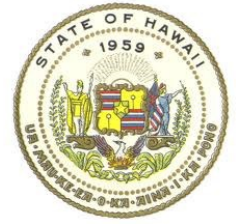




REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI

DISTRICT 19 DIAMOND HEAD,
KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU



Aloha Everyone,

It's Fall and our students are back in school or college. Mahalo to everyone who is working hard to ensure it's a great year for our students and teachers.

The 2014 legislative session is just around the corner and during the interim I have been spending more time in the community preparing for the next session and working hard on issues important to you. I have been working with my fellow legislators on fiscal, economic development, health, and other important issues.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of serving as your State Representative. Please feel free to call me at 586-6310 or email me at repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can be of assistance to you.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bertrand Kobayashi".

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
District 19
Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu



Kindergarten Entry Age to Change in August 2014



Starting August 2014, a child must be five years old on or before July 31 of the school year to enter kindergarten. This change aligns Hawaii with the vast majority of states. The change is also part of

the plan to establish a cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable preschool system for all four-year-olds. We are one of only ten states that have not moved in this direction.

The newly established Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) has partnered with other state agencies, as well as a number of community organizations across the state, to develop resources to increase awareness about the change and help affected families understand other options that may be available to them.

10th Annual Go Green Community Clean-Up a Success

The 10th Annual Community Clean-Up on Saturday, October 19th was a rousing success that kept tons of waste out of our landfills. Well over 50 volunteers from Kaimuki High School and the community collected scrap metal, appliances, computers, TVs, batteries of all kinds, light bulbs, clothing, household goods and other recyclables and turned these items into cash that will support the Hawaii Food Bank, Moiliili Community Center, Kapahulu Center and Kaimuki High School. A

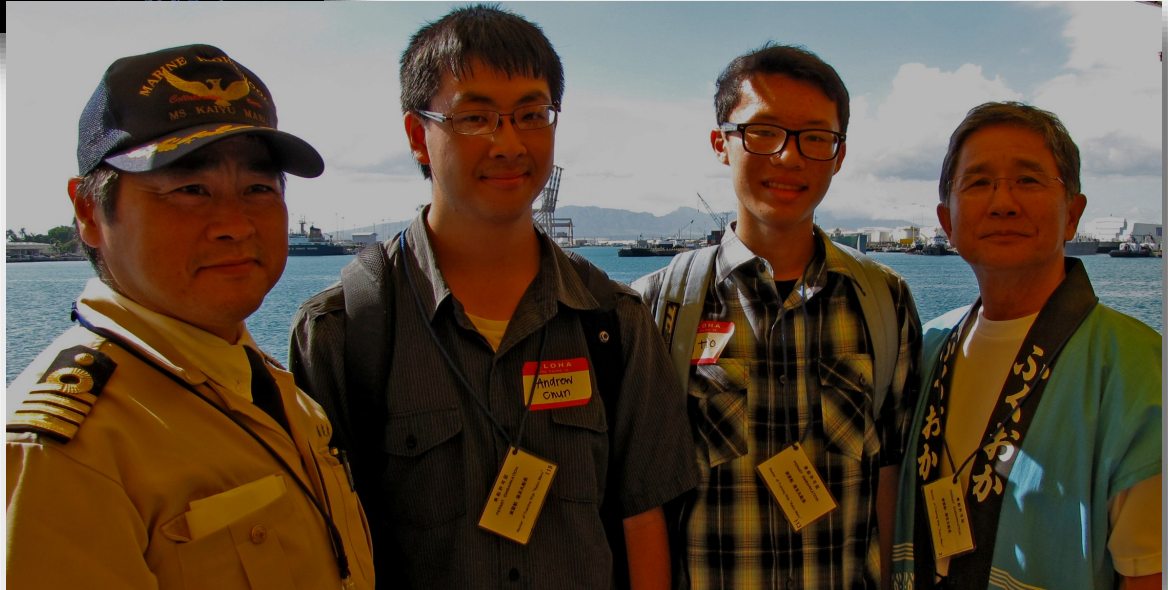
special Mahalo goes out to Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Governor Neil Abercrombie, Senator Brian Taniguchi, House members Bert Kobayashi, Scott Nishimoto, Mark Hashem, Scott Saiki, Isaac Choy, and Calvin Say, Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi and Stanley Chang and many concerned local businesses for their support and sponsorship of this important annual recycling drive.



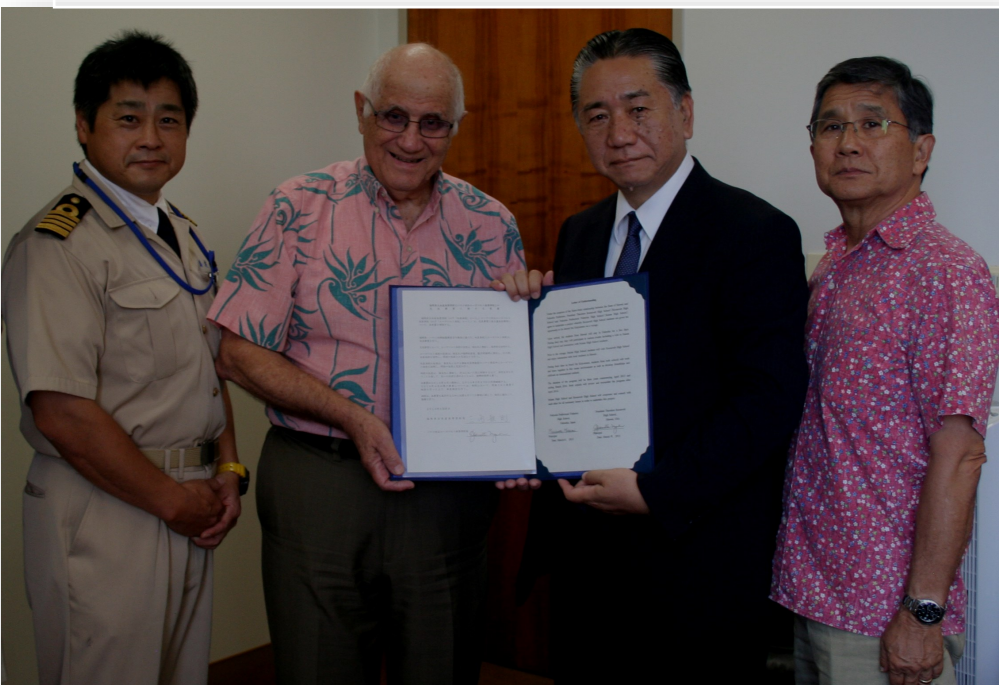
Representatives Kobayashi, Nishimoto, and Say with the volunteers

Student Exchange Between Fukuoka Prefecture and Roosevelt High School

Hawaii's Roosevelt High School and the Fukuoka Prefectural Fisheries High School of Japan signed a three-year exchange agreement for Roosevelt students to study aboard the Kaiyu Maru Fishing Vessel



Captain Hirokazu Totoki, Roosevelt exchange students Andrew Chun and Ky Ho, with Representative Bertrand Kobayashi



Captain Hirokazu Totoki and Principal Masanori Misumi of Fukuoka Marine Studies High School pictured with Speaker Souki and Representative Kobayashi



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

SECOND 2013 LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION REPORT

SB1, HD1 – Relating to Equal Rights – This measure recognizes marriages between individuals of the same gender, thus ensuring that same-sex married couples receive the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under state and federal law as opposite-sex married couples, while protecting religious freedom.

The House draft amends the Senate version of SB1:

REFUSAL TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE

- * No requirement if in violation of “religious beliefs or faith”
- * Including immunity from administrative, civil and legal liability for failure or refusal to solemnize

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND RELATED NONPROFITS

- * Applies to “religious organizations” and “nonprofit organizations operated, supervised or controlled by a religious organization”
- * No requirement to provide “goods, services, or its facilities or grounds for the solemnization or celebration of a marriage that is in violation of its religious beliefs or faith”
- * Exemption applies to religious organizations and the nonprofit organizations specified above even if the activity is “for profit”
- * Immunity from administrative, civil and legal liability for failure or refusal

The hearing drew immense public input—with 5,184 registered testifiers and nearly 24,400 written testimony submitted. As far as House members could recall, the public hearing on SB1 was the longest hearing (55 hours of testimony over 5 days) on a single bill in the modern history of the House of Representatives.

The final House vote for the bill was 30 in favor (including myself), 19 against, and 2 excused. The final Senate vote was 19 yes, 4 no, and 2 excused.

The churches in District 19 were split on this issue. Those supporting SB1, HD1 included Unity Church and Waikeola Church across from Kahala Mall with two Episcopal Churches just outside of the district on 10th Avenue and Kapahulu Avenue. Those churches opposed included New Hope Diamond Head and Kapahulu Bible with Kaimuki Christian Church just outside of the district on Koko Head Avenue. There are no Buddhist, Jewish, or Shinto churches in the district but many of their members and leaders are in support.

The District 19 emails, calls, postcards, and letters were about two to one in support of same-sex marriage. About 90-95% of these communications from both sides had various identically worded messages. Most communication did not have information to identify residence or House district. Of course, democracy should not be based on who has the largest address book or email list or the best e-technology skills.

A chief point of contention was whether to provide religious protection to individuals similar to that given to religious organizations and their nonprofit agencies. No state with same-sex marriage has such protection to individuals, which says something about the legal issues involved.