaii: HB529 (Act 212), SB310 (Act 221), and SB515 (Act 222).

ACT 212 includes provisions that strengthen requirements and regulations for care home operators. Under the new law, adult foster homes, assisted living facilities, and developmental disabilities homes are required to have sufficient liability insurance and automobile liability insurance in order to protect both the residents and operators of these homes and facilities in the event of accidents or other adverse events that may occur in the delivery of care. Such coverage is prudent, given the ever-increasing number of people who reside in these homes and facilities.

ACT 221 establishes an assisted community treatment program. Hawaii has identified serious problems of high incarceration and hospitalization rates of those with severe mental illness. Assisted community treatment provides an opportunity for people with severe mental illness to be treated in the least restrictive setting and reduces the trend towards criminalizing mental illness. Individuals with severe mental illness often cycle between homelessness, emergency room treatment, incarceration, and hospitalization. This situation reflects a failure to provide needed treatment to persons who may need it most and that failure is extremely costly. However, the legislature finds that the situation

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Governor (CONT'D)

can be mitigated if individuals are assisted in being treated in the community. In several states that have implemented assisted community treatment, research shows that hospitalization rates have dropped by half, the length of hospital stays has been reduced by up to 30 days per patient, arrest rates have declined by up to two-thirds, and days spent in correctional confinement facilities have been reduced by 72%. Moreover, patients in one state program, despite having violent histories, were found to be four times less likely to perpetrate serious violence after being in an assisted community treatment program.

ACT 222 appropriates funds as follows: 1) \$300,000 for substance abuse treatment and mental health support services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and \$200,000 for clean and sober housing support services; 2) \$1 million for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program, for homeless working individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing; 3) \$750,000 to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in the State; 4) \$150,000 for the homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program; and 5) \$400,000 for matching funds for the shelter plus care program to provide rental assistance in connection with support services. The Act also establishes a three-year return-to-home pilot program and a homeless assistance working group.

Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool Graduates 35 Students

I had the privilege of attending the **KA PA'ALANA PRESCHOOL** Graduation held at the Oahu Veterans Center on June 27.

Ka Pa'alana, which educates about 700 homeless children each year, is the only nationally-accredited preschool in Hawaii serving the homeless. Educating children at homeless shelters and tents on the beach, Ka Pa'alana is funded mostly through federal programs, including the Administration for Native Americans. 95% of the preschool's families are Native Hawaiian and the program strives to perpetuate Hawaiian culture. The preschool incorporates parents and caregivers, with the adults spending time with the children for several hours and then spending the rest of the day receiving skills such as vocational training and GED preparation.

Congratulations to the students, families, and staff!

In addition to signing bills, Governor Abercrombie announced his decision to veto three bills on July 9: **HB 654** (Relating to Nursing), **HB 763** (Relating to the State Building Code), and **HB988** (Relating to Native Wildlife). Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui will sign an additional seven bills into law as Acting Governor, and twelve other bills will become law without signature, bringing the total number of bills passed by the 2013 Hawaii State Legislature to 288. Governor Abercrombie lauded the Legislature, proclaiming 2013 as "the year that launched truly transformative measures that will have lasting positive impacts on the future of our state."



Representatives **ANGUS MCKELVEY**, **JO JORDAN**, and **DELLA AU BELATTI**.



(LEFT TO RIGHT): Lieutenant Governor **SHAN TSUTSUI**, Ka Pa'alana Program Director **DANNY GOYA**, and **REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN**.

KA PA'ALANA TRAVELING PRESCHOOL



Proud parents took photos of their children on the stage at the Oahu Veterans Center as they performed "What a Miracle".



Ka Pa'alana and Partners in Development set up inflatable bouncers and a shave ice booth for the families and their children.



ALEXSANTIAGO, a community member from Makaha; **REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN**, and Ka Pa'alana Program Director **DANNY GOYA**.

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETING

2013 CIP Lump Sum Appropriations

School	Project Name	Budgeted Amount
Kamaile Elem	Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI	\$39,000
Kamaile Elem	New Fire Hydrant	\$500,000
Kamaile Elem	Replace Fire Alarm & PA	\$127,000
Leihoku Elem	Electrical Upgrade	\$200,000
Makaha Elem	Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI	\$184,000
Waianae Elem	N Remove Diesel Storage	\$11,000
Waianae High	AA Reroof Dining Room & Kitchen	\$13,000
Waianae High	Electrical Upgrade	\$300,000
Waianae High	Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI	\$304,000
Waianae High	VV Replace Center Bleachers	\$67,000
Waianae Inter	Electrical Upgrade	\$300,000
Waianae Inter	Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI	\$153,000
		\$2,198,000

Elementary, and repair and maintenance for Waianae High School, Waianae Intermediate, Makaha Elementary, and Kamaile Academy.

During and after the presentation, the floor was opened up to feedback and questions regarding the budget.

For those of you who were unable to make it to the Legislative Town Hall Meeting, the meeting in its entirety will be available to stream on my Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/repjordan> by the beginning of August.

I am grateful to those of you who stopped by and made the meeting a success. I would like to encourage any and all of you to attend my town hall meetings in the future and lend your voice to the conversation or ask me any questions you have regarding the state budget. Mahalo for your continued support.

Legislative Town Hall Meeting A Success

I held a **LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETING** at the **WAIANAЕ DISTRICT PARK** on June 26.

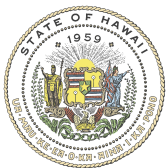
Guests signed in at the door and were invited to grab a plate of dinner before the presentation started at 7:00 P.M.

During the meeting, I presented the state budget. In addition to the over \$50 million in capital improvement projects (CIPs) for our community, \$2,198,000 in funds were appropriated from CIP lump sum appropriations as visible in slide 15 (above). Among important CIP appropriations are a new fire hydrant for Kamaile Academy, electrical upgrades for Waianae High School, Waianae Intermediate, and Leihoku



Rep. Jordan presented the state budget at the Waianae District Park.

Connect with Rep. Jordan



Official Website

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>
click on "Legislators"
click on "Jordan"



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