



# SENATOR GILBERT KEITH - AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

April 2013 Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 4



Wailuku Waihe'e Waiehu Waikapu Kahului

## A Message from Gil

Dear Neighbors:

Mahalo to all the coaches, parents, and residents who attended Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui's meeting on the Central Maui Regional Park environmental impact statement on March 28th. While attendees clearly expressed concerns about the importance of maintaining the facility after it is built, most attendees understood the need for more ball fields and the potential that the complex promises for our community. Please send your comments on the proposal to the project manager at the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Now that the second crossover deadline has passed, the Senate has finished its public hearings on various bills sent over from the House of Representatives. Many of these bills are being sent to conference committees. This newsletter includes information and descriptions of some of the bills that remain alive.

Both the House and the Senate have now passed out our versions of the State Budget. While there are many

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details that remain to be ironed out, the members of Senate Ways and Means (myself included) will continue to work towards crafting a fair and responsible budget. Some of the proposed elements of the budget, including those that affect the people of Maui, are also included in this newsletter.

Representing the people of Central Maui in the Senate this session continues to be not only a privilege and an honor, but also a responsibility that I take very seriously. If you have any questions or concerns about specific measures, the legislative process, or the legislature in general, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you,  
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

## WAYS AND MEANS PASSES STATE BUDGET

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means passed House Bill 200 with amendments on March 27, 2013. The Senate's version of the bill is approximately \$141 M less in general funds than Governor Abercrombie's budget proposal. The bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for the fiscal biennium years 2013-2015.

"Although the revenue forecast continues to improve, we took a cautious and conservative approach in our version of the budget," said Senator David Ige, chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "We reduced the executive branch's request by approximately \$141 million, while making strategic investments in our community."

"We hope to craft a budget that's balanced while addressing important needs in our community," said Senator Gil Keith-Agaran.

### Here are some of the highlights of the bill:

Executive Office of Early Learning, includes early childhood education program.....	\$26,500,000
Department of Education's weighted student formula.....	\$55,000,000
Office of Information Management & Technology.....	\$54,500,000
Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, unfunded liabilities.....	\$200,000,000
Agricultural task force and livestock feed development program.....	\$5,200,000
Agricultural resource management programs and projects including Kunia agricultural park irrigation systems.....	\$5,200,000
Sequestration contingency fund to address nationwide federal spending reductions.....	\$25,000,000
Hawaii Refinery Task Force.....	\$355,000
Hawaii Growth Initiative.....	\$8,000,000
Hawaii Health Information Exchange.....	\$1,000,000
State energy projects.....	\$3,900,000
Medicaid.....	\$205,500,000
Veteran services.....	\$874,000
Homeless shelters and services.....	\$1,800,000

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON MAUI

The Senate version of the State Budget includes the following capital improvement projects on Maui:

### Community

Central Maui Region Sports Complex	
Design and construction for establishment of a regional park in Central Maui.....	\$4,500,000
War Memorial Stadium	
Plans, design, construction, and equipment for improvements and upgrades for stadium field complex.....	\$900,000

### Transportation

Kahului Airport	
Land acquisition of parcels near the airport.....	\$50,000,000
Construction of a new access road to the airport from Hana Highway.....	\$10,000,000
Kahului Harbor	
Plans, design, and construction of capital improvements that will provide for safer and more efficient use of operational areas at Kahului Harbor.....	\$6,000,000
Hana Highway/Kaahumanu Avenue	
Beautification of the main corridor between Kahului and Wailuku, to include landscape and irrigation.....	\$1,545,000

### Healthcare

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	
Repair and Maintenance projects, including those to correct health and safety deficiencies.....	\$35,679,000

### Education

Kihei High School	
Plans, design, and construction of a new high school in Kihei.....	\$130,000,000
Paia Elementary School	
Plans, design, and construction for resurfacing existing parking lot and construction of new parking lots.....	\$400,000

## NOTABLE BILLS

Now that the second crossover deadline has passed, bills that were not amended by their second chamber and bills with amendments that have been agreed upon by both chambers are being sent to the Governor's office. Bills that have not been agreed upon by both chambers are now being assigned to conferences for further amendments. Identical bills must be passed by both chambers before they can be signed into law by the Governor.

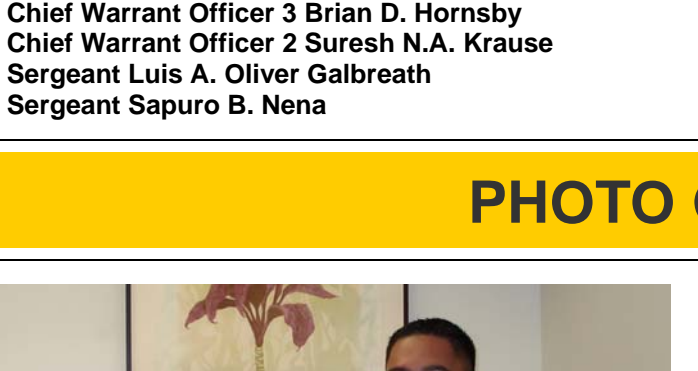
### Bills that passed out of both chambers and have been sent to the Governor for signing

<b>HB 872</b> Nursing Facility Sustainability Program Special Fund Appropriation	Appropriates \$12,000,000 (or as much as is necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013) for the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program Special Fund to the Department of Human Services.
<b>HB 927</b> Employment and Training Fund	Strengthens the use of the Employment and Training Fund to assist local small businesses through training programs.
<b>HB 411 HD2</b> Hospital Emergency Compassionate Care	Ensures that female sexual assault victims are provided with accurate and unbiased information and access to emergency contraception when receiving emergency medical care at Hawaii hospitals.
<b>SB 633</b> Unlicensed Contracting Activities	Prohibits the use of the value of work done by an unlicensed contractor as an offset for the value of the property calculated in unlicensed contractor fraud cases.
<b>SB 1185 SD1</b> Nonprofit Organizations Excise Tax Benefits	Mandates that nonprofit organizations receive notice before denial of general excise tax benefit. Limits the liability of people who control certain amounts held in trust for nonprofit organizations.
<b>HB 1133 SD2</b> PLDC Repeal	Repeals the law relating to the creation of the Public Land Development Corporation.
<b>SB 482 SD1 HD1</b> Honey Sales	Clarifies the maximum amount of honey that can be sold by a certified establishment without obtaining a permit. Exempts sales of honey directly to retail stores that sell the honey directly to consumers. Requires honey producers to include certain wording on labels, take a food safety class, and make records available to the Department of Health.

### Bills that will need to pass conference committee before they can be signed into law

<b>HB 65 HD2 SD2</b> Mail-Order Pharmacy Opt Out	Allows beneficiaries of prescription drug benefit plans to opt out of the requirement to purchase prescription drugs from a mail order pharmacy.
<b>HB 385 HD2 SD1</b> Earned Income Tax Credit	Establishes a refundable state Earned Income tax Credit. Requires the Department of Human Services to offer financial education to applicants for and recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
<b>SB 573 SD2 HD1</b> Educators Tax Credit	Authorizes a state income tax credit for certain expenses paid or incurred by educators.
<b>HB 430 HD1 SD1</b> Itemized Income Tax Deductions	Exempts charitable income tax deductions from the itemized deduction caps.
<b>SB331 SD2 HD1</b> Minimum Wage	Increases the hourly minimum wage to \$7.75 on January 1, 2014, \$8.25 on January 1, 2015, \$8.75 on January 1, 2016, and \$9.00 on January 1, 2017.
<b>SB635 SD1 HD3</b> Animal Cruelty	Establishes a felony and misdemeanor offenses for injuring or killing an animal engaged in law enforcement or corrections activities.
<b>SB1095 SD2 HD2</b> Early Childhood Education Program	Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System.
<b>SB1360 SD1 HD1</b> Condo Common Expenses GET Exemptions	Makes permanent the general excise tax exemptions for condominium common expenses paid for managers, sub-managers, and sub-operators and for hotel employee expenses paid by hotel operators and timeshare projects.

## MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY



On March 27th, the Hawaii Legislature honored and recognized the sacrifices of 19 fallen military service members. Family and friends of these fallen heroes received the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of their loved ones. The Hawaii Medal of Honor was established in 2005 and has been awarded to 327 military members with Hawaii ties who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

### 2013 Hawaii Medal of Honor Recipients

<b>United States Army</b>	<b>United States Marine Corps</b>
Chief Lieutenant Clovis T. Ray	Captain Daniel B. Bartle
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas S. Johnson	Corporal Joseph D. Logan
Sergeant Dean R. Shaffer	Captain Nathan R. McHone
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Don C. Viray	Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard
Sergeant Chris J. Workman	Master Sergeant Travis W. Riddick
Sergeant Richard A. Essex	Corporal Jesse W. Stites
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian D. Hornsby	Lance Corporal Gregory T. Buckley
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Suresh N.A. Krause	Staff Sergeant Scott E. Dickinson
Sergeant Luis A. Oliver Galbreath	Corporal Richard A. Rivera Jr.
Sergeant Sapuro B. Nena	

## PHOTO GALLERY



On March 21st the Senate honored Aaron Loque, the 2013 Maui District Teacher of the Year.



Senator Keith-Agaran spoke to Maui members of the Developmental Disabilities Council on March 14th.



Senator Keith-Agaran and other Senators and Representatives from Maui met with Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows on March 7th. The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program was created to "promote and develop future leaders through a community-based program designed to address planning for Maui Nui's future".



The Senate commemorated the 60th Anniversary of 'Iolani Sportsweat during a floor presentation on March 27th.



Roxane Fujiyama, Susan Watanabe, Mitzi Tanaka, and Marc Kirchof of HGEA Unit 3 visited Senator Keith-Agaran's office.



The Hawaii State Armed Services honored all branches of the United States Armed Services in Hawaii for their volunteerism in public schools across the state. Major General Anthony G. Crutchfield received the award on behalf of the volunteers.

## Contact Us

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