



WAIPAHA NEIGHBORHOOD
BOARD NO. 22

February 23, 2012



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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your continuous support. As we start to wrap up the second biennium session, let us keep in mind our state's economic recovery goal in battling the budget deficient that has been reflected over the past few years. On our way to prosperity, I will continue to address the needs of our community and state.

Governor Releases Funds for our Schools!

Governor Neil Abercrombie announced the release of more than \$7.48 million to the state Department of Education (DOE) for various Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for improvements, consolidation and new facilities.

"These projects will upgrade several of our school facilities and improve efficiencies to accommodating the growing needs of our student population, ensuring a safe, environmentally responsible and productive learning atmosphere for students and educators," said Governor Abercrombie. "The Legislature has been instrumental in helping to identify and make these CIP funds a priority. These projects are important to our students and educators as well as stimulating the economy through job creation."

\$2,000,000 – Energy improvements at various schools statewide – Energy improvements at **Waikele Elementary School**, Kapolei and Mililani Middle Schools, and Kapolei High School, including upgrades to central air conditioning systems and/or other building features to improve energy efficiency, and installation of data loggers and sub meters so that schools may track and manage their electrical use at a more detailed level

\$500,000 – Playground equipment and accessibility at various schools statewide – Design and construction to provide safe, age-appropriate and accessible playground equipment and walkways at **Waikele**, Lihikai, Waikiki, Kapa'a and **Kalei'opu'u Elementary** Schools

Community Events:



Kaleiopu'u Elementary School read aloud:

In efforts to promote the importance of reading and language arts, I visited the six graders at Kaleiopu'u Elementary School and read "The Important Book" by Margaret Wise Brown – HarperCollins. The Important Book sends a positive message in promoting self-appreciation.

AGAPE 3rd Annual Bounce and Walk for Jesus:

On March 17, 2012, I had the opportunity to join St. Joseph 's congregation and AGAPE members in celebrating the third annual bounce and walk for Jesus. The event was created to raise money for the church and the AGAPE Youth ministry of St. Joseph. All proceeds will go towards funding youth and adult retreats and family services.



Drainage Clean up:

In response to the concern of floods during the rainy season, **the Village Park Flood Mitigating Canal** has been cleared up from unwanted rubbish and debris that have developed over time. Thanks to the City and County-Department of Facility Maintenance, Director Mr. Wesley Chun and employees.



Shishido Administration & Counseling Building Dedication:

On March 21, 2012, Waipahu High School rededicated the Administration & Counseling Building, in honor of former Principal Mr. Milton Shishido. When Mr. Milton Shishido became principal at Waipahu High School in 1974, he confronted racial tensions and youth gang conflicts. Under his guidance, however, school staff and the multicultural community worked together for change, and today there is a positive climate at Waipahu that encourages and supports learning. Mr. Shishido empowers his staff to create programs, and they have responded with such innovations as the nationally recognized Business and Computer Technology Learning Center, Program WIMP (Writing in Math Problems), which integrates mathematics and writing skills, and SMILE, a drug-abuse prevention program that reaches out to elementary schools and intermediate schools.

Our community at the Capitol:

LifeSmarts-The Ultimate Consumer Challenge:

On February 11, 2012 the Waipahu High School Students: Joyce Jumalon (Captain), Lancen Daclison, Gabriel Fontinilla, Ryan Martinez, David Racuya, and Coach/mentor Mrs. Cindy Takara, competed in the LifeSmarts: The Ultimate Consumer Challenge that took place in Auditorium of the State Capitol. LifeSmarts a program created by the National Consumers League and brought to Hawaii by the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in partnership with the Hawaii Credit Union League. The completion tests students on their knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities.



Celebrating Education Week March 12-16

Village Park resident Glenn Lee was awarded as the 2011 Hawaii Milken Educator. Mr. Glen Lee is known for his extraordinary work with students in the Wailua High and Intermediate school robotics program. Congratulations Glen!



2012 Legislative Session: Updates

HB2096 (HD1)- RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

This bill sets the maximum weekly benefit amount at 75% of the average weekly wage from April 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. It also sets, for calendar year 2012, the employer contribution rate at schedule F. It also authorizes the *Department of Labor and Industrial Relations* director to accept loans from the *State Director of Finance* or from the *federal government under Title XII of the Social Security Act*. In addition; this bill authorizes the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations director to increase the employment and training assessment in increments of .01 % retroactive to January 1, 2012, for payment of interest on federal loans for unemployment insurance benefits. It also requires the Act to apply retroactively to January 1, 2012

HB2295 (HD1) - RELATING TO CYBERBULLYING

This bill establishes the offense of harassment by cyber bullying. It also defines "digital nuisance". In addition; this bill amends the offense of use of a computer in the commission of a separate crime to include harassment by cyber bullying. Effective January 7, 2059.

HB2773 (HD3) - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

This bill establishes the Weed and Seed program under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It also appropriates an unspecified amount to the Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu as a grant to support the Weed and Seed program on Oahu. Appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for fiscal year 2012-2013 to maintain and expand the program. Effective January 7, 2059.

You may follow these and other important measures being introduced this legislative session at; www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Historic Tour of Waipahu:

Come learn about the ahupua‘a of Waipahu and hear stories of what it was like growing up in a Plantation Town. Saturday, April 14, 2012 8am-1pm. To register, email waipahucoalition@gmail.com. (Limited seats available)

Village Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

Kunia Park and Ride; Sunday April 8 @ 8:30

Please present your invitation ticket at the entrance to participate.

Karaoke Contest-“Kunia Live”:

Bank of Hawaii Parking Lot Area; Saturday, March 24, 2012 3 pm – 5 pm

For the first time ever the Kunia Shopping Center will be hosting a “Kunia Live” singing competition. The competition is open to ages 8 years old and up! We encourage eligible participants to channel their inner rock star and sign up!

Kiewit Business and Community Meeting: Come learn about the construction of the Farrington Highway Guide way at monthly meetings at the **Waipahu High School Library**. The meeting is **every second Wednesday of every month (6pm)**. Kiewit and City representatives will provide a construction/project update and will be available to answer any questions from the community. If you are unable to attend but have questions or concerns, please call the **24 hour information line at 566-2299**. *For more traffic updates visit the <http://www.honolulutransit.org/>*

Community Helping Schools: In efforts to help our public schools, please donate any office supplies, musical Instruments, fans, any useful items. To see items that you may donate visit communityhelpingschools.org

Keeping Safe in Cyberspace:

Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer:

- Mac OS X Leopard
www.apple.com/macosx/features/parentalcontrols.html
- Microsoft Windows 7
www.windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/Set-up-Parental-Controls
- Microsoft Windows Vista
www.gamesforwindows.com/isyourfamilyset
- Microsoft Windows XP
www.windows-help-central.com/parental-controls-in-windows-xp.html

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