

# SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

July 2013



Serving Hawai'i's  
Senate District 1  
Hilo



Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 213

Phone: (808) 586-6760

Toll Free From Hawai'i Island: 974-4000 ext. 66760

Email: senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's page  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.aspx>

## A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha!

This Fourth of July, like millions of Americans all over our great nation, I will be gathering with my family to celebrate the birth of our country more than two centuries ago.

This day also serves as a day of reflection. It reminds me of my own experiences as a young United States Marine and how fortunate we are to live in a free country when so many people around the world continue to fight for their own independence and freedom.

So while you're enjoying the company of your loved ones and celebrating America's independence this Fourth of July, I urge you to take a moment and acknowledge the ongoing efforts of our servicemen and women, many of whom are serving in danger zones overseas.

With each day that they defend our great democracy, they ensure our continued quality of life which we have come to enjoy today.

So again, I wish you all a very safe and happy Fourth of July!

Hau'oli ka mana'o,

## Community Town Hall Meeting

On June 6, 2013 Senators Kahele and Solomon along with Representative Nakashima, hosted a post Legislative Session update, which included a discussion on Hawai'i Island's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). In attendance, there were over 70 East Hawai'i residents.

Collectively, through team work and community input the Hawai'i Island Delegation secured over \$380M in CIP, grant in aids, and other appropriations.

Amongst the array of projects and initiatives that were discussed, the Legislators touched upon several specific topics like education, healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure.



Senator Kahele presents his portion of the meeting, specifically speaking on the future of aviation sciences at UH-Hilo and HawCC.



Senator Solomon concludes the meeting with hopeful remarks of moving Hawai'i Island forward.

- **Lower and Higher Education**
  - Department of Education; Upgrades to 21 schools throughout East Hawai'i; **\$23.9M**
  - University of Hawai'i System; Hawai'i Island; **\$35.8M**
- **Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and Health Care**
  - HHSC; Facility Upgrades; Hawai'i Island; **\$26.5M**
  - HB417 HHSC Primary Care Training Program; Addresses primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the Interdisciplinary HHSC Primary Care Training Program administered by Hilo Medical Center; **\$1.8M**
- **Agriculture**
  - Waimea Irrigation Improvements, Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed Project; **\$6.4M**
- **Infrastructure**
  - Roads, Hawai'i Island; **\$62.150M**
  - Airports, Hawai'i Island; **\$159.9M**
  - Harbor, Hawai'i Island; **\$4.25M**

## Hawai'i State Senate Honors Team Poli'ahu

Microsoft Imagine Cup, the world's most prestigious student technology competition brings together student innovators from all over the world. Through this competition, Microsoft encourages students to make a difference in the world through the power of technology.



Ryder Donahue, Kayton Summers, Wallace Hamada, Professor Edwards and Mike Purvis

The national finals featured the top 10 U.S. teams pitching their ideas and solutions to investors, entrepreneurs, and technology professionals for a chance to win cash prizes and support for their businesses. University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Team Poli'ahu came out on top with its award winning application "Help Me Help" which focused on community aid for disaster relief efforts.

They have excelled beyond all expectations, and have secured a spot to represent the U.S. in pursuit of the Worldwide Imagine Cup to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

## Big Island Caregiver Recognition Day Banquet Gala

On June 15, 2013 Senators Kahele and Solomon along with Representatives Onishi and Mizuno recognized and honored caregivers, care home operators, case managers and community care foster home operators for the significant role they play in support of our kupuna and persons with disabilities.



Rep. Mizuno, Senators Kahele and Solomon and Rep. Onishi

Mahalo to our kupuna and our most precious senior citizens who have generously sacrificed so much for us to enjoy the freedom and the values that make Hawai'i such a special place.

## YWCA Remarkable Person Honorees

The YWCA of Hawai'i Island is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Senator Kahele was proud and honored to present Jan Higashi and Jackie Pualani Johnson with a Senate Certificate on behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate.



Jan Higashi, Senator Kahele and Jackie Pualani Johnson

Jan's philosophy of giving back has propelled the business sector to new heights. Most notably serving as the first female President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i.

Jackie has enriched the cultural and ethnic life of our residents. Her passion for theater and performing arts shines through our keiki and makua.

Jan and Jackie have both made commendable progress throughout our communities. Mahalo to both of them for making Hawai'i Island a better place.

## Governor's Intent-to-Veto

On June 24, 2013 Governor Abercrombie notified the Hawai'i State Legislature that he intends to veto nine of the 293 measures passed in 2013.

The following bills are on the Governor's intent-to-veto list:

- HB763 Relating to the State Building Code
- SB1265 Relating to Contracts
- HB619 Relating to Feral Birds
- HB988 Relating to Native Wildlife
- HB424 Relating to Timeshare Conveyances
- HB654 Relating to Nursing
- HB1130 Relating to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation
- SB3 Relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- SB68 Relating to Sentencing

Governor Abercrombie has until July 9 to make his final decision. All other bills will be signed or become law without his signature on July 9.

Governor Abercrombie also notified the Legislature on June 20, 2013 that he would use his line-item authority to veto the funding of SB909 Relating to Making Appropriations for Collective Bargaining Cost Items.

## Association of Pacific Island Legislatures 32nd General Assembly June 25-27, 2013 Honolulu, Hawai'i

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' (APIL) mission is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands.

The members of APIL include American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Island of Guam, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, State of Hawai'i, Republic of Kiribati, and Republic of Nauru.

The Hawai'i State Legislature was honored to host the APIL's 32nd General Assembly. The theme of this conference was on alternative renewable energy and affordable health insurance for our Pacific Communities.



Senator Kahele attends the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd General Assembly. Governor Abercrombie, Senate President Mercado Kim and Speaker Souki welcomed the delegates.