

MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

APRIL 2011

Representative Kymberly Pine

CONTINUING OUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EFFORT

Aloha,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Emergency Preparedness Town Hall meeting! The great turnout was a sign of our community's enormous potential to become the most disaster prepared community in Hawai'i.

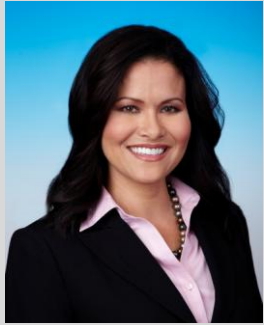
Experts from the Dept. of Emergency Management, State Civil Defense, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Hawaii Medical Center and American Red Cross attended, as well as "Survive to Serve," a coalition of Leeward Coast residents focusing on personal empowerment. The experts explained that Hawai'i does not face as quite a devastating threat that Japan does because our topography is different, but the potential is still serious.

Many residents mentioned that government response came slowly or not at all during both the recent power blackout and tsunami warning. Now is the time to prepare yourself and your family so that you can stay safe and healthy in case help does not come to the rescue in the first few hours or days following a disaster.

This month's newsletter includes some of the information shared at the Town Hall, including tips for getting through a tsunami or hurricane and preparing emergency supply kits. Evacuation maps and shelter lists can be found on my website. Remember, it's important to consider special needs of our elderly, children and pets, too.

Don't worry if you missed the Town Hall meeting. It was only the first of many opportunities to make our community disaster-ready. Please contact my office at 586-9730 or reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov to be added to our email list to receive more information.

Mahalo!



Kymberly Marcos Pine

Contact Information:

415 S. Beretania St.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 333

www.kymberlypine.com
reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-9730
Fax: (808) 586-9738

Committees:

- Economic Revitalization and Business
- Housing
- Health
- Human Services
- Hawaiian Affairs
- Culture and the Arts



On the scene with workers ensuring progress in restoring electricity after the mass power outage



It was great to see so many residents at the Town Hall meeting!

THREE STEPS TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Step 1: Individual and Family Preparedness

Goal: Avoid anxiety, confusion and chaos by preparing and practicing a disaster plan within your own household.

- Have an awareness of the Hawaii State Civil Defense System
- Understand the types of hazards that our community is vulnerable to
- Develop and PRACTICE a Family Plan, considering:
 - a) Household members and pets
 - b) Emergency numbers
 - c) Family, friends and neighbors
 - d) Out of area contact
 - e) Work, school and other contacts
 - f) Reunion procedures
 - g) Medication list
 - h) Pharmacy, doctors, specialist
 - i) Additional medical information
- Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Step 2: Preparedness among friends and neighbors

Goal: Identify contacts outside of your home who you can work with in case of emergency.

- Example: If you don't have a car, find a neighbor who can help get you to safety. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

Step 3: Preparedness with community leaders

Goal: Identify community leaders to help others in their areas of influence.

- Example: A leader would help to organize others and make sure that their friends and neighbors not only have plans, but follow those plans in case of emergency.



Rep. Pine with the expert panel at Emergency Preparedness Town Hall meeting

SUGGESTED SURVIVAL KIT CONTENTS

- Containers of water: Minimum of one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food for 5-7 days
- Non-electric can opener
- Butane stove: Do not use charcoal grills, gasoline or propane powered stoves in your home
- Special medications and dietary foods
- Flashlights and portable lanterns
- Extra Batteries
- Portable battery operated or hand-crank generator radio
- Battery powered fluorescent or LED type lantern: Do not use gasoline or propane powered lanterns in your home or candles for emergency lighting
- First aid kit: Consider taking a first aid course
- Work gloves
- Sleeping bags/blankets/air mattresses
- Change of clothes
- Extra eyeglasses
- Personal hygiene/sanitary supplies
- Toilet articles/diapers
- Extra car and house keys
- Credit cards and cash
- Important documents such as wills, insurance policies, etc.
- Cell phone batteries and a charger
- Photographs: Consider keeping important family photographs in a safe deposit box and make color copies for use or display at home

For more information, visit:

State Civil Defense

www.scd.hawaii.gov

Dept. of Emergency Management

www.honolulu.gov/dem

2011 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This session has proved to be very busy! Here is a review of some of the bills that are still alive in your Legislature.



General Excise Tax – SB 778: After receiving overwhelming testimony in opposition, legislators stopped the GE Tax raise that was introduced this year, but it's still alive indirectly. Instead of raising the rate of the tax itself, exemptions will expire. It sounds appealing to many taxpayers that their GE Tax will not be raised, but the truth is that this will cost taxpayers \$700 million – considerably more than the \$500 million the tax hike would have taken. House Republicans have proven that the budget can be balanced without raising the GE tax. Visit www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com for details.

Pension Tax – SB 570: This bill is more acceptable now that the pension income at which a retiree would be taxed has been raised to \$100,000, so it will affect a smaller number of people than the originally proposed group of those earning at least \$37,500 on their pensions. But this is still unfair to retirees who have worked for decades under the assumption that they could count on their pensions. This disrupts financial plans and, most dangerously, could be a foot in the door to taxing pensions in lower brackets in the near future.

Undersea Cable Bill – SB 367: This bill creates a business investment opportunity for HECO to build a high-voltage interisland undersea cable to send electricity made by Lanai's wind farms to Oahu.

The problem with this bill is that 'Oahu rate payers will be expected to pay for the project but not get any of the profits.

Bread Bill – SB 1086: This bill prohibits previously frozen bread from being marketed as "fresh" and requires grocers to use signs to identify baked goods that have been previously frozen. This would add to costs and raise the price of bread for consumers, hurting small, local businesses and killing jobs.

This is not a health issue because the argument could be made that flash-frozen breads are even fresher than others. Only one multi-million dollar bread company will benefit from this and it is not the business of government to pick winners and losers.

BALANCED BUDGET SUMMIT AT THE STATE CAPITOL

The State budget has been a hot topic this year as the Legislature tries to close a \$1.3 billion gap. To keep a dialogue open between the public and legislators, House Republicans hosted a Balanced Budget Summit on April 20th. These issues affect us all, so we enjoyed seeing everyone who attended!

Topics included:

- Why most state budgets don't balance
- Revenue and expense options
- Live Demonstrations
- Toolkits and worksheets
- Active dialogue and solutions

For more information and to try your hand at balancing the State's budget, visit www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com.

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY AT FBI SITE

Ground clearing and construction is underway for a new FBI site in Kapolei. The site for the 20-year lease is where the Former NAS Barbers Point front gate was on Fort Barrett Road, at the roadway intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Enterprise Street.

The FBI is currently located in one federal building and one leased facility in Honolulu, which are incapable of supporting new functions and staff. The 150,000 square-foot site will also host an indoor gun range.



Illustration of planned FBI site in Kapolei

DISTRICT 43 RESIDENTS VISIT THE CAPITOL



World Champion 'Ewa All-Stars boys' baseball team was honored in a floor ceremony by Rep. Pine and the House of Representatives



'Ewa Beach family man Tito Montes stopped by after testifying against raising the General Excise Tax



Pastor Reed from Friendship Bible Church Independent Baptist delivered an invocation to members of the House



Students from Keone'ula Elementary tour the Capitol and learn about state government

JOIN REPRESENTATIVE PINE'S EMAIL LIST AND STAY CONNECTED



Throughout the year, Rep. Pine generates surveys to poll the sentiments of her district. To participate in surveys, email a request to be added to the list at:

reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov

Once you are on the list, you will receive updates on community and legislative events and notices from various state and city departments to help residents navigate through construction zones and other issues of importance.

Monthly newsletters, links to videos and to get messages posting important announcements, visiting Rep. Pine's website at:

www.kymerlypine.com.

Facebook updates:

www.facebook.com/kymerlymarcos.pine,

Twitter updates:

www.twitter.com/kympine.