



Senator Norman Sakamoto  
415 S. Beretania Street  
State Capitol Room 230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2010

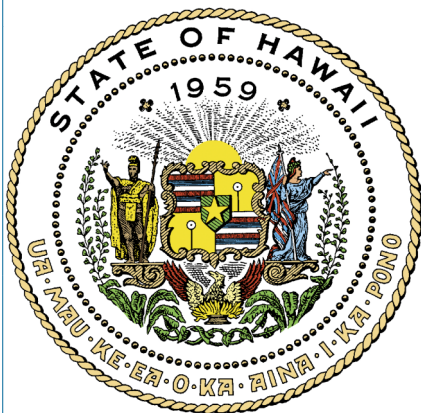
Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2010 Legislative Session proved to be challenging – marked with finding solutions to numerous issues that included balancing the budget and finding a school furlough fix.

Thank you for your input and support throughout the years. My term in the Senate will end in November. I have enjoyed serving as your Senator and hope that you feel I have served you and our residents well.

Aloha and God Bless You,

Norman Sakamoto



**The Life of the Land is  
Perpetuated in  
Righteousness**

I'm honored and privileged to say MAHALO for allowing me to work with you to improve our schools, our community and our state for the past fourteen years.

The Legislature provided the funding to solve the furlough problem for our schools in our recently concluded session. The Governor, the Superintendent of Education, the Board of Education and Legislature did our part. It took Don Horner of First Hawaiian Bank to finally break the costly deadlock. I am glad it's over - and in time for it to positively impact Hawaii's 'Race to the Top' application for federal funding. In addition to funding Furlough Fridays, we passed legislation increasing the amount of instructional time in Hawaii public schools up to the national average. Increasing instructional time will provide more opportunities for excellence in education.

Over the years, other accomplishments that were possible through collaborative leadership include: the reduction of repair and maintenance backlog to its lowest level in ten years, a unified school schedule, and providing more dollars directly to schools and principals. We can make great improvements in our children's education and in their future if we work together. Our keiki will thrive when we all pull in the same direction.

Congratulations *Moanalua High School Judo Team* -  
2010 Hawaii High School Athletic Association State Champions!



# 2010 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The following list represents some highlights of the 2010 legislative session:

## Priorities

The Legislature achieved **\$324 million** in savings over last year's 2010-2011 budget by:

- Taking many of the governor's **proposed vacancy reductions and reductions in force**
- Reducing \$500,000 in overtime and \$900,000 for legislatively initiated but unimplemented programs in the **Department of Public Safety**
- Reducing **Department of Health** Purchase of Service contracts by 5% totaling \$5.4 million
- Reducing **Department of Human Services** Purchase of Services contracts by 5% of budgeted amounts, totaling \$2.4 million.

*At the same time, we maintained funding for education, health & human services, and our agricultural industries.*

*We are particularly proud that we were able to **restore all of the funding for public libraries** that the governor cut from her budget proposal. That's \$3 million to help ensure that the public will continue to have access to library services.*

In other adjustments, the legislative budget did the following:

- Reallocated funding for categorical programs for the **weighted student formula**, \$22.6 million, providing a minimum of **\$113 per student**.
- Restored and increased funding for **defense**, including financial, cemetery and staff positions to those who provide services to those **who served our country**.
- In education, the budget maintained funding and ensured that **charter schools** (with their projected 19.4% enrollment increase) will have general fund support comparable to non-charter school students by adding **\$5.3 million**.
- Preserved health services by adding

\$4.5 million in general funds to **emergency medical services**; \$2 million in special funds to **community health centers**; and \$300,000 in general funds to the **disability and communications access board**.

- Restored 440 positions (247 general funded) and \$5.5 million in general funds for **Human Services** programs.
- Served our agricultural industries with 45 general funded positions (half are **plant quarantine inspectors**) and \$2 million in general funds.

## Closing the Gap

The legislature took the position that closing the budget gap would require taking small amounts from a number of sources to prevent any one segment of the community from bearing an unfair burden. Overall budget reductions from the biennium budget we passed last year totaled \$783.6 million, or 53% of the total budget shortfall. The legislature took a number of actions that, while small individually, combined to close the gap.

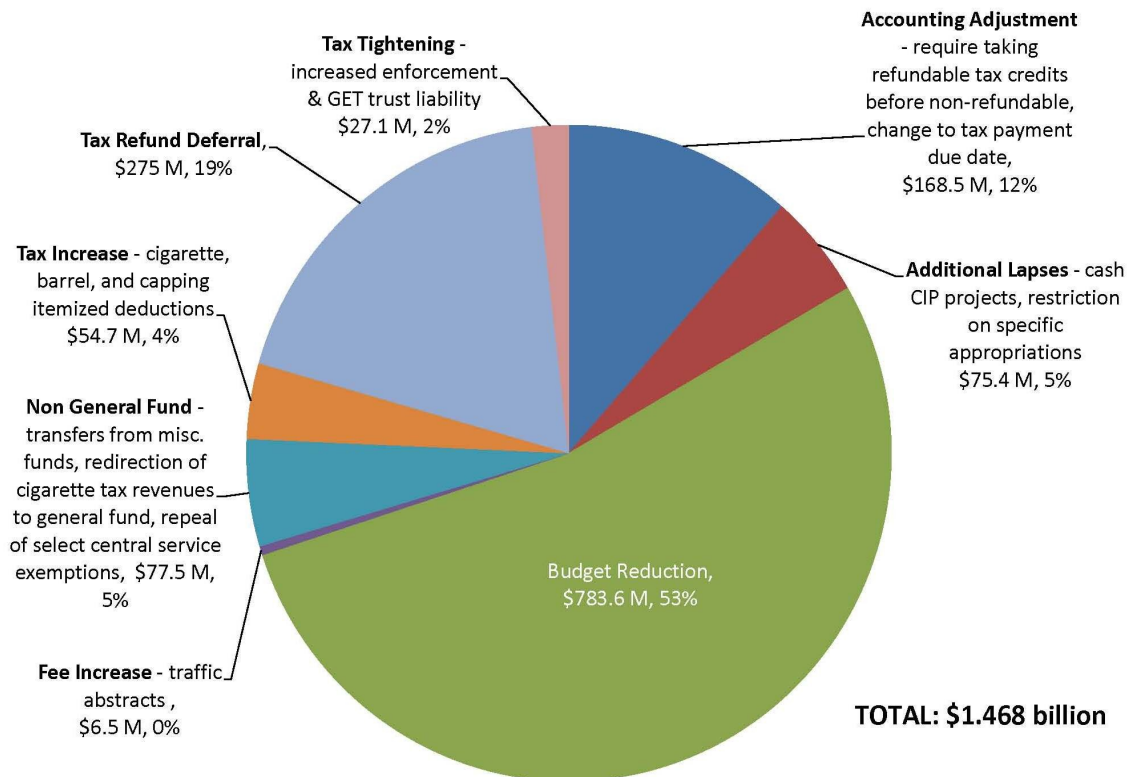
\*\*Through accounting adjustments, including a requirement to take refundable tax credits before non-refundable credits, and changing the tax payment due date, we increased revenues by \$168.5 million, or 12% of the budget shortfall.

\*\*Increasing enforcement of tax provisions and GET trust liability generated \$27.1 million, or 2%.

\*\*Deferring tax refunds to FY 2010-2011 contributed \$275 million (19%).

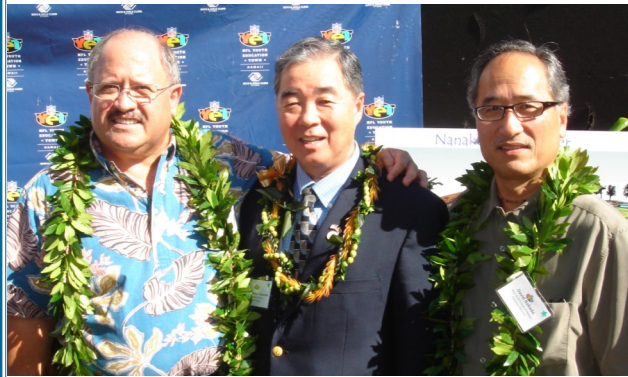
\*\*Small tax increases including the cigarette and barrel taxes, combined with changes to itemized deductions added \$57.4 million (4%).

Session 2010 - Budget Shortfall Solutions



# IN THE COMMUNITY...OVER THE YEARS

## NFL Youth Education Town Center



Through a partnership with the **Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii**, the NFL broke ground on a facility that will serve a number of educational and cultural activities. The center is located on Hawaiian homelands next to Nanaikapono Elementary in Nanakuli.

## Honoring our Heroes



The **Hawaii Medal of Honor** was awarded to members of the US military service with Hawaii ties, killed in action while serving in dangerous, volatile, and unstable areas of the world.



Master Sergeant (Ret) Clarence Young at the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony**.

## Community Awareness and Safety



**M.A.D.D. Outstanding Service Award** presented to Officer Ondayog and Officer Min of the Honolulu Police Department.

## Puwalu Ekolu



This conference brought together major policymakers and stakeholders in the protection of the Hawaiian ecosystem. Native Hawaiian practitioners and experts in traditional methods of sustainability were among those present.

## National Guard



Senator Sakamoto was honored with a National Guard Association of the United States **Charles Dick Medal of Merit** award in 2005.



See also 'Aha Moku Commission photo on page 7.

**Moanalua Lions Breakfast to benefit Moanalua High School Project Grad & the community**

# WITH OUR STUDENTS/AT OUR SCHOOLS

## University of Hawaii



Students voice their concerns over University of Hawaii budget cuts at a rally at the Capitol.

## Makalapa Elementary



Ms. Mickie Yagi's 3rd grade class visit the State Capitol.

## Student Art Exhibit



Amber Williams Aduja, student winner

## Hickam Elementary



Dr. Seuss' Read Across America event

## Radford High



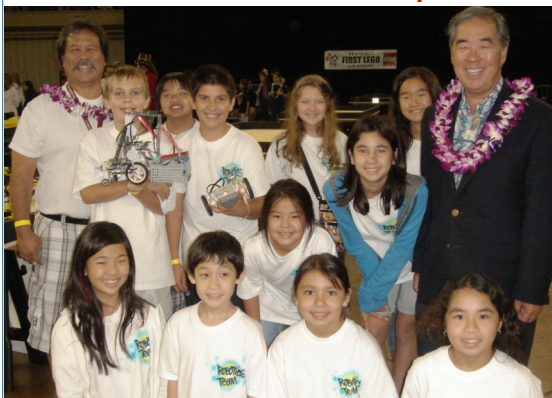
Coach Kimura, A.D. Kelly Sur and Principal Stevens at the dedication ceremony of Radford High's baseball field.

## Honolulu Comm. College



HCC celebrated their 90th Anniversary with festivities including a Chinese Lion Dance by enthusiastic preschoolers.

## Kaneohe Elementary



Participating in Hawaii FIRST Lego League

## Ground-breaking Ceremony for Ewa Makai Middle School



## Kamaile Academy Site Visit



Kamaile Academy has established partnerships with community organizations to provide professional development for teachers and to implement instruction and curriculum that reflect Hawaiian indigenous education.

## Farrington High



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

# EDUCATION, HOUSING, & OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

## DOE Repair and Maintenance/ Capital Improvement Projects

\*\* Indicates Capital Improvement Projects  
(amounts are listed).

### Moanalua Complex

#### Moanalua Middle

\*\*Upgrade campus wide electrical system \$450,000 (FY09-10)  
Reroof building F

#### Moanalua Elementary

\*\*Resurface, repaint, repair existing basketball/volleyball court \$132,000

#### Red Hill Elementary

\*\*Campus wide electrical upgrades \$465,000 (FY09-10)

#### Salt Lake Elementary

\*\*Renovate interior rooms-bldg F10 \$1,000,000 (FY09-10)  
Reroof building A

### Radford Complex

#### Radford High

\*\*Design and construction of all weather track \$1,350,000  
\*\*Replace gym floor \$155,000  
Campus Drainage study

#### Aliamanu Middle

\*\*Installation of split air conditioning units in room S-1 \$35,000 (FY09-10)  
Reroof building M

#### Aliamanu Elementary

Reroof building A

#### Pearl Harbor Elementary

Reroof building I

### Aiea Complex (partial list)

#### Aiea Public Library

\*\*Relocation: design & construction \$1,000,000 (FY09-10)  
\$9,000,000 (FY10-11)

#### Aiea High

Campus fire alarm upgrades

#### Aiea Intermediate

\*\*Expand and Renovate Cafeteria Stage, add dressing rooms \$1,740,000  
Reroof building E

#### Aiea Elementary

\*\*Construction of covered walkway from Building C to Cafeteria \$100,000 (FY09-10)  
Reroof building E

#### Pearl Ridge Elementary

Reroof building G

### Farrington Complex (partial list)

#### Farrington High

\*\*Campus Modernization Project \$3,000,000  
Resurface Adult Ed

### Plan to End Friday Furloughs

The agreement was made possible by a partnership between the State, teachers and the major banks in Hawaii. The plan calls for:

- \$57.2 million from the Hurricane Relief Fund
- \$2.2 million in federal funds for charter schools
- 6 planning days the teachers have given up in order to convert them into instructional days
- \$10 million interest free line of credit from local banks if additional funding is necessary

### Homeless Assistance

(HB 2318)

Establishes a special fund for Housing First programs and special services that would assist chronically homeless individuals.

### Unemployment insurance

(HB 2169)

Reduces a pending increase in unemployment taxes for businesses by about half. The average tax per employee would be \$630, not \$1070 as expected. The average tax per employee last year was \$90, but was set to increase because of rising unemployment and the depletion of the unemployment trust fund.

### Gambling Losses

(SB 2834)

Allows gambling losses to be deducted from winnings for income tax purposes.

For more information, please visit:

[www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

or

[www.normansakamoto.com](http://www.normansakamoto.com)

University of Hawaii at Manoa's 2010 Commencement Ceremony  
with a new class of excited Nursing School graduates.  
Congratulations to all of the 2010 graduates!



# WORKING TOGETHER...

## Workforce



Appropriated funds to increase the number of public high schools participating in the **Construction Academy training program**, which allows high school students to take classes in various construction trades and earn credit towards an associate degree at a partnering community college.

## Partnerships



The BOE and DOE presented Senator Sakamoto with a 2007 **Partnership in Education Award** for his commitment to our schools and for efforts such as the Volunteers and Partners Program.

## Recycling & Community Clean Up



Helping the community clean up while raising money for **Aiea High, Moanalua High, Radford High, Farrington High, Alvah Scott Elem, and Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center.**

## Step Up Diploma



A statewide effort encourages students to graduate with a voluntary Board of Education Step Up Diploma. It requires more rigorous courses to better prepare students to **succeed after high school, whether they attend college or enter the workforce.**

## Preservation of Kamana Nui and Kamana Iki Valleys



## STEM Efforts



BAE Systems was honored for their support and co-sponsorship of the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition. **BAE Systems and their employees** sponsor and mentor five of Hawaii's high school robotics teams.



## End of Furlough Fridays

Parent advocates, **Melanie Bailey, Kathy Bryant** and Senator Sakamoto celebrate the end of Furlough Fridays.

## More Instructional Time For Our Students

Jessica Perez-Mesa, Melanie Bailey, and Kathy Bryant (pictured above) did research that helped us to pass the law that mandates **180 days of instruction.**



## Coast Guard S.T.E.M. Expo

# THROUGH THE YEARS

## Affordable Housing



The Legislature worked closely with community groups and members, including **FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity)**. They advocate for affordable housing by bringing up the concerns with Hawaii Public Housing Authority about the redevelopment of Kuhio Park Terrace. He was presented a sword for his efforts.



## Health

The American School Health Association (ASHA) selected Senator Sakamoto as the **2007 Legislator of the Year**.

## Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under Served, Elderly and Disabled (PHOCUSED)



Caregivers at the Capitol

## Educational Efforts



Rep. Roy Takumi, Principal Gail Awakuni and Senator Sakamoto were recognized with the **UH College of Education's Award of Excellence** in 2005.

## Accessible Health Care



**The Hawaii Quentin Burdick Program** allows our students the opportunity to design programs that enhance the community's health by designing culturally and place-appropriate health promotion and disease prevention for rural residents. The program began in Hawaii in 1999 through funding by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and later through the Hawaii State Legislature.

## 'Aha Moku Council Commission



Members of the newly selected 'Aha Moku Council Commission listened to Senator Sakamoto at the **Puwalu Elima** event. The Legislature established an 'aha kiole advisory committee (Act 212, 2007) to provide a framework on the formation of an 'aha moku council commission that serve in an advisory capacity on all matters regarding the management of the State's natural resources. (See *Puwalu Ekolu* photo on pg. 3)



### Our Enthusiastic 2010 Session Staff

Front Row (Seated) L->R: Mrs. Penny Sakamoto, **Senator Norman Sakamoto**, **Erin Conner**, Assistant Committee Clerk

Back Row (Standing) L->R: **Jacob Ng**, **Joanne Swearingen**, Volunteer; **Caroline Julian**, Legislative Aide; **Robert Arakaki**, Volunteer; **Christin Wehrsig**, Legislative Aide; **Allen Awaya**, Committee Clerk; **Valerie Ruiz**, UH Legislative Intern; **Carol Pang**, Volunteer; **Cherry Torres**, Office Manager

## SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

Majority Floor Leader  
Hawaii State Senate  
15th District

**Chair**, Committee on Education and Housing

**Vice-Chair**, Committee on Higher Education

**Member**, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

- \* 2009 National Board Certified Teachers: **Kristina Lee** (Moanalua Middle), **Liane Voss** (Moanalua High), **Audrey Okemura** (Pearl City High), **Laura Ginoza** (Pearl City Elem), **Alyson Kaneshiro** (Pearl Ridge Elem), **Teressa Shimizu** (Farrington High) and **Nadine Marchessault** and **Nola Silva** (Kalihi Kai Elem)
- \* Principal **Darrel Galera**, Moanalua High School, 2010 State National Distinguished Principal of the Year
- \* 2010 **Moanalua HS** Mock Trial Team - State Champions
- \* 2010 **Moanalua HS** Boys Judo Team - State Champions
- \* 2010 **Radford HS** Cheerleaders - National Cheerleading Champions; State Champions in Medium Division
- \* 2010 **Moanalua HS** Cheerleaders - 2nd Place in State Championships in Large Division
- \* 2010 **Moanalua HS** Boys Varsity Basketball Team OIA Red Conference Champions
- \* 2010 **Radford HS** Boys Varsity Baseball Team OIA White Conference Champions
- \* 2010 **Moanalua HS** Boys Varsity Volleyball Team OIA White Conference Champions
- \* 2010 **Radford HS** Girls Varsity Track & Field Team OIA Champions

- \* 2010 Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation Scholarship Awards Winners: **Erin Lau** (Aiea High), **Minh Trang Nguyen** (Farrington High), **Raymond Luo** (Moanalua High), and **Deashia-Lea Tungpalan-Yadao** (Radford High)
- \* 2010 Citizenship Award Winners: **Connie Kim** (Aiea High), **Jeffrey Mariano** (Farrington High), **Kiera Hirayama** (Moanalua High), and **Benjamin Scheuring** (Radford High)

**Lunalilo Elementary School** students, winners in the Elementary News, Short Film and Traffic Safety categories at the 'Olelo Youth Xchange Video Competition.

