



# State Representative BERTRAND KOBAYASHI

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DISTRICT 19 • Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu



May 2014

### *Aloha Neighbor,*

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your State Representative in the Hawaii State Legislature for the past two years.

We completed a largely successful legislative session in May. I continue to work with our community on projects and am happy to share with you some accomplishments in the newsletter.

Being accessible and responsive to you remains my top priority. I am committed to upholding the trust that you have placed in me and am dedicated to working toward the betterment of our community.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at [repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov) or 586-6310.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi  
District 19  
Diamond Head, Kahala,  
Kaimuki, Kapahulu



Clockwise from Top Left: With Representative Richard Creagan and Michelle Kay, 2014 Milken Educator Awardee. 2014 State Teacher of the Year Matthew Lawrence from Waikiki Elementary School. With former Representative William Bains-Jordan, a member of the First Hawaii State Legislature (1959-1962) and Boy Scout Troop 10 of Kaimuki. Musician Jake Shimabukuro, 2014 Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Awardee.



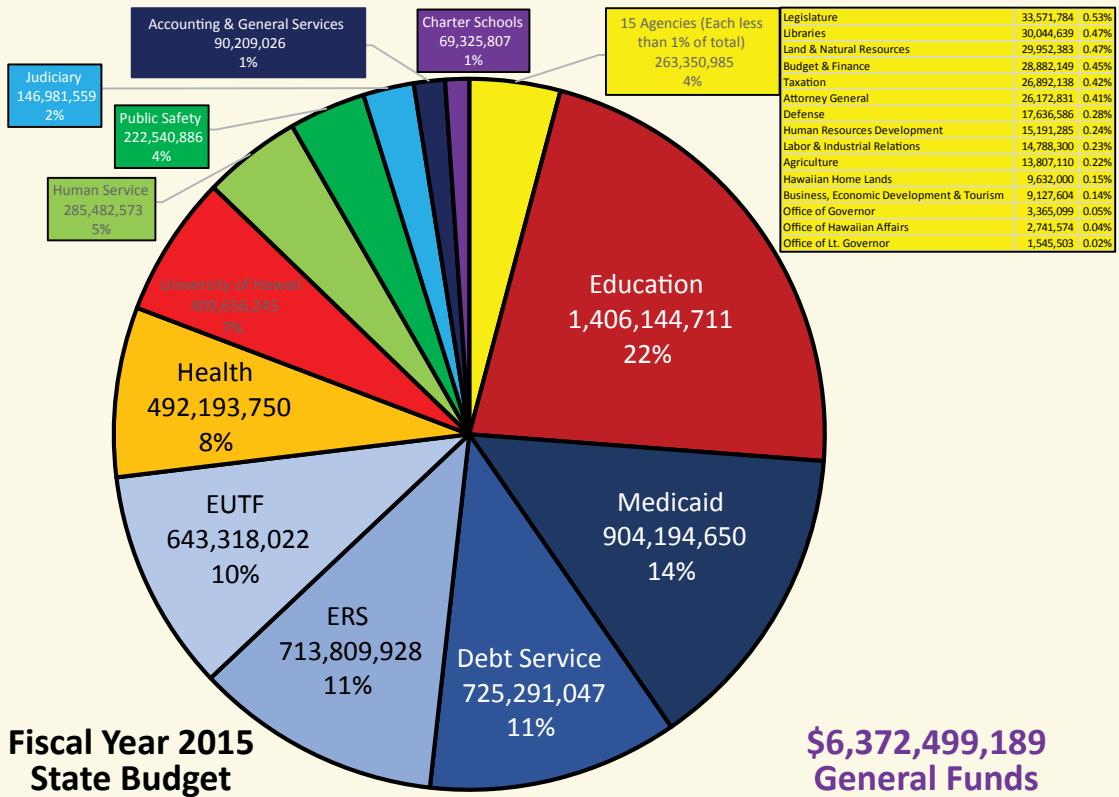
## TOWN HALL MEETING

Insiders' Views of 2014 Legislature  
A Community Meeting Hosted by Rep. Bert Kobayashi

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014**  
**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Waiialae Elementary Public Charter School Cafeteria  
1045 19th Avenue Honolulu 96816

Please join Representatives Sylvia Luke (Finance Chair), Scott Nishimoto (Finance Vice-Chair), and Della Au Belatti (Health Chair), and myself for an insider's view of the 2014 legislative session and hearing your feedback on issues that matter most to you.



## HB1700 The State Budget Bill

**Includes \$10 million for Grant-in-Aid  
over \$2 billion for Capital Improvement Projects**

For the upcoming FY2014-2015, the legislature passed a state budget that responsibly recognizes that while the economy is improving, normal levels are still a few years away. The budget, which provides \$6.189 billion in general funds and \$12.147 billion in all means financing, has been characterized as measured and prudent.

HB1700 includes \$10 million in Grant-in-Aid for nonprofit organizations which provide community services and over \$2.3 billion in G.O. bond funding for capital improvement projects (CIP), including monies for the new Kona Judiciary Building and the University of Hawaii at Hilo School of Pharmacy.

In June 2013 there was an \$844 million dollar surplus balance in the state coffers. But in March, the Council on Revenues reduced revenue projections for the current and next fiscal bienniums-amounting to \$189.5 million less in FY2013-2014 and cumulative \$491 million less for FY2013-2015. Despite flatter than expected projections, the legislature was able to provide for the most pressing needs of families, schools, seniors, the environment and the economy.

## Funding for District 19 Improvement Projects

**(Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015)**

- Kaimuki High School ..... \$250,000  
Pave parking lot on the makai side of gym
- Kalani High School ..... \$6,000,000  
Design, construct, and equip girls' locker rooms
- Kahala Elementary School ..... \$60,000  
Replace stage floor and curtains
- Kahala Elementary School ..... \$360,000  
Exterior repainting of campus buildings
- Waikiki Elementary School ..... \$150,000  
Install grass and irrigation system for Leahi Field
- Waikiki Elementary School ..... \$600,000  
Design and construct a Mindful Learning Center
- U.H. Kapiolani Community College ..... \$500,000  
Kopiko classrooms and courtyard, Phase II
- Diamond Head Seawall ..... \$1,500,000  
Assess, repair, and maintain the seawall
- Kapahulu Center ..... \$100,000  
Funds for programs and operations
- Hawaii Film Studio ..... \$3,460,000  
Various improvements to the Hawaii Film Studio

# Winners and losers of the 2014 legislative session

## Winners include:

1. **Senior citizens/Kupuna Care** — \$7 million for senior citizens, of which \$4.2 million for “Kupuna Care” for all Seniors to remain living at home and avoid going to nursing homes.
2. **Turtle Bay** — \$40 million to buy permanent conservation easement to prohibit development
3. **Counties** — Additional \$10 million/yr. from the hotel room tax to 4 counties to pay for tourist-related expenses such as police, parks, lifeguards, etc.
4. **Solar users** — \$50 million to provide low-cost loans to install green energy (including solar) devices
5. **Invasive species projects** — \$7 million for various projects to reduce invasive species statewide
6. **DOE charter schools** — \$3 million, including \$2 million in federal funds, for various purposes
7. **Minimum wage workers** — Wage increases to \$10.10 over 4 years, with small tip credit
8. **Foster children guardians** — \$7 million increase to foster children guardians
9. **Rental housing** — \$11 million more for low income rental housing.
10. **Big Island construction** — \$28 million for UH Hilo pharmacy building, \$33 million for Kona courthouse
11. **UH West Oahu** — \$19 million for construction and \$3 million for more staffers

## Losers include:

1. **Kakaako Makai** — ‘No’ to Office of Hawaiian Affairs residential towers makai of Ala Moana Blvd
2. **Health Connector** — \$1.5 million for FY 2015, not \$4.7 million as earlier requested
3. **Autism** — Approval for actuarial study, not health insurance coverage
4. Exempt old residences from State historic preservation approval
5. **American Red Cross** — ‘No’ to income tax contributions check-off
6. **E-cigarette opponents** — ‘No’ to regulation of indoor smoking of electronic cigarettes







**Representative Bertrand Kobayashi**

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State of Hawaii  
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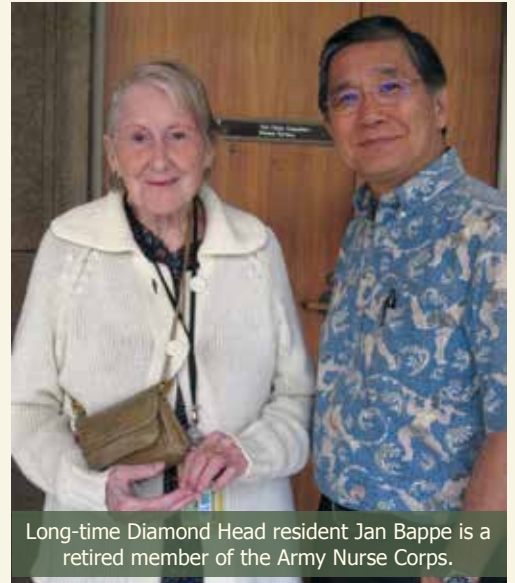
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Long-time Diamond Head resident Jan Bappe is a retired member of the Army Nurse Corps.



Hawaii Geographic Bee Champion Mika Ishii.

**Kaimuki Middle School Sixth Grader Wins Hawaii Geographic Bee Championship**

Mika Ishii wins for the Second Time

Kaimuki Middle School sixth-grader Mika Ishii beat 48 other public and private fourth-through-eighth graders at the Hawaii Geographic Bee at the Neal Blaisdell Center on April 4, 2014.

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms to spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography.

Mika Ishii is no stranger to the geography competition as she won two years ago as a fourth-grader at Wilson Elementary School and lasted about halfway through the national competition.

Ishii is self-motivated and a good all-around student that loves reading books, maps, and atlases and often asks friends and family to quiz her. She will represent Hawaii again in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. on May 19-21, 2014.