

March 2010



Mark M. Nakashima

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Higher Education

Member
Committee on Education
Committee on Labor
Committee on Transportation
Committee on Public Safety

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Representative Mark M. Nakashima Legislative Report

House District One · Rural South Hilo · North Hilo · Hāmākua · Kohala

Volume 2, Issue III

Centennial Celebration



Students from the University of Hawaii at Hilo Student Senate visit with Mark to discuss campus concerns and priorities. Among the students' top priorities is the construction of the College of Hawaiian Languages building on the UH Hilo Campus.

Dear Friends,

The Legislature has reached the half way point of session and the thousands of bills we began with have been whittled down to a few hundred. The primary focus of this session has been to help improve the condition of the state's economy, while preserving the social services safety net for our most vulnerable, and finding the resources that will address education furloughs and restore classroom instructional time. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to ensure every penny is used wisely.

There are many positive changes happening in our community. Please join me at the Hamkua Community Resource Fair on Sunday, March 21 at the Honokaa County Gym. This fair is a collaborative effort among different groups in our community to create awareness of available resources that support healthy families and businesses.

Thanks to all who completed the surveys. I also value your emails and calls sharing your ideas and concerns.

Aloha,

Mark Nakashima

Crossover . . .

The House of Representatives has passed a number of bills that address concerns about the economy, school furloughs and the environment. These bills now move to the Senate for further consideration.

Economy

The House has been working on measures that would enhance revenue to address a projected \$1.8 billion shortfall. This would be accomplished by increased taxes on liquor (HB 2850 HD1), insurance premiums (HB 2851 HD1) and financial institutions (HB 2872 HD1), limiting tax credits and temporarily suspending the exemption of use, GET and Public Service Company taxes on certain individuals (HB 2877 HD1).

HB 2200 State Supplemental Budget— cuts a total of \$60.7 million in expenditures, while increasing budget priority areas that include \$50 million to put students back in the classroom and restores 1,012 positions in critical services, such as plant

Hawaii at Hilo.

HB 2169 Unemployment Insurance—assists employers and employees by lowering the unemployment insurance (UI) contribution rates for employers and adjusting the benefit amounts paid to employees

from the UI trust fund.

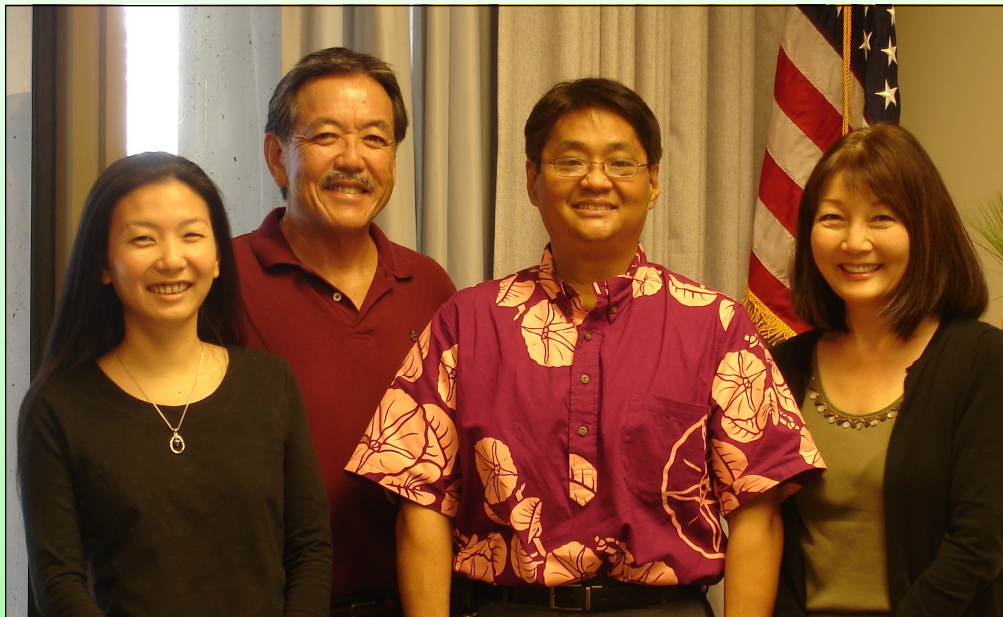
HB 2736 Local Hiring—

requires 80 percent of workers on public works and construction contracts to be state residents. This will greatly benefit our local construction industry that has been badly hurt

by the economic downturn.

Educational Governance

HB 2486 Educational Hours—sets a minimum number of instructional hours within the school year. Concerned parents felt that instructional



2010 Legislative Staff (left to right) - Joy Kobayashi, Van Morita, Mark and Lori Hasegawa (Office Manager).

quarantine inspection, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Public Welfare Eligibility Workers.

The budget also includes numerous capital improvement projects for the Big Island including \$31 million for the College of Hawaiian Language at the University of

ative Session

time within the school day was more important that the total number of instructional days within the year. This measure also provides for additional flexibility for school officials to increase the amount of instructional time without radically altering the school calendar.

HB 2376/2377 Appointed School Board

—allows the governor to appoint the

State Board of Education. This will create greater accountability for the governor in education.

HB 985 Fiscal

Accountability— would create a procedure for the principal to involve the greater school community in resource allocation before it is approved by the school community councils.

Environment

HB 2427 Solid Waste Reports—changes the interval between revisions of the county

solid waste report from 5 to 10 years saving the Hawaii County approximately \$500,000 during the reporting cycle.



Representatives from Hawaii Community College visit the Capitol (from left to right) Larissa Leslie, Student Life Advisor, Melinda Alles, Mark, Michael Sado and Kanoë Case.

HB 2421 Food and Energy Security—appropriates funds to promote economic development for local food and energy businesses to ensure Hawaii is energy and food self-sufficient to the maximum extent feasible.

HB 2643 Clean Energy Bonds—creates a loan program for renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvements on residential and commercial properties. This will allow people to be able to afford energy efficiencies.

Health

HB 2394 Vog Related Respiratory Equipment—Provides a refundable tax credit for the purchase of respiratory equipment to protect

against the effects of vog.

HB 2989 Hospital Disclosure—requires hospitals to report hospital-acquired infection rates and the Department of Health to make this information public, while protecting patient privacy.

HB 2657 Substance Abuse Wellness Center—requires the Department of Public Safety to plan a model wellness center preferably at the former Kulani Prison.

For Questions or concerns, please contact me at 974-4000 extension 66680 or via email at repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov I can also be reached in Honoka'a at 775-9170.

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Librarian of the Year
**GABRIELLE
CASART**



Laupahoehoe Library

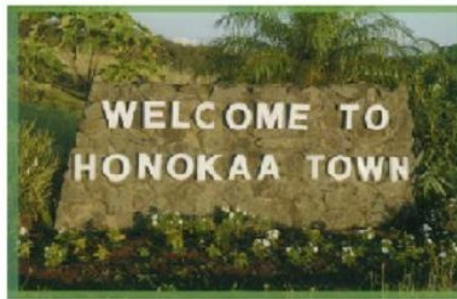
Friends of the Library selected Gabrielle Casart as 2009 Librarian of the Year. Starting as an "Action Volunteer" at Liliha Library, she worked her way up the ranks at various locations before settling in at Laupahoehoe.

A few years after her children were born, the Casarts moved to the Big Island where Gabrielle became the district administrator, supervising 13 libraries. Five years later, Gabrielle jumped at the opportunity to become branch manager at Laupahoehoe Public and School Library, the position she holds today.

Gabrielle has served our local communities for over 33 years with her vast knowledge of literature, her gracious welcome and the assistance she gives to all who visit.

Congratulations Gabrielle!

Hamākua Community Resource Fair



**SUNDAY
MARCH 21, 2010
10:00A-1:00P
HONOKA'A COUNTY GYM
ADMISSION IS FREE!!!**



**The Hamākua
Community Resource Fair
will feature government,
financial, educational,
health care, and
community groups
offering programs and
services to support healthy
families and thriving
businesses .**

- Informational booths
- Honoring Honoka'a Athletes & Scholars
- Updates of community projects
- Chili & Rice Bowls

