



# Joy A. San Buenaventura State House of Representative District 4, Puna

2015 Legislative Session E-Newsletter:

June 2015

Issue: IV

### PUNA PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Initial conference to begin discussion of 5 possible sites for Puna Regional Library. Kudos to Senator Rudderman for getting the Puna library funded at the 2014 session. Money for its design has just been released; and 5 possible



sites need to be chosen and vetted for community input.

**ROTARY CLUB OF PAHOA SUNSET:** Rep. Joy San Buenaventura presented 3 House Certificates at the Rotary's awards banquet on June 2nd.



To Catherine Ford for her tireless one-on-one service to the Pahoia homeless. She made sure they were medicated and fed. She even drove them to acquire their social security checks, food and medication.

### SAKADA DAY

On May 22, 2015 Governor Ige signed [House Bill 604](#) which recognizes Sakada Day. Hereafter, December 20 will be recognized as Sakada Day. Left: Gov Ige pictured with Consul Gina Jamoralin (in the yellow dress with orchid lei), the Sakadas, and Sakada descendants. Right: Rep San Buenaventura spoke of her grandfather's hardship as a Sakada laboring in the Maui sugar fields.

To Maui [Chef Lyndon Honda](#) for getting chefs and others to volunteer and donate so that 100% of monies raised in two fundraisers went to Puna Farmers and those affected by Hurricane Iselle and the lava flow threat.



To [Kalani Honua](#) for feeding those in lower Puna who had no refrigeration due to Iselle. Per a recent study, tourists who list Kalani as their prime destination spent \$28 million per year on the island.



### UPDATE

- HPIA insurance moratorium lifted as of June 2, 2015;
- USDA Emergency Conservation Program payments should be in July 2015 for Puna farmers that were hit by Hurricane Iselle; and
- FEMA reimbursements to county and other applicants should have begun in May 2015.
- Pahoia roundabout construction should begin before the end of 2015.
- Shower Drive intersection traffic light construction begins 2016.
- Highway 130 4-lane expansion project design begins 2016, construction 2018.



Rene Siracusa was honored at our first town hall meeting for her many years of Puna volunteer work, with her latest being the Puna Community Medical Clinic.



## Denver, Colorado

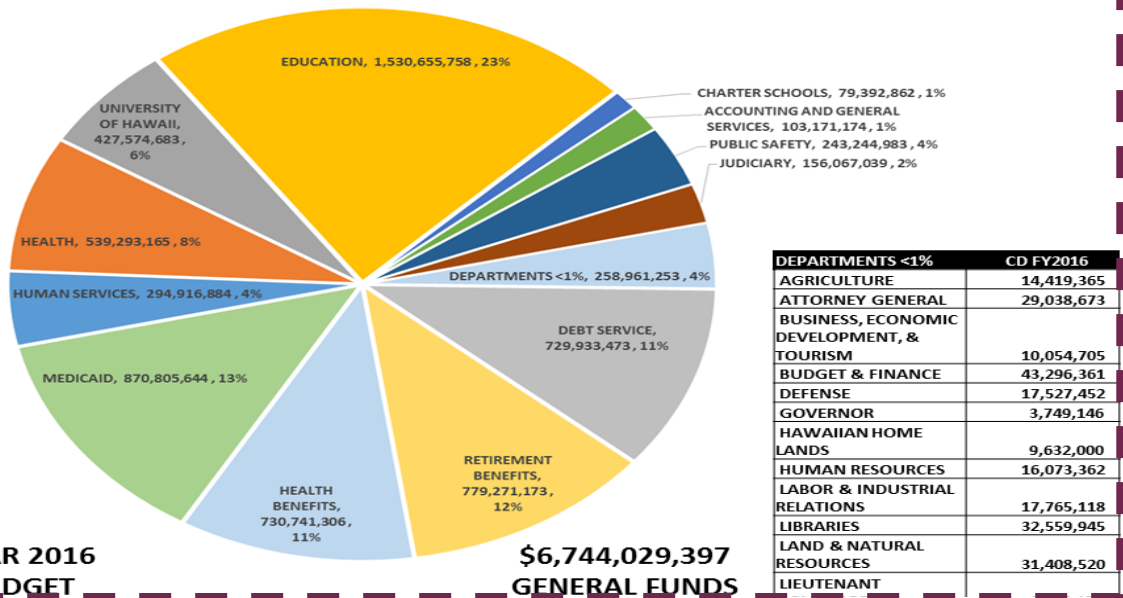


Rep San Buenaventura received a scholarship to attend a Women In Government Conference in Denver Colorado on May 14-16, 2015 .

Left: Senator Lorraine Inouye, Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy Rice, Rep Joy San Buenaventura.

A tour of the Mindful Cannabis Manufacturing Facility:

These marijuana plants show seed-to-sale tracking. Yellow tags for medicinal plants and blue tags for recreational plants.



DEPARTMENTS <1%	CD FY2016
AGRICULTURE	14,419,365
ATTORNEY GENERAL	29,038,673
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM	10,054,705
BUDGET & FINANCE	43,296,361
DEFENSE	17,527,452
GOVERNOR	3,749,146
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	9,632,000
HUMAN RESOURCES	16,073,362
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	17,765,118
LIBRARIES	32,559,945
LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	31,408,520
LIEUTENANT	

**HB500 CD1** state budget bill appropriates funds for operating and capital improvement. The chart on the left shows a visual account of how the funds in this bill are being appropriated for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Governor Ige has 45 days after May 7, 2015 (the end of session) to consider which bills become law. In computing the 45 days weekend and holidays are not included. The 45th day is Tuesday, July 14, 2015. For any bills that Governor Ige intends to veto, notification must be made by Monday, June 29, 2015.

**Rural Business Development Grant Available:** State Director Chris J. Kanazawa announced on Friday, June 5, 2015, that \$30 million in grants will be available to farmers, ranchers and food entrepreneurs to develop new product lines. Funding will be made available through USDA’s Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program.

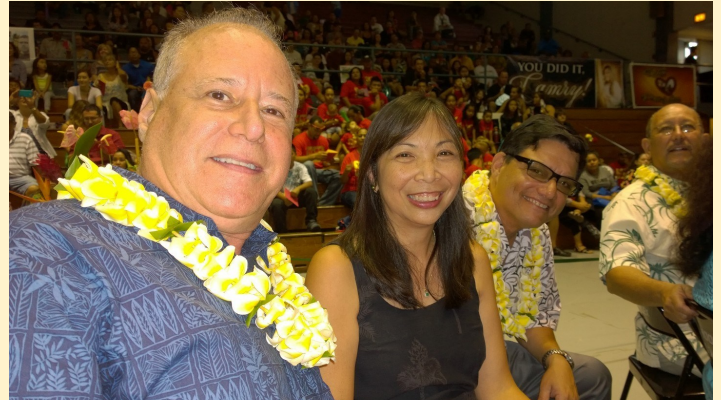
“The Value Added Producers Grant (VAPG) program not only enables farmers and ranchers with opportunities to increase their income from their farming activities, it also increases jobs and expands the food choices for Hawaii’s families” said Chris Kanazawa, State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Hawaii’s agriculture community has demonstrated a long history of innovation and the VAPG program provides an excellent resource to perpetuate this tradition.”

Applications will be accepted through July 8, 2015. More information on how to apply can be found on page 26528 of the May 8, Federal Register. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-08/pdf/2015-10440.pdf> or contacting VAP Business Program Specialist Lori Nekoba at 933-8312 or via email at [lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov](mailto:lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov).

## PAHOA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

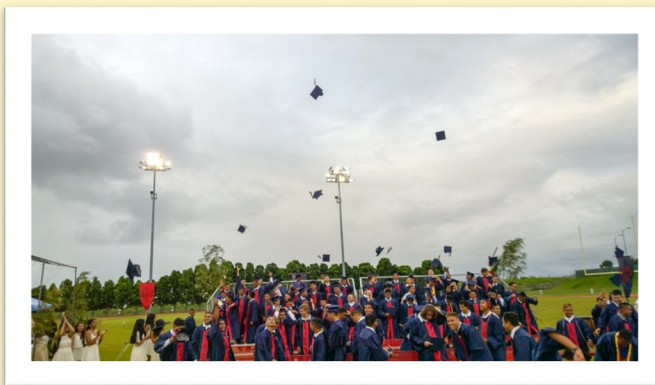


Family and friends, some waving cell phone lights, cheer their graduates. Several, including the class valedictorian, returned from Kea'au High to graduate with their Pahoia High class.



Senator Russell Rudderman, Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Councilman Daniel Paleka, and Kea'au Principal Dean Cevallos at Pahoia High School graduation at the civic auditorium.

## KEA'AU HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



At Kea'au High School graduation, where 40 of the 270 graduating students were reassigned from Pahoia High School.



Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chad Keone Farias, KKP Complex Superintendent and Senator Russell Rudderman.



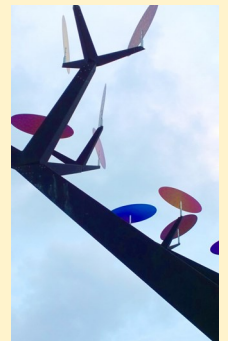
["Puna Peace Mural"](#) by artist and Puna resident [Ken Charon](#) debuted on May 29, 2015. Teachers

and 15 students from both Kea'au and Pahoia assisted Mr. Charon. The 6x12 foot mural was inspired by the reassignment of the Pahoia students to Kea'au High School due to the lava flow.



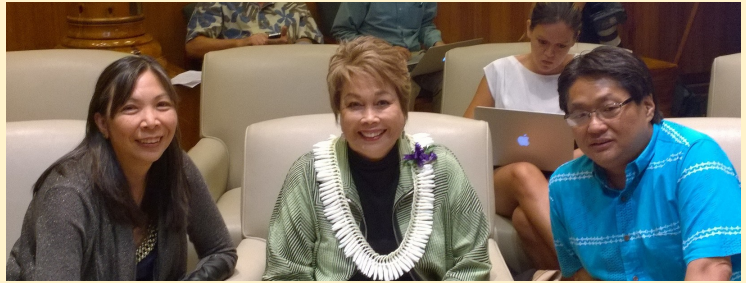
Another interesting piece of art at Kea'au High School is the "Possibili-tree" sculpture designed by an artist in residence. The roots of the tree is made of concrete for the students to sit on.

The trunk of the tree is made of aluminum, while the branches are made out of copper, and the leaves are made with fired titanium which give the leaves their color. The leaves are mobiles that move with the breeze.



**[HB623 HD2 SD2 CD1](#) - [Renewable Portfolio Standards; Clean Energy Initiative](#) Requires utilities to have 30% renewable energy sources by December 31, 2020, 70% by December 31, 2040, and 100% by December 31, 2045.**

PUC is to study and report the impact of these standards on the energy prices offered by renewable energy developers and the cost of fossil fuel volatility.



**MAUNA KEA:** In the Governor's Executive Office for Governor Ige's press conference where he announced major changes to stewardship of Mauna Kea. Pictured: Rep San Buenaventura, Senator Inouye and Rep. Nakashima.

**IMPORTANT: REFUNDABLE FOOD/GE TAX CREDIT:** For 2015 tax returns due April 2016, there is an increase in the Refundable Food/GE Tax Credit. To get your refund you must file your 2015 Hawaii State tax returns. Because this is a refundable tax credit, you do not need to owe taxes to get a refund but you must file.

**ALBIZIA TREE WORKSHOP:** With hurricane season upon us and the National Weather Service expecting a more severe hurricane season than usual. [Big Island Invasive Species](#) Committee is hosting a series of workshops on how to lessen the albizia menace. Click on the link for more information.

#### **SISTER CITY IN JAPAN DONATES:**

Residents of Yurihama, a farming community with a population of 20,000 collected \$17,586.55 to help the residents of lower Puna who were threatened by the recent lava flow.

Yurihama and Hawaii County have had a sister city relationship since 1996. It's one of six Japanese sister cities in a county program that also includes sister cities in Korea, China, the Philippines and Germany.

If you wish to stay up on all of the legislation, events, and news happening in the Hawaii State House of Representatives then check out the Hawaii House Blog! It has news and updates along with photos from the House!

Check it out at: <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/>

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter!

This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: [b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov)



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Visit Joy's capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2015>

**Vice Chair:** Judiciary

**Committee Member:** Consumer Protection & Commerce; Public Safety; Labor & Public Employment; Transportation

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**Neighbor Island Access** dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.

