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Creating Jobs for Hawaii's Workers The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012

With unanimous, bi-partisan support from my colleagues, I introduced Senate Bill 2012 – The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012 – that has the potential to create anywhere from 4,000 to 6,000 jobs statewide in a fairly short time. The Senate passed the bill this week.

Senate Bill 2012 is designed to address the critical backlog of repair and maintenance work at state facilities that has been accumulating for many years. It does so by authorizing general obligation bonds totaling \$500-million dollars to fund the work. And it amends procurement laws to make sure the work can begin almost immediately once the bill becomes law. Most important, it will put people back on the job to stimulate the economy.

The effects of this legislation will be far-reaching. Repair and maintenance projects have been waiting for funding at virtually every public school, our public libraries, all of our UH campuses, at public health centers including our State hospital system, at parks, small boat harbors and many, many more state-owned facilities. The work will be underway in all of our communities.

As Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, with responsibility for the state's construction project budget, I presided at the initial hearing on SB 2012. There was universal support for the proposal from construction companies and other private sector businesses, and from more than a dozen trade union organizations representing workers who have been unemployed for too long, and who stand ready to kick-start our economic recovery. Aaron Fujioka, the State Procurement Officer, also supported SB 2012.

SB 2012 moved quickly in the Senate, so our colleagues in the House could also move forward quickly on this historic bill and send it to the Governor for his signature as this bill takes effect upon approval. The legislature, the administration and the private sector are unified in this effort – everyone will benefit from this initiative.



Hawaii workers – led by trade union organizations – rallied at the State Capitol prior to testifying on SB 2012. As the lead Senator for publicly-funded construction projects, Senator Kidani presided over the overwhelmingly supportive testimony. Pictured with her are fellow members of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland (l) and Committee Chair Senator David Ige (r).

Remembering Representative Sam Lee - A true public servant



The community lost the voice of a remarkable advocate earlier this month with the death of former State Representative Sam Sang Hoy Lee.

Everyone in Mililani owes Sam a debt of gratitude for his tireless work on behalf of our people, both as a Neighborhood Board member and chair, and as a member of the State House for five terms from 1986 until he stepped down in 1996. He was, of course, succeeded by his wife, Marilyn, who has served Mililani with equal commitment and distinction to this day.

Hawaii-born to immigrant parents and raised in Kalihi, Sam entered the U.S. Foreign Service after graduating from Yale with a degree in international relations. His tours of duty took him to posts in Europe and Asia. But when he retired, he settled in Mililani, much to the benefit of his family and the entire town.

As chair of the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board, Sam was the prime mover in the efforts that led to the cleanup of our pesticide-contaminated water system. He is also widely credited with the successful drive to have Mililani designated an All American City in 1986 – and we are still the only community in Hawaii ever to receive this distinction.

Sam was urged to run for the legislature by the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink. During a decade in the House, he was a passionate advocate for higher education, economic development, and stronger ties between Hawaii and Asia. Even in retirement, Sam was frequently seen at the Capitol, lending his good counsel to former colleagues and new members alike, with articulate good humor and passionate, thoughtful concern for Hawaii.

We will miss him, and extend our sincere condolences and warm wishes to Representative Marilyn Lee, daughter Kammy, and sons John, Thomas and Andrew. A most moving tribute was from his son Andrew during the eulogy: “My hope is that I can be the same kind of father to my children that dad was to us.”

Women’s Legislative Caucus Unveils 2012 Priorities

For more than two decades, women Senators and Representatives have worked together in bipartisan efforts to support legislation to improve the lives of Hawaii’s women and their families. Led by Rep. Marilyn Lee, the Women’s Legislative Caucus has this year dedicated its 2012 legislative package – entitled “Service and Sacrifice” – to women veterans.

The Caucus has introduced concurrent resolutions in both the House and the Senate (HCR 19 and SCR 5) that call on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of women veterans. The scope of services should include medical and mental healthcare, child care services, housing, and financial assistance.

As the Women’s Legislative Caucus seeks to improve the health and well-being of Hawaii’s women and their families, a host of other measures lie on the table for consideration. The entire package of bills and resolutions introduced in the 2011-2012 legislative session may be reviewed on the Web at:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/report.aspx?type=package&key=12&name=Women's+Legislative+Caucus>



Legislative update . . .

The Legislative session is heading into a mandatory recess period of five working days. But the work doesn't stop – there are no floor sessions, but hearings and committee meetings continue, and bills continue to be reviewed by House and Senate members and their staff.

To make sure that bills move forward in a timely manner, internal deadlines are established for the session calendar. Last week, at 'first lateral,' bills needed to be in their final committee for consideration if they are going to pass and 'cross over' from Senate to House and vice versa.

Here's a look at a few of the bills I introduced that are still moving toward passage:

- * **SB 2012** – “The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012” (see front page story)
- * **SB 2482** - The “move over” bill that requires motorists to move over and slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle parked on the shoulder or side of the road
- * **SB 2483** - Establishing a public schools science and technology fund, and making available a check-off box on tax returns to encourage public donations to the fund
- * **SB 2484** - Authorizes a tax credit of up to \$500 for public school teachers who spend personal funds to buy books, school supplies or equipment for their classrooms
- * **SB 2486** - Clarifying that terroristic threatening includes threats of serious harm to another person's pets or livestock
- * **SB 2487** - Making abusive conduct against an employee in the workplace a violation of occupational safety and health law
- * **SB 2489** - Relating to the National Guard, including, among other provisions, establishing a tax credit for employers of guard personnel who continue health coverage for guard member employees while they are on active duty
- * **SB 2950** - Appropriates funds to the department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu for the Honolulu family justice center.

You can check on the status of any bill at the legislature at the Capitol Web site:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov> – just enter the bill number – or by calling my office at 586-7100.

“Viaggio Sicuro!” Travel Safely, Trojan Marching Band!



Earlier this month, I enjoyed the Mililani Jazz Band as they took the stage during a Hawaiian Dinner fundraiser to help support the Trojan Marching Band tour of Italy in March. About one hundred talented musicians, along with directors, chaperones and tag-alongs will depart Thursday, March 8, for a total of six nights in Rome, Florence and Venice. They'll visit the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, enjoy the splendors of Vatican City and a host of other sights – and tastes – of all that is Italy. Congratulations to parent tour coordinator **Lori Sato** for her hard work in organizing the logistics, and, of course, to all of the travelling band members who will give us yet another reason to be proud of our MHS students.

Congratulations Mililani!



I was joined at Col. Keith Tamashiro's Change of Command ceremony last week by Representative Marcus Oshiro (l) and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz (r).

Congratulations to Colonel Keith Tamashiro, a Mililani Mauka resident and member of Neighborhood Board # 35 for completing a successful assignment as Commander of the Hawaii Army National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. At the change of command ceremony earlier this month, I was pleased to present a Senate certificate officially recognizing Colonel Tamashiro's service to country and our community as a longtime citizen soldier. During more than 27 years as an active duty, reserve and National Guard officer, Colonel Tamashiro has served with distinction, including a one-year deployment to Kuwait in 2005. As a civilian, he is a Supervisor in the First-to-Work Program in the Hawaii State Department of Social Services.

We are proud, too, that the new Combat Team Commander is a Mililani Mauka resident – Col. Ken Hara. Colonel Hara is the younger brother of Brigadier General Gary Hara, also a Mililani resident, whose spouse Dianne works for Mililani Town Association.

Congratulations to the Tamashiros and the Haras for a commitment to service!



New Commander, Hawaii Army National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mililani residents Colonel Ken Hara and his wife Myoung.



I was pleased to honor Mililani resident Scott Kaneshiro at ceremonies in the Senate Chamber. From left, Mikki Fletcher and Lynne Kimoto Madden from The Madden Corporation (Scott's employers), and Scott Kaneshiro with his wife Renee.

The Senate Chamber was filled with SPAM earlier this month as my colleagues and I congratulated Scott Kaneshiro of Mililani for the winning design label for a Hawaii Special Edition SPAM can. Scott and his family are Mililani residents – they entered last summer's contest right on deadline, and came away with top honors – a small cash prize and a year's supply of the product itself. We are proud of Scott for his creativity, including his wonderful illustrations in the *Limu: The Blue Turtle* children's books, published by Island Heritage, a division of The Madden Corporation, where Scott is Art Director.

Congratulations!

Canned spiced ham, more commonly known as SPAM, was widely distributed among military troops in the Pacific and in remote Hawaii during World War II, because fresh meat was in short supply and difficult to preserve. Quick-thinking Island entrepreneurs made sure it would be on Hawaii grocery shelves when troops returned from the battlefield. The popularity of SPAM soared in the 1980s when someone concocted the uniquely island "delicacy" – SPAM musubi – to the extent that Hawaii residents now consume more than 8-million cans of SPAM each year.



An iconic Hawaii food product, with Scott's label design that includes iconic Hawaii images – the Hawaii flag on the reverse, and an outstretched hand in full shaka position, clutching a perfectly molded SPAM musubi.

Welcome Wayland Baptist University

Wayland Baptist University Mililani opened its doors to the community late last month, and I was pleased to join in the official dedication and open house. Wayland Baptist has been offering its educational programs in Hawaii for more than 30 years, and moved to Mililani from its previous headquarters in Aiea last fall. Its 550 students are mostly from a half-dozen military bases around Oahu. They enroll in a wide variety of classes with a focus on business and professional studies. Welcome to the neighborhood!



Wayland University Executive Director and Campus Dean David Howle was our host for the open house.



Untying the *maile* with HPD Chief Louis Kealoha to officially open the doors to Wayland's newly-renovated campus administration building – our new neighbors in Mililani.

Cub Scout Pack 564 Blue and Gold Banquet

Congratulations to Cub Scout Pack 564 of Mililani Mauka for a successful Blue & Gold Banquet celebration! It was my pleasure to meet family and friends, and to honor the six outstanding recipients of the Arrow of Light Award with Senate certificates recognizing this significant accomplishment.

Developing leadership skills is a hallmark of the Scouting program, and we can be proud of the commitment to family and community values these young men have demonstrated. Our best wishes for every success in the future to Noah Fujita, Cade Macayan, Jake Orimoto, Donovan Thomson, Cody Villegas and Evan Young. Our grateful thanks to their parents and scout leaders, too.



Friends and family honored recipients of Cub Scouting's highest Award – the Arrow of Light. Cub Scout Pack 564 celebrated the Pack's successful year at the annual Blue & Gold banquet.

GO WARRIORS!

It was a real thrill to host new UH Manoa head football coach Norm Chow at my Capitol office this month. Coach Chow was paying a courtesy visit to let me know that he is optimistic about the future of the Warrior football program, and that he appreciates the Senate's initiative in including UH athletic facilities in this year's "Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012" – the bi-partisan legislation authorizing bond funding for hundreds of repair and maintenance projects at public facilities across the state.



EVENTS AT THE CAPITOL

The State Capitol is an active public building where everyone is welcome – especially during the legislative session from January through early May. Here are some events in March – open to the public – that you may wish to attend:

- * **Friday, March 2** – Art at the Capitol (see last page)
- * **Tuesday, March 13** – An observance of the 40th Anniversary of Title IX, the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, the historic Federal legislation that prohibited gender discrimination by educational institutions that receive Federal funds. Title IX revolutionized fledgling women's intercollegiate sports programs, and opened the doors to higher education programs that previously allowed few, if any, women to enroll.
- * **Tuesday, March 27 – Friday, March 30** – Hawaiian Caucus Week, set aside each legislative session by Senators and Representatives of Hawaiian ethnicity to recognize and honor our host culture history and traditions. Displays will be set up around the Capitol, and on Friday, strolling musicians, and a variety of Hawaiian vendors and crafters will be on hand.
- * **Wednesday, March 28** – The legislature recognizes Hawaii service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice at ceremonies that include presentation of the State of Hawaii Medal of Honor.

Call my office – 586-7100 – for details of these events.

New requirements for driver's licenses – Starting March 5, 2012

The state of Hawaii is implementing new procedures to comply with Federal requirements in the REAL ID Act of 2005. If you are applying for, renewing or replacing your driver's license, or signing up for a learner's permit, you'll need to provide additional documentation and proof of identity beginning Monday, March 5, 2012.

The new requirements passed by Congress are intended to assure the reliability of state-issued identification, and to make it much more difficult for criminals to commit identity fraud. At some point in the future, all U.S. citizens will need identification that complies with the new requirements for air travel within the United States.

Also, as a part of the new procedures, you will be issued only a temporary license over the counter beginning March 5. Your new, permanent license will be mailed to you within about two weeks after your visit to the motor vehicle office.

Below is a list of documents you'll be asked to show to the licensing offices:

- * A valid or certified copy of your Social Security card
- AND, one of the following:**
- * A valid, un-expired U.S. passport
 - * An original or certified copy of a birth certificate
 - * A Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) issued by the U.S. State Department
 - * A valid, un-expired permanent resident card issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 - * A certificate of naturalization issued by the Department of Homeland Security
 - * A certificate of citizenship issued by the U.S. Department of Human Services
 - * A valid U.S. Active Duty/Retiree/Reservist Military ID Card
 - * A valid foreign passport with Visa and I-94 issued by Customs and Border Protection



Kaleiopuu Sixth Graders learn valuable lessons on stage



I am always eager to visit schools in our communities. During my time with students I always find enthusiasm and excitement, and wonderful displays of talent.

Late last month, I was in the audience at Kaleiopuu Elementary School in Waipahu where students performed as a part of the Artists in the Schools (AITS) program. The show was entitled “Watch What you Say,” and it dealt with the subject of bullying and cyberbullying.

The AITS program teaches performance skills, dance and movement, and alternate ways to communicate a message. During the ten sessions at Kaleiopuu, students learned about the serious consequences of verbal and physical abuse, some ways to deal with these kinds of challenges when they might occur, and even prevent them from becoming a problem.

Kaleiopuu’s AITS program was supported by a \$6,000 grant from the legislature, and the performance was a terrific opportunity to see the results of the grant program, and for the students to express their appreciation for this out-of-the-classroom opportunity.

This excellent performance by sixth graders gets two thumbs up!



January 23, 2012

Dear State of Hawaii Legislators,

Thank you for setting aside the money for the six thousand dollar grant for our school. We really appreciate what you've done, and have put the money to a good use in performing arts.

With the money, we have had sessions with two artists in preparing for a huge performance and film about bullying by the sixth graders, here at Kaleiopuu. During the class sessions, we have learned all about how to be a good performer, at the same time preparing for our show. In our lines, we have learned how to express your words while learning about bullying as well. In dancing, we have learned how to dance with our moves clearly while singing nicely. We have practiced hard with the two helpful artists, and know we'll have a wonderful show.

Thank you again, and we hope you can make it to see us sixth graders perform. We really appreciate what you've done for us!

Legislature honors Waipahu soldier

The legislature earlier this month honored Pfc. Edward Barut, of Waipahu, for his service to our country, and to recognize his bravery under fire in Afghanistan. While on a routine NATO training mission in October 2011, Private Barut and his fellow soldiers were ambushed and under heavy enemy attack for 45 minutes. While the unit successfully defended themselves, Private Barut was wounded in action, and was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge. Private Barut continues his service to the country with the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, 41st Fires Brigade at Fort Hood Texas. In the Senate, the certificate recognizing Pfc. Barut was co-sponsored by Senators Will Espero and Clarence Nishihara. I joined them and other senators to congratulate



Pfc. Barut and his fiancé, Ana Calvillo, and his parents Edwin Barut and Filomena Bungcayao.

