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Legislative Update

A newsletter from State Representative Joey Manahan

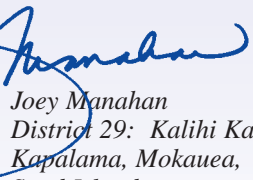
29th District - Kalihi Kai, Kapalama, Mokauea, Sand Island 2007

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve you as the State Representative for the 29th House District of the State of Hawaii. As the Vice Chair for the House Committee on Tourism and Culture and a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Economic Development and Business Concerns, our committees worked with many organizations and individuals to address the pressing needs of our State. As a member of the House Committee on Finance, I was able to secure over \$20 million in capital improvement projects and grants-in-aids for the 29th district while working with my colleagues to address numerous concerns statewide.

Thank you for providing feedback in the form of testimony, letters, emails, phone calls, and our conversations. Only by working together can we build a stronger community and improve the quality of life in our State. It is a privilege to be your voice in the Hawaii State Legislature, and I promise to uphold my duty to serve you with humility, strength, and honor.

Sincerely,



Joey Manahan
 District 29: Kalihi Kai,
 Kapalama, Mokauea,
 Sand Island

Over \$20 million awarded for projects and services in the 29th District

Grant-In-Aid: \$4,333,875

\$2,200,000 – Kokua Kalihi Valley - Provides health services to the Asian and Pacific Island immigrant population in Kalihi Valley.

\$250,000 - YMCA of Honolulu - YMCA responds to a wide range of community needs through various programs. The YMCA of Honolulu serves more people on Oahu than any other direct-service, nonprofit organization.

\$50,000 - Alliance for Drama Education - ADE teaches drama appreciation, respect for self and others, teamwork, and life skills through programs such as the T-Shirt Theatre, a Kalihi-based performance group with students from Farrington High School, Kalakaua and Dole Middle Schools.

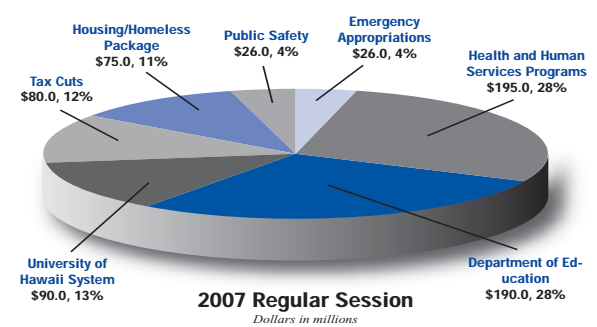
\$450,000 - Bishop Museum - Largest museum in the state and the premier natural and cultural history institution in the Pacific, and is recognized throughout the world for its cultural collections, research projects, consulting services and public educational programs.



Rep. Manahan at a hearing of the House Finance Committee

Where Did the Surplus Go?

Lawmakers were faced with a budget surplus of nearly \$700 million at the end of the last fiscal year. However, state economists are predicting the Hawaii's economy is slowing down considerably. Given this situation, the Legislature adopted the prudent, responsible approach of investing in the programs and infrastructure upon which the people of Hawaii depend. The chart below reflects the Legislature's priorities in spending the surplus, as well as a cautious approach going forward.



\$134,000 – Catholic Charities Hawaii - Provides a wide range of social services to over 27,000 people each year through programs that are offered on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and the Big Island.

\$100,000 - Ethnic Education Foundation - Assists in disseminating information to a broader range of the State's population in the event of a disaster or emergency.

\$100,000 - KNDI Radio 1270 AM - KNDI has the ability to communicate in many different languages and broadcasts emergency messages to non-English speaking residents and visitors in the State.

\$400,000 - Parents and Children Together (Weed & Seed) - One of Hawaii's leading private nonprofit family service agencies and a leader in the design and delivery of a broad range of social and educational services.

\$250,000 – The Filipino Community Center - A gathering place for promoting activities to share and perpetuate the Filipino heritage. It also offers many social and human service programs for all members of the community.

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Opening Day

The Hawaii State Legislature officially commences each new legislative session with a long-standing tradition of Opening Day ceremonies which is unique to Hawaii. The ceremony features music, swearing-in of newly elected officials, and speeches that provide an overview of the upcoming session. All legislators open their doors and invite the community to share in the food and fun.



Ermilita Garces and Rep. Manahan



Local 5



Gear Up kids (Tia Fala, Hans Nansen, Isaac Kai, Rep. Manahan)



Farrington High School Color Guard (Lane Phongphila, Alvin Yasay, Lovejoy Manzano, Sweet-Angel Figuracion, Sgt. Efran Aguilara)



Rep. Manahan on the House Chamber floor



Mayor Mufi Hannemann congratulates Rep. Joey Manahan as he embarks on his first term of office



Senator Donna Mercado Kim and Rep. Manahan

Tax Relief

SB 148 - The Legislature passed several bills to assist the residents of Hawaii. This bill allows the State's surplus to the neediest of the State to be distributed in an amount to all taxpayers.

SB 1882 - This bill establishes a refund for those who receive greater relief. In this measure, the State will address current needs and incomes of those trying to get by. The credit assists those who need it most.

Improving Road Safety

HB 375 - In the past year, there have been a significant number of injuries, especially among the elderly, on Oahu's roadways, the Legislature has passed a bill to stop or yield to the right-of-way traffic. This bill addresses offenses of Hawaii's crosswalk law.

SB 1191 - The purpose of this measure is to allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to work with the counties to take steps for immediate action to make the roads safer. This will enable county officials to recalibrate the timing of a statewide public awareness campaign. This includes pedestrian-activated flashing signs, advanced crossing signs, and carried signs and flags, advanced crossing signs, and pedestrians. Making Hawaii a safer place with Kamehameha's famous law, Keolu, is the goal. Paddle, which assures that every man and woman has the right to peace.

Raising the Benefits

HB 1500 - Savings for businesses and individuals. This bill lowers unemployment rate and strong job growth. It reduces roll taxes that will now be paid on a wage of \$35,000, the highest in the nation. This bill increases the amount of wages to 75% and increases the amount of wages to help lower the cost of doing business in Hawaii. This is one of the biggest tax breaks ever.

HB 831 - Requires the Office of Veterans Affairs to provide special services for World War II Filipino veterans.

Care Homes

HB 833 - Individuals who provide in-home care services under the Hawaii Medicaid Waiver Program will be allowed to be employees of the State. This will allow them to continue providing quality services to the community.

SB 1182 - Enables the Department of Health to provide services for persons residing in community care facilities. This bill aims to increase the allowance amount to help pay for these services.

Clean Communities

HB 1513 - Increases the financial penalty for graffiti. Every person found guilty shall be fined. Any person shall be disqualified from voting in any election if they are found guilty of this offense.

SB 228 - If a minor is found doing graffiti, the bill allows legal guardians to remove the graffiti. This bill requires 40 hours of community service.

HB 1614 - Appropriates funds to cover the cost of nuisance abatement laws and other measures to improve the quality of life in the community.

Connecting with the Community

Several significant tax relief measures this year to bill requires the Legislature to return a portion of taxpayers rather than giving back a relatively small

able credit to ensure that those with lower incomes the income brackets and credit amounts reflect the ing to pay for basic necessities. The food/excise tax

ety

There have been numerous reports of pedestrian fatalities and injury. To address the ongoing issue of pedestrian safety, the Legislature passed HB 375, which clarifies a driver's duty to a pedestrian in a crosswalk when traffic signals are red. The measure also increases the fines for multiple

The purpose is to appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation and the counties to take measures to make crosswalks and roadways safer. This measure would require traffic signals to lengthen crossing times, develop signage, implement pilot projects using such strategies as in-pavement warning lights, and portable hand-painted crosswalk markers, and enforce crosswalk laws for all vehicles. Hawaii's roadways safer for pedestrians are consistent with the Kanawai Mamalahoe, the Law of the Splintered Paddle, which states that every man, woman, and child is able to travel freely and in

Since the 1990s, employers have come through this session. Hawaii's economic growth has allowed the Legislature to adjust the payroll tax base of \$13,000 per employee, down from \$15,000. The bill also increases unemployment benefits from 70% of wages to 80% of wages for part-time employees can receive. This will help stabilize the economy in Hawaii and allow Hawaii's businesses to benefit from the growth proposed by the Legislature.

The bill also allows the State to provide up to \$2000 for funeral and burial expenses for veterans and to transport their remains to the Philippines.

The bill would allow home and community-based services under the State to be deemed an independent contractor as of 1/1/04. This would allow our care home operators to continue to operate in the community while saving the State millions of dollars. The bill also allows the Department of Human Services to establish a needs allowance for care homes and other long-term care facilities, and to increase the cap on the cap from \$50 per month from \$30.

The bill imposes penalties against those who are found guilty of an election offense. They can be fined or imprisoned. Besides the punishment, the bill also provides for the right to be elected to an appointed or elected

In cases of graffiti, the court can require the minor, parents or guardian to pay for the removal of the graffiti, and order the minor to perform a minimum of 80 hours of community service.

The bill continues the enforcement and prosecution of drug offenses and drug unit activities.

Turning trash into cash was an opportunity for me to help raise money for Farrington High School's Athletic Program, as well as encourage the Kalihi community to recycle and keep trash off our streets. At the end of the day, the area legislators in cooperation with our schools, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations raised \$1,110.04.

This session, I joined city officials, the Honolulu Police Department and concerned residents for Citizens' Patrol to make our neighborhoods safer. The citizens canvas neighborhoods to deter crime, graffiti and the use of drugs.

Graffiti in Hawaii has become a major problem for many communities. Ours is no exception. Government officials, community leaders and other volunteers gave their time to paint over graffiti, and I was fortunate to have been able to organize and take part in graffiti paint-outs in several locations in Kalihi.

In an effort to beautify our neighborhood, I took part in numerous Adopt-a-Highway clean-ups, which is a partnership between the Oahu Filipino Community Council and area legislators to clean the portion of Kalihi St. from Kamehameha Field to Sand Island.



Rep. Manahan with Weed and Seed officers, members of the Oahu Filipino Community Council and the community



Rep. Manahan and Mayor Mufi Hannemann paint over graffiti



Rep. Manahan with Farrington High School athletes unloading truckloads of trash

Working With Our Schools

Throughout the session I was fortunate to have been able to participate in several activities with the students from our district schools.

Day at the Capitol gives teachers and students of the Farrington Complex the opportunity to dialogue with their area legislators on issues they consider important to their community and school while learning about the legislative process. The event is sponsored by our area legislators in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The National Education Association created Read Across America Day to recognize the birthday of children's author, Dr. Seuss and to make reading a national pastime. This event has become the largest national reading event with more than 45 million people participating. This year I read to students at Kalihi Waena Elementary and Kalihi Kai Elementary. It was a great experience, and I had a wonderful time. I look forward to participating again next year.

I also had the opportunity to meet and talk to students from Kalihi Kai Elementary, Kapalama Elementary and Kalakaua Middle including Team Holomua, who designed and tested a robot made completely from Lego pieces and won the "Most Creative Presentation" Award, during their Capitol visits and discussed the legislative process and importance of being involved with government.



Rep. Manahan reads to Mrs. Janet Chun's 3rd grade class at Kalihi Kai Elementary



Read Across America Day at Kalihi Waena School (Rep. Manahan, Jordan Segundo, Laura Sato, Captain Matthew Cutts)

2007 Honorary Proclamations

It is a tradition for the Legislature to present honored guests with congratulatory certificates during the session and throughout the year. These proclamations recognize the deeds of special constituents, dignitaries or citizens' groups and convey the appreciation of the Legislature.



Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Ceremony (Maan, Joey, Mufi, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Alcain, Dr. & Mrs. Nick Joaquin)



Joey and Mrs. Rone at the Bisaya Association of Hawaii's 20th Anniversary Celebration, Installation of Officers and Coronation



Joey and Duane "Dog" Chapman

Grant-In-Aid *continued from page 1*

\$224,875 - Adult Friends for Youth - Counsels high-risk youth, including gang members and high school dropouts.

\$175,000 - Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii - Provides programs and services that help keep Hawaii's children and families healthy, strong, and resilient against drug and alcohol abuse.

2007 Capital Improvement Projects for District 29: \$11,005,000

\$775,000 - Kalihi Kai Elementary School to improve the electrical system and school grounds;

\$300,000 - Kalihi Waena Elementary School for improvements to the music room, computer lab and classrooms;

\$800,000 - Linapuni Elementary School for the design and construction for soil stabilization and structural repairs;

\$1,500,000 - Keehi Small Boat Harbor for the design and construction to replace deteriorated piers and other related work;

\$30,000 - Anuenue Fisheries Research Center for maintenance, safety and electrical upgrades;

\$700,000 - Piers 39-40, Honolulu Harbor for improvements to the area including demolition of buildings and other improvements;

\$1,500,000 - Kapalama Container Terminal Facility, Honolulu Harbor for the development of a new terminal facility and other related improvements;

\$3,500,000 - Sand Island Container Yard, Honolulu Harbor includes construction to the container yard including reconstruction of paving, lighting, and utilities; and

\$1,900,000 - Pier 51B Container Yard, Honolulu Harbor to improve the container yard including reconstruction of paving, drainage, and utilities.

Repair & Maintenance Funds for District 29 Schools: \$3,176,000

\$1,529,000 - Farrington High School

\$226,000 - Fern Elementary

\$450,000 - Kalakaua Middle

\$300,000 - Kalihi Kai Elementary

\$149,000 - Kalihi Waena Elementary

\$256,000 - Kapalama Elementary

\$116,000 - Linapuni Elementary

\$150,000 - Puuhale Elementary

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