



# SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

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Wailuku Waihe'e Waiehu Waikapu Kahului

## A Message From Gil

Aloha Kākou,

As this session heads into its final days, Senate members are appointed to and participate in conference committees on legislative measures reviewed and revised earlier this year by both chambers of the legislature. Conference can be a very suspenseful time for members, the public, and advocates alike. Tough decisions need to be made to advance the priorities and viewpoints of the two chambers, while at the same time legislators must remain mindful of the value of finding useful compromises.

In addition to completing work on bills and resolutions, the Senate alone is constitutionally tasked to give "advise and consent" with respect to Governor's nominees to various state government boards and commissions, as well as newly appointed judges and justices. Senate confirmation hearings for each nominee must be conducted by the relevant subject matter committee for the area of expertise necessary for the appointment. It is an honor to participate in such hearings, and this year I was able to review the credentials and ask questions of prospective members of both the board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority as well as that of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I also was able to personally meet with appointees to the bench as well as to various other government boards and committees.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and insights as always, and thank you for your input this past session. Aloha,

- Time for Conference!
- Maui Soda & Ice Works Honored
- Visitors at the Capitol
- New Maui Mana'o



Above, my Maui colleagues and I congratulate Keone Kali on his recent appointment and confirmation as the state's new Chief Information Officer. Below, President and CEO Mike McCartney and I speak with L. Richard Fried after his re-appointment this month to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.



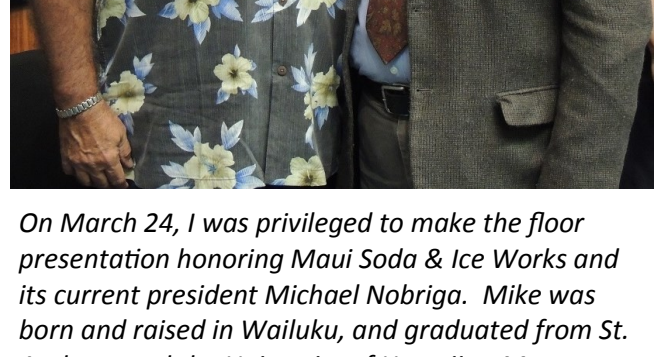
## TIME FOR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE!



Even though a bill has survived multiple hearings in both the Senate and the House, in most cases each chamber will have made its own revisions to the measure. The House may of course choose to agree with the Senate version, and vice versa, but very often a conference committee composed of chairpersons and managers appointed from each side will need to meet in order to resolve the differences. These conference committees convene at a hectic pace over the last weeks of session on bills from all subject matter areas. Perhaps the most watched conference committee this year is that on HB1700, the executive budget bill. As in previous years, "Team WAM", composed of Senate Committee on Ways and Means members, is easily identifiable in the large conference room filled to the brim with staffers and stakeholders. Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, along with Ways and Means Chair Senator David Ige, and Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani (seated foreground, above) provide direction and establish priorities in balancing the state budget. Day-by-day through the conference committee period, various line-item appropriations are negotiated and agreed to between the Senate and the House for the operational needs of state government. New program appropriations, capital improvement projects and programmatic grants-in-aid are usually finalized near the end of the process. This can be exhilarating or deflating for the government agencies and stakeholders, as the last pieces of the budget jigsaw puzzle fall into place. The final product, however, always represents very hard work by the Senate and House committee members as well as their dedicated staff.



## MAUI SODA & ICE WORKS WINS SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

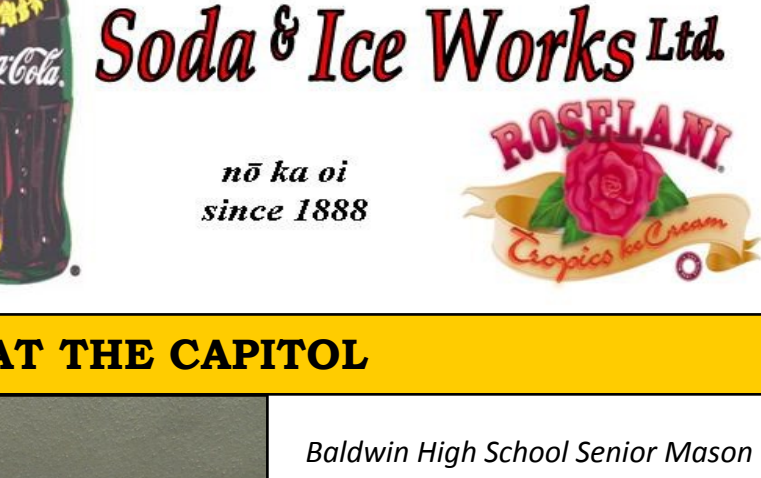


On March 24, I was privileged to make the floor presentation honoring Maui Soda & Ice Works and its current president Michael Nobriga. Mike was born and raised in Wailuku, and graduated from St. Anthony and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



From the Senate gallery, patriarch David "Buddy" Nobriga looks on along with his daughter Cathy Nobriga Kim and son Jay Nobriga. Buddy, a legendary Maui paniolo as well as famous for his role in leading Maui Soda & Ice Works, still goes to his office at the company every morning. Cathy is the Vice President of the Frozen Division, which is of course responsible for delicious Roselani ice cream. Jay Nobriga works as Distributions Manager for the company.

I was very happy this year to announce that one of Maui's longtime businesses, Maui Soda & Ice Works, won the prestigious SBA Family-Owned Small Business of the Year award for 2014. The award is made to a company with more than 15 years of doing business in the state that has also passed ownership and operations from one generation to the other. In the case of Maui Soda & Ice Works, both of those criteria are more than easily satisfied. Current president Michael Nobriga's family has been the majority owner of Maui Soda & Ice Works for more than 65 years, and the company itself has existed on Maui since 1888. Starting as a refrigeration company, today it is composed of three divisions: "ready-to-drink" products, food-service beverage products, and frozen products, including the very popular Roselani Ice Cream. Today, the company is recognized as one of the state's best run organizations, while at the same time the Nobriga family remains committed to and involved in Maui's growth and social well-being. Michael himself has served as president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Maui County Police Commission, and is a past recipient of the Governor's Kilohana Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. All his four siblings work for the company, and his father Buddy remains active as Chairman of the Board.



## VISITORS AT THE CAPITOL



Baldwin High School Senior Mason Aquino, 17, of Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui, Central Clubhouse, received top honors as Hawaii's Youth of the Year. The award is in recognition of service to club, community, and family, as well as academic excellence, strong moral character and public speaking ability. After graduation, Mason plans to enter the University of Hawaii at Manoa and major in either science and technology or education. The Maui Senate delegation presented Mason with a certificate of recognition. Mason



was joined on the Senate floor by Executive Director of the Central Clubhouse.

At left, Britt Yon Hanlon provided reiki healing and chair massage, respectively, as part of my office's fundraising efforts for the Maui Foodbank this year. Britt and Chanris cheerfully donated their services, and over two days we collected more than \$700.

Below left, Pamela Tumpap, president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, visited the capitol this month with Nelson Okumura of VIP Foodservice, Myles Kawakami of Hawaiian Carpet One/Ceramic Tile, Jeremy Kozuki of Home Maid Bakery, Paul Gammie of Gammie Homecare, and Rick Nava of MSI Maui creative production services. We had a lively discussion about how state government can try to help Maui businesses thrive.

Below right, I am joined by Jan Dapitan of Maui's Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful, and Chris Woolaway of Keep Honolulu Beautiful, who visited to discuss their efforts at promoting environmental protection and awareness.



## NEW EPISODE OF MAUI MANA'O



Since 2010, Maui's senators have participated regularly in timely discussions of issues at the legislature, produced by Olelo and uploaded to each of the senators' capitol webpages and YouTube as Maui Mana'o. Each episode is approximately 30 minutes in length. Episode 14 of this month, covers such topics as resolutions, grants-in-aid, conference committees, and the importance of the board confirmation process.

You can view the latest episode of Maui Mana'o here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6SFP06bhW4>

## MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Legislative session is reaching its end this year, but I encourage everyone to continue to learn about our legislative process. The state legislature's website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) is the place to start. You can search for results for measures that were considered this past session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at <http://lrbhawaii.org/par/> or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400, ext. 7-0478. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Let us know your ideas for future legislative measures, and mahalo for your input and for participating in our democratic process!



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