**Representative Kyle Yamashita** 415 S. Beretania Street Room 422 Honolulu, HI 96813 Presorted Standard U.S. Postage Paid Honolulu, Hawaii Permit No. 9882



# Town & Upcountry Update 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FROM REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Makawao · Kula · Pukalani · Keokea · Ulupalakua · Spreckelsvílle · Kahuluí

Aloha Neighbors!

The 2013 legislative session has recently come to an end. Recognizing that our economy is still recovering, my colleagues and I have worked hard collaboratively to pass legislation that addresses current needs and plans for the future. The legislature was able to agree on a State budget that restored many critical positions to State departments, addressed the State's unfunded liabilities, and added funds to our emergency reserves.

During the interim, I look forward to spending more time in the community, preparing for next session, and working on issues important to you. I will also be working with legislators from different states on fiscal and economic development issues.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of serving as your State Representative for another two years. If I may be of any assistance to you, please contact me or my staff toll free at 984-2400 ext. 66330 or email me at

<u>repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov</u>

Mahalo,

T. Janeshike

## **STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The legislature unanimously passed a State budget that responds to the pressing needs of Hawaii's people while carefully scrutinizing expenses, ensures that the most significant priorities are met, and lends structural stability to the State's financial plan. A total of \$2.24 billion has been allotted for fiscal year (FY) 2014 and \$843 million allotted for FY 2015 in all means of financing. The pie chart at the bottom of this page shows the distribution of those funds between state departments, and the following are some other notable highlights for the fiscal biennium:

- \$217 million to begin payments on the State's unfunded liabilities;
- \$160 million added to the Hurricane Relief Fund;
- \$50 million added to the Rainy Day Fund;
- \$15 million to offset losses state departments suffer due to federal fund sequestration;
- \$161 million for highway repair and road maintenance;
- \$400 million to the Department of Education for repairs and upgrades;



#### Continued on page 2

### 2013 Legislative Session Highlights



Pukalani Elementary School students visit the Hawaii State Capitol.



#### STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, continued from page 1

- \$1.5 million for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to support invasive species control;
- \$600,000 for the Mortgage Foreclosure Dispute Resolution Program;
- \$642,000 for the Disability Compensation Division to reduce the backlog in and waiting period for Worker's Compensation;
- \$2.8 million for Aging and Disability Resource Centers;
- \$800,000 for the Hale Makemae program at Kula Hospital;
- \$400,000 to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for their Health Advocacy Initiative and Native Hawaiian Health Consortium;
- \$875,000 and 5 counselor positions for the Office of Veterans Services; and
- \$1.7 million for additional security at courthouses on Oahu, Hawaii Island, and Maui.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**SB1084**, Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education Programs, proposes an amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution which would allow public funds to be used for private early childhood education programs. As a registered voter, you will be able to vote on this issue in the next election.

**SB1093**, School Readiness, helps to prepare young children for elementary school by providing them with access to school services that address their physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development.

#### **INVESTING IN SUSTAINABILITY**

**SB993,** Agricultural Loans, expands the Department of Agriculture's agricultural loan program by widening the range of new farmers eligible for new farmer loans and adding a farm innovation loan for farmers who perform practical research in crop development, production techniques, new technologies, and production of new crops.

**SB593,** Livestock Feed Subsidy, provides support for the livestock industry by expanding the livestock feed subsidy to allow qualifying producers of beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs, poultry, goats, sheep, fish, and crustaceans to apply for and receive reimbursement for a percentage of feed expenses, and by decreasing the minimum flock and herd requirements for qualifying producers.

**SB1087,** Green Infrastructure Loan Program, makes green infrastructure installations accessible and affordable for Hawaii's consumers, helps achieve measurable costs savings, and helps achieve Hawaii's clean energy goals. Some other accomplishments of the bill include: establishing the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Loan Program and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority, bond fund, special fund and authorizing the creation of green infrastructure property.



At King Kekaulike High School graduation.



Congratulations King Kekaulike High School Class of 2013!

#### **2013 Legislative Highlights**

#### **ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

**HB635**, Broadband Permits, prepares Hawaii for an upgrade of its broadband infrastructure to assist the broadband industry by establishing a priority process for new project permit applications submitted to the State and County to facilitate and streamline the broadband permit issuance. It also assures that certain safety precautions are met when broadband infrastructure is installed or repaired on existing utility poles by requiring applicants to verify that the overall weight load of utility poles do not exceed maximum capacities established by the Federal Communications Commission and the Public Utilities Commission.

**HB858**, Hawaii Growth Initiative, supports Hawaii's business economy by providing \$6 million in funding to the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation for an investment program designed to develop, stimulate, and support the ecosystem of high-growth entrepreneurial businesses in Hawaii.

#### Maui Legislators Host Fundraiser for Maui Food Bank

On April 8, 2013, Maui legislators teamed up to host a fundraiser, the "Bizarre Bazaar," to benefit the Maui Food Bank. The

event featured food items, fresh produce, plants, protea, door prizes, and a silent auction. This year we were able to raise over \$2,400. Representative Yamashita's

MAUI FOOD BANK Helping the Hungry

office has been coordinating the annual fundraiser since 2006.



Representative Yamashita with items collected for our second annual Pet Project.



Speaking at the 63rd Annual Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner.

Funds Released for Community Projects					
	\$350,000	Apron pavement structural Improvements			
Kahului Airport	\$8,010,000	Runway rehabilitation			
	\$50,000,000	Multi-lane access road from Hana Hwy to the Airport Loop Road			
	\$3,000,000	Restroom renovations			
	\$4,750,000	Repaving a portion of Runway 2-20			
	\$1,250,000	Planning funds to prepare technical studies and an EIS related to proposed Runway 2-20 improvements			
Kahului Harbor	\$600,000	Design to relocate the Harbors Maui District Office and demolish the existing office			
Kekaulike Avenue	\$1,019,000	Drainage improvements			
Kula Hospital	\$580,000	Replace nurse call system			
Maui County Boy Scouts of America	\$1,500,000	Repairs and improvements			
Maui Veterans Cemetery	\$5,050,000	Pre-design, design and construction for expansion and improve- ments			
Waiohuli Hawaiian Homestead	\$660,000	Grant-in-aid funds to complete Phase I of the Waiohuli Commu- nity Center			
Maui and Kauai Dams	\$6,500,000	Dam and reservoir maintenance and remediation improvements			

#### Page 3

District 12 Capital Improvement Projects				
	\$1,000,000	Cesspool closures and installation of new systems		
Kula Hospital	\$300,000	Asbestos and lead removal		
	\$3,500,000	Repairs		
Kalama Intermediate	\$10,000	Hurricane retrofitting		
	\$65,000	Retaining wall		
	\$14,000,000	Construction for a new auditorium		
King Kekaulike High School	\$10,000	Hurricane retrofitting		
	\$491,000	Repaving		
Kula Elementary	\$165,000	Replace sewer lines		
	\$400,000	Structural improvements for various buildings		
Makawao Elementary	\$130,000	Replace flooring		
Pukalani Elementary	\$210,000	Reroof		
Upcountry Maui Watershed Project	\$6,000,000	Design & construction for installation of new pipeline		
Upcountry Maui Agricultural Park	\$5,000,000	Land acquisition, design & construction for the development of a State agricultural park		
	\$50,000,000	Land acquisition		
Kahului Airport	\$10,000,000	Construction for a new access road		
Kihei-Upcountry Highway	\$3,600,000	Land acquisition for a new two-lane highway		
	\$550,000	Widening at mile post 0.8		
Haleakala Highway	\$150,000	Intersection improvements at Kula Highway		
	\$3,250,000	Intersection improvements at Makawao Avenue		

Countywide Capital Improvement Projects				
Easter Seals Hawaii	\$950,000	Grant-in-aid funds for construction for the Maui campus		
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.	\$500,000	Grant-in-aid funds for various facilities at the MEO Inc. transportation center site		
Central Maui Region Sports Complex	\$4,700,000	Design and construction		
Kahului Harbor	\$6,000,000	Improvements for safety and efficiency		
Hana Highway	\$19,000	Land acquisition for widening from Kaahumanu Avenue to Haleakala Highway		
	\$1,800,000	Exterior remedial improvements		
Hoapili Hale Building	\$600,000	Exhaust monitoring and ventilation systems upgrades		
Maui Memorial Medical Center	\$6,000,000 \$2,000,000	Laboratory, pharmacy, oncology and imaging expansion Air conditioning upgrades		

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 422 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 586-6330 Neighbor Island: 984-2400 x66330 Fax: (808) 586-6331 Email: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov



Artist rendering of the King Kekaulike High School Auditorium.