

Capitol Connection

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Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

The 26th Legislature was called to order on January 19 in the spirit of hope and readiness to tackle the many pressing issues facing our State. Senate members were eager to collaborate with the new Governor and the House of Representatives to begin rebuilding our community and charting a new course for a better future.

I am honored to take on the position as Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. There are many challenges ahead as the committee faces the task of reducing the state's deficit and balancing the budget.

This session, my colleagues and I will have to make some extremely difficult decisions that affect all of our lives. Your participation in the process of governing our state is a valuable part of our democracy. I encourage all of you to make sure your voice is heard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov or call my office at 586-6230 if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns.

David Y. Ige

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

Opening Day

January 19th marked the start of the 2011 Hawai'i state legislative session with the traditional Opening Day celebration. On this special occasion, the people of Hawai'i witnessed the convening of the 26th Legislative Session and were encouraged to meet and greet their legislators in their offices.

The audience was treated to entertainment provided by Hawai'i's superstars: our Ambassador of Aloha, Danny Kaleikini; the Kamehameha School Children's Chorus led by Lynell Bright; the Society of Seven; Willie K; the Moanalua High String Ensemble; and Sean Na'auao and Friends.

Among those who gathered in honor of this event were five governors: Governor Neil Abercrombie, and former Governors Linda Lingle, Ben Cayetano, John Waihe'e, and George Ariyoshi. U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka were also in attendance.



Ways & Means Begins 2011 with Budget Briefings

The Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Ige, conducted informational briefings on the State's Biennium Budget from January 3rd through the 18th. The following are highlights of some of the presentations.

Council on Revenues

The Council testified that at its December 29, 2010, meeting, the members adopted a slight revision to the forecast from 2% to 3% nominal revenue growth in the current 2011 fiscal year. Among several economic factors influencing the Council's revision, the strong rise in total visitor arrivals during the current fiscal year was the predominant qualitative change from the Council's recent prior forecasts. The Council kept its revenue growth forecast for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The 1% increase in revenue growth amounts to approximately \$45.6 million in additional revenues.

State Financial Plan and Biennium Budget

The Department of Budget and Finance testified on behalf of the Abercrombie Administration that the State has a projected budget deficit of \$71.6 million for fiscal year 2011, and \$771.9 million for fiscal years 2012-2013. The department based its projections using figures from the Lingle Administration. The department testified that currently, the Abercrombie Administration is working on developing a revised budget and balanced financial plan. In the revised plan the administration hopes to restore some of the previous budget cuts in order to address program deficiencies. It also hopes to address the funding shortfalls in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid programs, maximize non-general fund opportunities, and support administration and departmental priorities.

For a more in-depth summary of what is contained in the base Executive budget, please refer to "The FB 2011-13 Executive Biennium Budget, Budget in Brief" that is available on Budget and Finance's website at: <http://hawaii.gov/budget/bienniumbudget/budgetinbrief>

Department of Education

For fiscal biennium 2011-2013, the Department of Education has proposed minor reductions through ceiling request changes. The department has requested \$86 million of general funds to reflect the amount of furlough restoration and \$43 million of general funds to reflect the restoration of the Legislative reduction to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. If appropriated additional funding, the department will use funds to address the student transportation shortfall, the need for nursing services previously provided by the Department of Health, and the development of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system to replace the current financial management system.

University of Hawai'i

The University proposed reductions of \$22,985,000 in both fiscal years 2012 and 2013 comprised of Federal Stimulus Funds, College of Pharmacy Equipment, and NSF Grant Funds. It also proposed additions totalling \$63,664,167 for fiscal year 2012 and \$76,411,458 for fiscal year 2013 for restoration of furlough savings, collective bargaining, and the Capital Improvements Assessment Fund. The University also has a long list of priorities should they be given additional funding.

Continued on page 7

News Updates on Our Roadways

We are pleased to bring you long awaited updates on plans to improve the roadways in Aiea and Pearl City. **The City and County of Honolulu** will be rehabilitating Moanalua Road, Ka‘ahumanu Street, Ho‘omalua Street, and Ho‘oma‘ema‘e Street in the latter part of 2011. The project will include reconstruction of existing asphalt concrete pavements; construction of new concrete bus pads; reconstruction of concrete curb and gutter; and installation of new pavement markings. The total construction time is anticipated to be about six months. The City conducted a community informational meeting on Feb. 10, 2011 at Pearl Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria to allow the public to state their concerns regarding possible noise impacts from the project.

The State Dept. of Transportation’s Kamehameha Highway Traffic Safety Improvement Project is almost complete. Chain link fences have been erected on the median to prevent pedestrians from crossing in dangerous areas. They are awaiting shipment of the Hawaiian motif fabric panels that will line the fence to add aesthetics to the highway. Traffic signal improvements have been completed at intersections from Center Drive to Acacia Road. CCTV cabinet and camera systems were installed at all locations per contract plan, with the exception of the Ka‘ahumanu Street intersection. Fiber optic cable installation will be completed by mid-February.

Bad road conditions on Kamehameha Highway are attributable to base failures. Therefore, the roadway tends to pump, crack, and pot relatively quickly. The DOT is currently developing a project to resurface/reconstruct Kamehameha Highway from Waiawa Interchange to Center Drive that is estimated to cost \$40 million. The project can be phased as funding is available. However, due to the lack of Special Maintenance Program Funding, no projects are currently planned in this area.

The Aiea/Pearl City Legislators have scheduled a Town Meeting to give you the latest updates on the roadway projects. This meeting will be on March 17, 2011 at Waimalu Elementary School and begins at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from the State Dept. of Transportation and the City and County Dept. of Transportation Services will present status reports. You will also have the opportunity to voice your concerns and ask questions.



Senate Confirms Directors

Senator Ige chaired the hearings for Governor Abercrombie's nominations of Kalbert K. Young as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, and Frederick D. Pablo as Director of the Department of Taxation. At the hearing, testimonies were heard supporting the Governor's appointments. The recommendation of the Ways and Means committee was to "advise and consent to the nominations." On February 15, the full Senate unanimously voted to confirm the nominees.



Pictured above - Senator David Ige, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Frederick Pablo, Louise Braun, Senator Kalani English, Cindy Young, Kalbert Young, and Senate President Shan Tsutsui



Senate Ways & Means Committee on Twitter



As part of the legislature’s efforts to keep up with technology and to increase access to government, the Senate Ways and Means Committee is now on Twitter. Follow us to receive live updates of all Ways and Means hearings, decision making, and info briefings. Go to http://twitter.com/HI_Senate_WAM

Not sure where to start? We'll be happy to help you as you take it one step at a time.

Hawaii's Public Access Room (PAR)

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Office Hours

Hours during Regular Session (Jan – April):

8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday – Friday

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday

Hours during Interim (May – Dec):

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

In 1990, the Hawaii State Legislature established the Public Access Room (PAR) to provide the public with necessary resources for participation in the legislative process.

It's the first stop for Hawaii's citizens when working with the Legislature – whether from home, office or at the Capitol. We are deeply non-partisan. We maintain our objectivity in order to serve the needs of those who use our facilities and services.

There is never a fee for services.

PAR provides the tools you need

An Office for Work at the Capitol

Just walk on in!

Computers with internet access – prepare (and print) testimony; research legislative issues; work on email; monitor news and legislative broadcasts

Work space – a convenient place to use your laptop (free wireless & charging site); hold small meetings; do paperwork, read, or just take a break

Equipment – photocopier (for testimony and legislative correspondence only); television (monitor broadcasts and hearings via closed circuit cable); telephone, TTY and fax machine

Reference materials – Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); Session Laws; Journals; English, foreign language and American Sign Language dictionaries; local directories; manuals and books; information sheets and newsletters

Office Essentials for use on site – a variety of office supplies are kept on hand – just let a staff member know what you need.

Expert staff to assist you

In person, by phone, or via email

Legislative process – identify, locate and understand measures, actions, procedures and deadlines

"How to" – locate your legislators; offer testimony; track measures; navigate the Legislature's website

Identify resources – statutes; administrative rules; studies and reports; previously considered legislation and testimony; State offices; Legislative Reference Bureau divisions

PAR Website, Newsletters and Information Sheets – clear, accessible materials on the legislature and effective participation

Individual and Group Workshops

At the Capitol, or Off Site

Drop-in workshops – regularly scheduled throughout Session, no appointment necessary (contact us for times)

Schedule a workshop -- *as time and logistics permit*, at the Capitol or at your group's meeting site

Community workshops – as part of ongoing outreach efforts, PAR offers workshops throughout the islands – let us know if you'd like to be informed of our schedule

Online workshop materials – at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>

How to... Receive Hearing Notices by E-mail

Ask the Hawai'i State Legislature's website to alert you when a measure you're interested in gets scheduled for a hearing, or to let you know when a particular committee has issued a hearing notice.

It's a great way to make sure you don't miss an important opportunity to offer testimony. It's easy to add to or change the list, too. Try it out!

1. Go to the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and then select the 'Bill Status and Documents' page.

- In the second box, click on the link, "**Subscribe to Hearing Notices by e-mail.**"
- Then, click on the link off to the right that says, "New User? Click here."
-**You'll be asked for your name and email address, and to create a password.**

2. Next, **go to your email inbox*** where you'll receive an email message asking you to confirm your account. **Follow the steps to confirm.**

- * This is an important step. The system sends you an email to make sure that you are a person attempting to set up a user account, and not a computer attempting to spam the system.

3. Now go back to the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

- Return to the 'Bill Status and Documents' page.
- Return to the second box and again open the "Subscribe to Hearing Notices by e-mail" link.
- **Now you're an 'Existing User,' so just enter your email address, the password you created, and click "log in."**
- **To follow particular bills or resolutions:**
 - In the top box, type in bill or resolution numbers for which you'd like to receive hearing notices and then click "Add."
- **To follow certain committees:**
 - Click the boxes next to the committees whose hearing notices you'd like to receive.
- When done, click "**Review and Exit.**"
- Take a look at your selections. If you're done, **click "Finished."** (If you want to make changes, click "Back to Edit Selections.")
- You're good to go! You'll receive the hearing notices by email.

Questions? Need help with something else?
Contact the Public Access Room (PAR) – we'll be happy to help.

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Capitol Artist Program

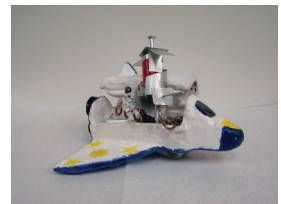
The Capitol Artist Program is designed to provide schools in the 16th Senatorial District with an opportunity to display their students' artwork in the State Capitol. The Program was initiated by Senator Ige in 1996 to spotlight the work of our students and has also helped to educate the public about art education and its positive results. This has resulted in greater public awareness of the breadth and depth of student achievement through the medium of art.

Currently on display at the capital is artwork created by the students of Roy Chang, art instructor at Aiea Intermediate School. Students from grades 7-8 submitted 2 and 3-dimensional artwork. 3-dimensional artwork is on display in Senator Ige's office (Room 215) and 2-dimensional pieces are located on the Chamber level.



First Friday - Art at the Capitol

The State Capitol will be participating in the First Friday Activities on April 1st from 5-7pm to showcase the Art in Public Places Collection. Works of art created by local artists are displayed in state buildings and rotated throughout Hawai'i in order for all people to have access to visual arts in various styles, techniques and media. There are almost 200 works on display in the Senate offices.



Budget Briefings

Continued from page 2

Department of Budget & Finance:

The Department of Budget and Finance's mission is to enhance long-term productivity and efficiency in government operations by providing quality budget and financial services that allocate and effectively manage available resources. Given the current budget status, the department's operating budget request adjusts fixed costs and includes the most critical requirements for the long term sustainability of the department's core programs and attached agencies. The department's prioritization of budget requests for special and trust fund programs reflects support of activities that are income enhancing, statutorily mandated, and energy related initiatives.

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism Summary

The department stated that it has been working diligently to draw upon federal money to fund vital programs, and it looks forward to working with the legislature to reorganize and reprioritize operations in order to build stability and confidence within the department, while continuing to explore revenue generating projects such as those aimed towards tourism, creative media and energy.

Department of Human Services- Attached Agencies

The department further advised that to meet increased demand for medical services, the department's MedQUEST division is requesting \$57.5 million in emergency assistance funds. The department also plans to request \$58.5 million in emergency assistance funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) program because a portion of TANF funds were used to cover the deficit that fiscal year 2011 started with and all remaining American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are depleted. Although the department's capital needs are estimated at \$350 million, the department is working on a list of programs and non-profit organizations that will be cut to alleviate funding shortages, and it plans to focus on child and adult protective services.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

The department testified that it will be requesting general fund appropriations for workers compensation. The department also stated that over the next 13 months, \$340 million in federal funds will be coming into the state for the extension of unemployment insurance. The department will be hampered by the loss of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and is in the process of working out a contingency plan to bridge the funding gap. The department advised that the Unemployment Insurance fund went bankrupt last month and the department acquired a federal loan with payments deferred until May of 2012.

Complete summaries of all departments are available at:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/SenateCommittees/CommitteeFiles/WAM/WAMFiles/Budget_Briefing_Highlights.pdf

Waimalu Elementary Students visit the Capitol



Senator David Ige addresses sixth grade students from Waimalu Elementary School on January 27th.

Town Meeting Dates

Here is a list of our upcoming Town Meetings and Locations:

- 3/17 Transportation**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 5/19 UH Athletics/Admissions**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 7/21 Going Green/Sustainability**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 8/18 Education**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 9/17 Senior Fair**
Pearlridge Shopping Center, Uptown
- 10/22 Keiki ID**
Pearl Kai McDonalds

Office of Senator David Y. Ige
Representing Aiea, Aiea Heights, Momiiani, Newtown,
Pacific Palisades, Pearl City, Upper Pearlridge, Waiolu and Waimalu



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