



Senator Jill N. Tokuda

2013 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

24th Senatorial District - Kaneohe, Kaneohe MCAB, Kailua, Heeia, Ahuimanu

June 2013

Dear Neighbors,

The 2013 legislative session provided us with opportunities to meet our obligations as a state and begin to pay down our unfunded liabilities, while responsibly moving forward with targeted investments in our state's infrastructure—from education to information technology.

Continuing on in my role as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, we built upon our previous efforts and made significant investments and policy decisions in the area of early childhood education and making sure our youngest of keiki are ready when they enter kindergarten. Our work in the area of charter school reform also continued, with our recent law changes being recognized across the country for the strength of our charter school laws.

Always looking for new ways to increase participation in government and engage constituents in the work that we do, our Education Committee piloted Neighbor Island Videoconferencing technology as a means of increasing access this past session. In addition to looking at ways to expand the program, our office also utilized social media tools and conducted Twitter Town halls and Google+ hangouts to reach out to individuals statewide.

Our office has also continued to be proactive on issues that are of importance to the community; from focusing on Clean and Sober Home regulations to addressing speeding, neighborhood traffic congestion and roadway repair issues.

While the session is over, much work awaits us during the interim, working with our schools and community, implementing the policies we passed and preparing for the next session. We look forward to seeing you in the district and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Mahalo,



Sen Tokuda, Sina-Ann Haimoto-McShane, Castle High's 2012-13 Student Body President, Rep Ito and Principal Meredith Maeda at the field dedication for the new athletic field.

Capital Improvements, Supporting Our Communities

Over \$27 million for Senate District 24

Since 2007, Senator Tokuda has brought home over \$121 million in CIP funding for the 24th Senatorial District. During the 2013 Legislative Session, she fought to ensure that the following priority projects were funded for fiscal year 2014 so that our community's needs could be met:

Education

Castle High School \$900,000
Plans and design for the expansion of school cafeteria

Mokapu Elementary School \$4,000
Plans, design, construction, and equipment for campus-wide improvements to include modernization of classrooms and other facilities. This project is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement

Coconut Island \$11,727,000
Plans, design, construction and equipments for improvements to Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Community

Kawainui Marsh \$1,025,000
Plans, design, construction and equipment for environmental clean-up and the restoration of endangered habitat and wetlands

Hamakua Marsh \$800,000
Plans, design, construction and equipment for mangrove eradication

Pacific American Foundation (Grant-In-Aid) \$1,025,000
Plans, design and construction for a new facility for education, research and employments programs

Healthcare

Hawaii State Hospital \$2,500,000
1) *Plans, design, and construction to remove hazardous materials and the demolition of Goddard building*

2) *Design and construction for various repairs and improvements* \$1,250,000

Roads and Highways

Kahekili and Kamehameha Highways \$1,550,000
Plans, land acquisition, design and construction for multi-use pathways

Kahekili Highway \$1,500,000
Plans and design for road widening improvements from Heeia Street to the intersection of Kamehameha and Kahekili Highway

H-3 \$5,105,000
Design and construction for a divided highway from Junction H-1 to Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station

TOTAL \$27,361,000

2013 Legislative Session: State Senate Invests in Hawaii's Future

The Hawaii State Senate adjourned the final day of the 2013 Legislative Session on May 2, passing many bills in support of its priorities set forth at the beginning of session and a balanced budget that was fiscally conservative while making targeted investments in Hawaii's future.

This session, the Legislature fulfilled its commitment to start prefunding unfunded liabilities pertaining to other postemployment benefits. The Legislature made appropriations through **House Bill (HB) 200**, the State Budget, with \$100M for fiscal year (FY) 14 and \$117M for FY15. Currently, the unfunded liabilities for the employer-union health benefits trust fund is \$13.6 billion. Paying down these liabilities will have a positive impact on the state's bond rating and ensure that Hawaii's future is not handicapped by increasingly burdensome debt.

Additionally, **HB546** will make Hawaii the first state in the nation to statutorily require payment of the annual required contribution for future public worker health benefits. We also made good on our commitment to recapitalize the "Rainy Day Fund" in **SB1094**, putting \$50M into the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund.

Among many other legislative accomplishments, here are a few highlights of bills that have passed this session:

Supporting People, Strengthening Communities

As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, one of Senator Tokuda's top priorities was the development of an early learning system, which included the passage of **SB1093** and **SB1084**. **SB1093** establishes a school readiness program and appropriates

\$7.16M to support many of those students impacted by the change in kindergarten and serves as the foundation of an early learning program, **SB1084** would allow voters to decide in 2014 if Hawaii should create a publically funded early learning system that would allow private providers to participate.

To support schools and students as they transition to the common core and to better prepare students to become digital citizens that have the skill sets that jobs of the 21st century demand, \$8.2M was appropriated in the State Budget to allow for a pilot program for common core digital devices.

The Legislature also passed **SB237**, which Senator Tokuda authored and worked on since 2011, which establishes a pilot program to responsibly maximize the use of public school lands and facilities as a means of generating revenue to build and retrofit 21st century schools and create more school-centered communities.

Since 2010, Senator Tokuda has been working with higher education officials and lawmakers from across the country to ensure Hawaii's compliance with federal regulations, authoring and passing **SB46** which deals with state authorization of post-secondary institutions and protected the financial aid of over 63,000 students here in Hawaii.

Focused on supporting the University's efforts to increase transparency and accountability, **HB114** requires all University of Hawaii procurements for construction, including consultant services necessary for construction, to be subject to the supervision of the Department of Accounting and General Services on behalf of the Board of Regents. It also establishes an independent audit committee within the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Homelessness in Hawaii is a significant problem in the State and **SB515** appropriates funds for services and programs that target issues such as

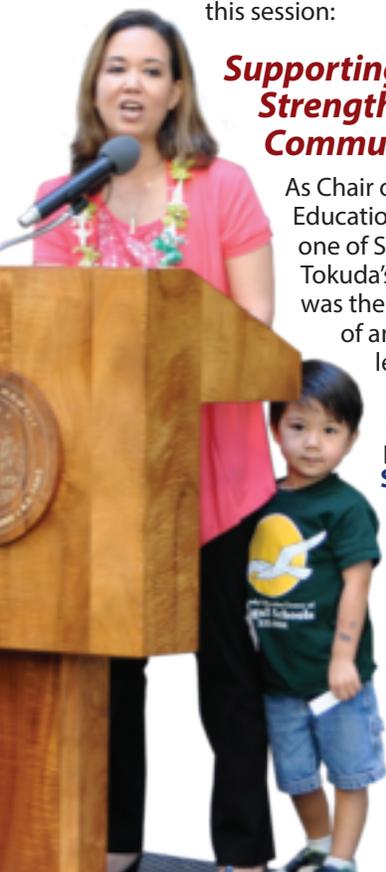


Cynthia Okazaki and Jolene Chang of PACT, Rep Ito and Sen Tokuda volunteering at the Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe's Annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

substance abuse, mental health, housing assistance, health care and employment to help reduce the number of homeless in Hawaii. To protect our kupuna, **SB102** requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse against a senior citizen to the appropriate county policy department immediately.

Targeted Infrastructure Improvements & Economic Development

The Senate continued to support long term planning and efficiency efforts and infrastructure development to fundamentally change the character and delivery of government services. The Senate furthered the enhancement of the State's information technology services and support the Governor's Chief Information Officer (CIO) as he works on modernizing the technology infrastructure. **HB200** has provided positions and \$18.8M in FY13-14 and \$14.4M in FY14-15 in general funds to the Office of Information Management & Technology so it can continue its work. Additionally, \$130M went to informational systems in various departments to streamline tax collections, maintain and share critical health information, as well as provide for a secure communications network for the islands. To protect the State's information and data, **SB1003** authorizes the CIO to conduct security audits, preventing intrusions and



Sen Tokuda and son Matt address large group of supporters for early learning at a rally at the State Capitol.

theft of the public's personal information.

Seeking to encourage economic diversity, the Senate passed **SB1349** that reestablishes the income tax credit for qualified research activities to encourage job growth in research and development. This measure contributes to the diversification of the State's economy by creating and maintaining new and sustainable knowledge-based industries and skilled jobs in the State. The Senate also passed **SB726** for the film, television, entertainment, digital media, and music production industry in Hawaii by increasing the amount of the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production income tax credit for qualified production costs incurred by an authorized production company.

Food and Energy Resiliency

The Senate continues to advance the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and align government regulations and policies with clean energy goals. To support the State's clean energy objectives, **SB19** was passed to exempt landlords who install renewable energy systems from the onerous requirements imposed on public utilities and serves as an incentive for landlords to adopt renewable energy systems. **SB120 (Act37)** authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a policy to incentivize Hawaii's electric utility companies to make needed reforms that attain lower electricity rates. **SB1087** provides a lower cost financing alternative for Hawaii businesses and residents to utilize green infrastructure equipment and technology to reduce electricity consumption by leveraging clean energy technology. The innovative financing method created in this measure will provide a secure financing structure to allow the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism to issue revenue bonds at very competitive rates, which these savings can be passed on to the consumers in the form of lower borrowing costs.

Through **HB200**, funds were allocated towards a biodigester, which produces a clean, healthy and economic alternative fuel and fertilizer that can be used in farming. Additionally, to protect Hawaii's unique environment and crops, positions were funded for plant and pest, and bio control personnel and programs.

For more information on all legislative bills, visit: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Over \$27 million for Senate District 24

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Over \$3.3 million for repair and maintenance projects will begin this year at the following Senate District 24 schools:

Ahuimanu Elementary, Aikahi Elementary, Ben Parker Elementary, Castle High, Heeia Elementary, Kaelepulu Elementary, Kailua High, Kalaheo High, Kaneohe Elementary, Kapunahala Elementary, King Intermediate, Maunawili Elementary, and Mokapu Elementary

The Administration released the following funds for Capital Improvement Projects in Senate District 24:

Kaneohe Bay Drive Rehabilitation	\$4,510,000
<i>from Kamehameha Highway to Nanamoana St</i>	
Hawaii State Hospital	
<i>Retrofit hot water system in Buildings E,F,H,I</i>	\$40,000
<i>Design and construction for the replacement doors/frames in 12 buildings and the replacement of windows/frames in 7 buildings</i>	\$452,330
<i>Design for the demolition of the Goddard Building</i>	\$173,000
University of Hawaii at Manoa	\$3,500,000
<i>Coconut Island Improvements</i>	
Koolau Village	\$250,000
<i>Coconut Island Improvements</i>	
Castle Hills Access Road	\$944,000
<i>Drainage Improvements, Phase 2</i>	

TOTAL **\$9,869,330**

Senator Tokuda Named National NCSL Early Learning Fellow

Senator Tokuda was chosen as one of 25 legislators throughout the United States to participate in the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Early Learning Fellows Program. Senator Tokuda will collaborate with experts and other emerging leaders on key issues surrounding early learning, identifying and applying best practices that can be implemented back home in Hawaii in areas such as teacher training, the development of standards and quality rating systems, and funding and management issues.



King Intermediate was awarded \$100,000 for achieving significant academic improvements. Congratulations King!

CONTACT SENATOR JILL TOKUDA

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Senate District 24 Talk Story Town Hall Meeting

Hosted by
Senator Jill Tokuda

Tuesday, July 9, 2013
Windward Community College,
Hale Akoako 107 & 109
7:00pm-8:30pm

Please join us
as we talk about the 2013
legislative session
and share your thoughts
and concerns about
our community.

For more information,
please contact our office at
587-7215.



Senator Jill N. Tokuda
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Castle HS Track and Field Finally a Reality

With the first Castle High School graduating class having used our new all-weather track and synthetic turf field for home games and competitions, there are just a few reminders we should all be aware of to help us maintain our new facilities: The track is open for public use Mon-Fri from 3pm-6pm and closed on weekends, holidays and for special events. No food or drinks, and no animals, bicycles or skateboards are allowed on the track or the field. This is a great resource for our community, so let's all work together to respect the rules and we can all continue to enjoy our new track and field!



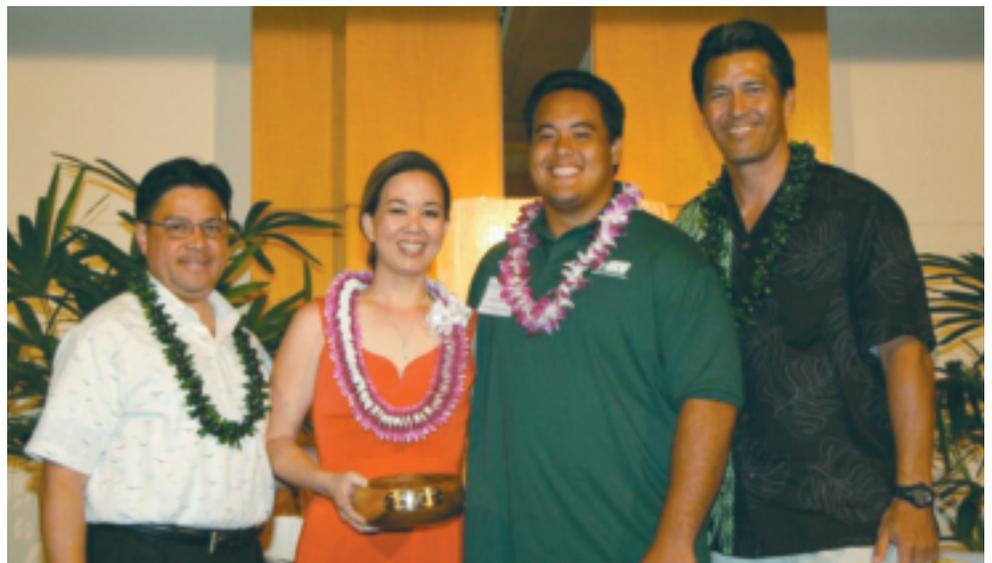
*Sen Tokuda with Jada Harris,
King Intermediate artist.*

Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program

STAR continued for its 7th year during the 2013 Legislative Session showcasing the artistic talents of students from Windward Oahu. This year we had the privilege of having art displayed at the State Capitol from more than 330 artists at 10 schools in Senate District 24 including: Ahuimanu Elementary, Aikahi Elementary, Ben Parker Elementary, Kailua High, Kaneohe Elementary, Kapunahala Elementary, Kaelepulu Elementary, King Intermediate, Olomana, and Windward Community College.

2013 Hawaii Public Charter School Network Legislator of the Year

Senator Tokuda was named the 2013 Legislator of the Year by the Hawaii Public Charter School Network for her ongoing efforts to work with advocates to create policies and practices that support a system of high quality charter schools. As a result of recent legislative action, Hawaii is being recognized nationally for the strength of their charter laws that balance both accountability and autonomy with the overall goal being student achievement.



Sen Tokuda being honored as the 2013 Hawaii Public Charter School Network Legislator of the Year with HPCSN board member Pono Shim, Tyman Higashi, University Lab School senior, and board member Kaulana Park.