

MAJOR UPGRADES TO AREA SCHOOLS NEAR COMPLETION

As a Roosevelt High graduate, I have always viewed public school improvements as my top priority. I've pushed for upgrades of older Honolulu schools since the late 1990s, when DOE's backlog of repair and maintenance projects was over \$800 million dollars.

On a positive note, renovations to Roosevelt's football field have begun. By May 15, Roosevelt will be the first public school in Hawaii with an artificial turf field and new all-weather track. Roosevelt's Carter Auditorium is also nearing completion as a state-of-the-art performing arts facility. Stevenson Middle School is exploring ideas to update the campus by reconfiguring existing space and adding a new multipurpose building and parking.

During the 2007 legislative session, we funded several school projects:

Queen Kaahumanu Elementary School \$280,000
Paving and fencing around expanded teacher parking area

Lincoln Elementary School \$940,000
Repair of rock wall and drainage improvements

Stevenson Middle School \$550,000
Master Plan development and design for campus facilities (see www.stevensonmiddleschool.com for more information)

We also funded the following legislative Grants-in-Aid for a variety of organizations whose efforts improve our community:

Papakolea Community Development Association \$248,925
Operation of Papakolea Community Park and Full-Service Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii \$288,000
Planning and design for renovation of social services center in Makiki

Partial funding to renovate nearby Makiki facility \$134,000

Central Union Church \$125,000
Partial funding for construction of preschool/church improvements

Shriners' Hospitals for Children \$250,000
Planning and design of expanded hospital facilities

EMERGENCY FLOODING UPDATE

Round Top and Maunalaha flooding repairs: Repairs to damaged sections of Round Top Drive have now been completed by the City Department of Design and Construction.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will work on its final phase of repairs to Maunalaha hillside (more permanent slope restoration, re-vegetation/landscaping of the slope). DLNR is also restoring Maunalaha Stream bed, three bridge crossings, and the banks of the stream. The project will cost approximately \$686,000 and is expected to take 150 calendar days to complete.

Senator Carol Fukunaga
State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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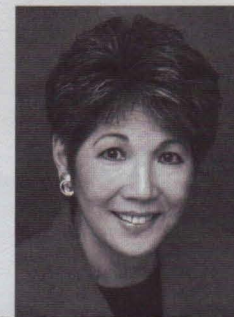
JANUARY 2008

Neighbor To Neighbor

DISTRICT 11 • Makiki, Tantalus, Ala Moana, McCully

Dear Neighbors,

The 2008 Legislative session begins soon, and I look forward to working on projects that benefit our community. Please visit us between noon-2pm for Opening Day festivities on Wednesday, January 16, or later during the session.



Our 2008 agenda will tackle affordable housing, rising health care costs, stabilizing Hawaii's economy, and protecting our environment. On the community level, building a sustainable community is important to our district. For example, Tantalus residents have a long history of volunteerism to maintain the Tantalus watershed/rainforest. And the environmentally-sensitive architecture designed by Hawaii's Vladimir Ossipoff (featured in an Academy of Arts exhibit till late January) reminds us that energy-efficient design is one of the best ways to achieve sustainable neighborhoods. If you'd like to take our online 2008 Session Survey, please go to www.carolfukunaga.com.

Inside are brief highlights of the 2007 session and preparations for 2008. On the back page there is more on innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs in district schools and on the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at UH.

Please contact my office for further assistance: Jeffery Nakayama, Economic Development and Taxation Committee Clerk, at 586-6673, or my Administrative Assistant, Debbie Ikehara, at 586-6788. If you email me at senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov, we can also send you our e-news.

Mahalo!

Carol Fukunaga
State Senator, District 11

2007 Session Recap

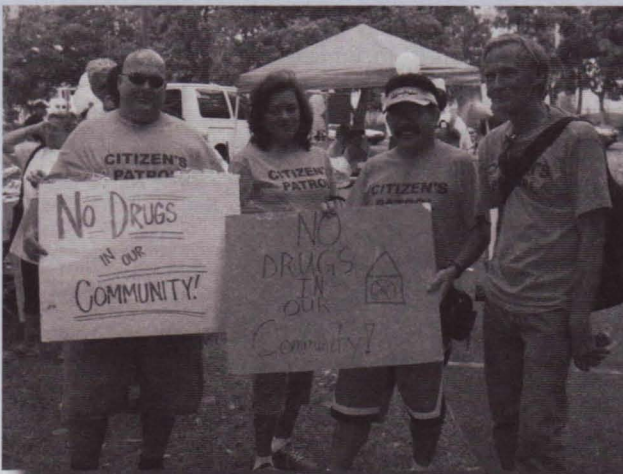
2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2007, the State Senate focused on issues of importance to our community: we adopted measures designed to help families, to protect our environment, increase access to quality health care, and tackle the state's affordable and homeless housing crisis. For a comprehensive listing, please check the "2007 Legislative Highlights" at www.carolfukunaga.com.

Keeping Health Care Affordable

Health Insurance Rate Regulation – Act 175 (SB 12) reinstates provisions to insure fair and equitable health insurance rates for Hawaii residents. The law prohibits insurance rates that are excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory; and requires health insurers to obtain the approval of the Insurance Commissioner for rate filings.

Caregiver Support – Many Hawaii families shoulder the responsibility of helping care for our elders. Act 204 (SB 1916) strengthens support of family caregivers by extending the joint legislative committee on family caregiving, requiring a comprehensive assessment of care recipients' needs and the needs of their family caregivers, and providing funds to expand the services of the kupuna care program.



Mahalo to the Sheridan Citizen Patrol, our community graffiti-busters: L to R, the late Richard Loye, Weed & Seed volunteer Rori Keomaka, patrol leader Dexter Sensui, and Larry Hurst.

Keiki Care – Hawaii now assures that every child is covered by health insurance. Act 236 (HB 1008) establishes two 3-year pilot programs between State/private health providers to provide quality health care services to all uninsured children between birth-19 years old.

Native Hawaiian Health/Science Project – As a corollary to this year's legislation, Queen's Medical Center received a \$747,644 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to develop an educational program aimed at increasing interest in science and health care among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students. The grant will be undertaken with partners Papakolea Community Development Center (PCDC) and Stevenson Middle School (beginning with the 2007-08 school year).

Affordable Housing

Relief for Condo Lessees – Act 166 (SB 600) provides an incentive for property owners to sell the underlying fee of a condo property to individual condo lessees. It will help older residents retain their homes in leasehold condos whose lease terms are soon expiring by exempting from taxation 100% of the gain realized by the underlying fee owner from the sale of a leased fee interest in units within a condo project, co-op project, or planned unit development to the association of apartment owners or the residential cooperative corporation of the leasehold units between 2008-2012.

Condo "Court" Clarification – Act 242 (SB 1654) clarifies the requirements for condominium management dispute resolution for



The Roosevelt High School field is being renovated with an artificial turf surface and new all-weather track.

condominiums created before July 1, 2006.

Affordable Housing/Homeless – A comprehensive approach was adopted in the Omnibus Housing bill (Act 242), which appropriated \$14 million to plan/design and construct affordable housing with non-profit/private developers, and \$6 million to Hawaii Public Housing Authority for various homeless and housing programs/services.

Creating Safer Neighborhoods

Pedestrian Safety – Elderly pedestrians (especially in Ala Moana, McCully-Moili'ili) account for the highest number of pedestrian fatalities in Hawaii compared to all other age groups. Act 125 (HB 375) seeks to improve pedestrian safety with increased fines and clarification of a driver's duty to stop in the presence of pedestrians. Act 10, SpSess 207 (SB 1191) appropriated \$3 million for Department of Transportation to work with nonprofit organizations and the counties to make immediate improvements to high-risk crosswalks and roadways.

Graffiti Penalties – Act 196 (SB 228) establishes additional penalties for graffiti by requiring a minor (or the minor's parents or legal guardians) to remove the graffiti from property he or she defaced, pay for the costs of removal and supplies, and to perform a minimum of 80 hours of community service in graffiti removal.

Sustainability Issues Top 2008 Agenda

Transit impacts on urban Honolulu's landscape

Major changes involving commercial and "transit-oriented development (TOD)" could soon be on the horizon for such neighborhoods as McCully-Moili'ili, Ala Moana, Sheridan-Kaheka and Kaka'ako mauka. The City's transit plans and preliminary TOD legislation will come before the City Council in 2008, as state legislators explore community-building opportunities with McKinley complex schools and health/elder care service providers.

City and state legislators funded a two-year community needs assessment to help older Honolulu communities rebuild as city transit plans take shape. Resident/business planning teams identified community needs and demographics of each area during the summer. A recent survey asked for more input on community values, auto travel and parking needs, historic preservation and the need for community services and facilities.

Among the initial results: Ala Moana, Sheridan-Kaheka and McCully-Moili'ili have a much larger number of elderly (compared to Honolulu in general), with corresponding needs for "aging in place" services and facilities. Both areas also identified strong demand for affordable housing, meeting facilities, and additional recreational spaces.

The UH Public Policy Center and the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) Project Team is now working with designated communities to determine potential impacts of transit plans and routes; to identify the communities' preferred scenarios; and help guide land use, tax structure and funding strategies to achieve these scenarios. **For more information, contact HACBED Team Coordinator Bob Agres at 550-2661.**



Student participants at recent community briefing on McCully-Moili'ili, Ala Moana/ Sheridan-Kaheka, and Kaka'ako mauka needs assessment results.

What does it take to build a Sustainable Future?

After countless meetings and community discussion sessions, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force released its draft Sustainability Plan in September: http://hawaii2050.org/images/uploads/2050_Plan_Draft.pdf

The plan sets forth goals, action steps and measures to create a more diversified economy, preserve Hawaii's natural resources, promote self-sufficiency and build a quality lifestyle for all residents. **Central to this action agenda is the recognition that many of Hawaii's best and brightest youth do not see any future for themselves in Hawaii.**

As pointed out in a recent *Honolulu Advertiser* commentary, "Two primary reasons were given [for youth not planning to live/work in Hawaii]: no prospects of high-quality, knowledge-based jobs in

Hawaii; and lack of housing that they thought they could afford... The students were asked what they wanted to say to the audience in the room that day. One of the nine simply said, 'Give us hope. Give us hope that we can return to Hawaii to raise our children the way we have been raised, and to have our children experience all that it is to grow up in Hawaii.'" (source: Commentary, *Honolulu Advertiser*, November 29, 2007).

During the 2008 session, as the legislature pursues the best ways to create a sustainable economy, society and environment, please consider these questions: "What kind of jobs do you want for your children and grandchildren? What educational opportunities should be available to them? How do we cut our dependence on oil? What is your vision of Hawaii in 2050?" And share your ideas with us at senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Innovation Skills for Knowledge-Based Jobs

In light of the importance of science and technology skills, we appropriated funds in Act 111 for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs in K-12 public/charter schools, and in Act 271 (expansion of Project EAST program) over \$5.6 million dollars was funded in 2007 to expand project-based science and math-oriented programs with track records of proven student performance.

Among the most successful are robotics programs, project-based learning programs that educate through exciting robotics competitions. Elementary and middle school students recently competed in the **FIRST Lego League Regional Tournament** at McKinley High School in December with 64 teams participating, including an enthusiastic Washington Middle School team. High school students are now preparing for the **FIRST Robotics Competition** on March 27-29, 2008 at the University of Hawaii. Teams from 26 schools are entered so far, including McKinley High School.

McKinley High is also the first Hawaii school to adopt "Project Lead the Way" curriculum (a national program) in its Engineering Academy Pathway.

Another competitive robotics program is **BotBall**, in which school teams vie against each other with pre-programmed robots. Last July's International BotBall Tournament included 65 teams, with strong showings from district schools. Hawaii's 2008 Regional BotBall Tournament is scheduled for May 10 at the Hawaii Convention Center, with 35 teams entered so far, including Washington Middle School, Stevenson Middle School, and Roosevelt High School.

Act 111 also funded the Research Experiences for Teachers ("RET") Program

Senator Fukunaga with Stevenson Middle School students and their robots at the International BotBall Tournament in July 2007

to help science and mathematics teachers keep up with current developments through study at the UH College of Engineering. Stipends are provided as incentives to encourage those who hold degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to obtain teaching certificates through UH's post-baccalaureate program. Last year, Kawanakoa Middle School was among the first six participating schools.



Creative Media Focuses on Asia/Pacific Stories and Partnerships

Many states are now moving beyond traditional filmmaking in pursuit of digital media industry development – the fast-growing, highly paid, profitable side of the global entertainment/videogame industry. In spite of its great climate and lifestyle, Hawaii faces stiff competition in becoming a creative media hub.

Fortunately for Hawaii, film executive Chris Lee's pursuit of programs in filmmaking, videogame development, animation and web/graphics in his Academy for Creative Media start-up (UH, 2004) means that Hawaii is gaining recognition as a hotbed of creative talent, with its Asia/Pacific affiliations and opportunities for internships/training on "Lost" and other big-screen films.

The Academy for Creative Media (ACM) teaches animation, game design, film production, and digital media technology. It's the fastest growing new program at UH with 32 courses and 301 students (Fall 2007), and has new partnerships with the Korean Film Council's Filmmakers Lab and Shanghai University to encourage collaboration between ACM, Korean and Shanghai student filmmakers. ACM is also working on a Statehood docu-

mentary and four Hawaiian language films for Hawaiian immersion schools.

Act 11 appropriates \$5.1 million to help ACM expand by partnering with PBS Hawaii studios on the Manoa campus.

This is good news for the aspiring film makers in Hawaii schools. Olelo's annual "Youth Xchange" video competition awardees for 2007 included students from Roosevelt High, Washington Middle, Kawanakoa, Lunalilo, and Hawaiian Mission Academy. Congratulations on your outstanding work!



ACM Founder Chris Lee, Disney animators Eric Garcia and Leo Chu, ACM animation professor Linda Dorn, Senator Fukunaga, and ACM Chair Tom Brislin at spring Master Class