



# South Maui Community News

Representative George Fontaine  
House District 11: Kīhei, Wailea, Makena

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## Greeting from Representative Fontaine



The 2011 Hawai'i legislative session is about to wrap-up. At this writing there are only a few days left. Even though certain bills have died, it is important for everyone to stay vigilant. If you want to look up a bill, go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

In contrast the minority caucus has created a budget that is balanced and does not raise your taxes!

This budget can be viewed and downloaded from the following website: [www.hawaii.statebudgetonline.com](http://www.hawaii.statebudgetonline.com). You are invited to download the alternative budget and interactively work with it.

If you are on Oahu, please feel free to come by and visit our office. I am here to represent you.

Mahalo,

**Just Say "No" to Raising Taxes** - As a member of the minority caucus in the State House, we worked hard this year to create and propose an alternative budget that does not raise taxes. The majority has proposed over 20 bills that will raise your taxes this year.



## Wind Farm Project - Maui residents speak up

Auwahi Wind Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, is proposing a wind farm to be constructed on land belonging to Ulupalakua Ranch. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Auwahi Wind Farm project was published online, on March 8, 2011. You can download the EIS at the following link: [2010-03-23-MA-EISPN-Auwahi-Wind-Farm.pdf](#) After clicking on the link, go to: Auwahi Wind Farm.

Recently, I met with representatives of Sempra Energy and I expressed to them some of the concerns from South Maui residents.

One of the proposed truck routes for the construction phase is Wailea Alanui Drive/Makena Alanui Road. If this route is used, trees will need to be trimmed and certain traffic lights and signage will have to be temporarily removed and relocated. I am not in favor of the

Wailea Ala Nui Drive/Makena Alanui Road route. This route will increase noise and inconvenience to residents.

I favor an alternative route that begins north of Wailea Ike Drive and proceeds south. This route is about 1/2 mile east (mauka) of Wailea Alanui Drive/Makena Alanui Road. This option builds a designated access road for trucks to use for construction of the wind farm; it bypasses Wailea Alanui Drive/Makena Alanui Road.



Proposed Auwahi Wind Farm Project

I shared with Sempra Energy the concerns of South Maui residents about noise and possible damage to roads caused by the weight of the

vehicles. Kihei residents do not want sink holes, or damage to culverts that could impede traffic in and out of Kihei. If you have any further concerns or comments about this project, contact my office to share your ideas and thoughts.

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## 2011 Legislature Session Ending Soon

“The State of Hawai'i is facing a deficit of \$1.3 billion over the next two years.”



The 2011 legislative session ends on May 5. The State of Hawai'i is facing a deficit of \$1.3 billion over the next two years. This means lawmakers are facing difficult decisions regarding cutting expenses and raising revenues in order to balance the state budget.

production on the neighbor islands. This bill is written to provide no cost to taxpayers. In order to receive the tax credits, a production company will need to build infrastructure within five years, or lose the credit. This legislation will help to create jobs and help our economy.

**Stop Raiding the Highway Fund** - I proposed amendments on the House floor to three bills (HB1101, HB1102, and HB1097) that would insure that money raised from increasing the vehicle weight, car registration, and rental car charges would go into the highway fund and be used to maintain our roads.

What ensued was a spirited discussion on the House floor; a number of members argued against requiring highway fund monies to be used for the highway fund! Some majority members argued in favor of raiding designated funds to be transferred to the general fund. In the end my amendment to not raid the highway fund was defeated. Therefore, I voted against raising taxes by

increasing vehicle weight, car registration and other fees.

**Tsunami Relief for Maui & Big Island** - There is some good news for Maui and Big Island residents regarding flood relief. HR 157 / HCR 187 is a resolution that requests support for emergency prevention efforts for the Counties of Maui and Hawai'i related to the March 2011 tsunami. I co-sponsored this resolution along with other neighbor island representatives; it is moving forward.

### Rep. Fontaine Speaking on the State House floor

### Pension Tax - HB 1092 HD1 SD1 is a bill that will tax pensions. I

voted against this bill because it hurts our seniors. The current amended bill begins to tax "a taxpayer's pension income in excess of \$100,000." Although this may not affect a high percentage of retirees presently, this will open the door to tax more seniors with pensions. This is problematic for the seniors in our state since most retirees do not have the option to go back to work, to make up lost income.



**Production Studio Credits** - HB 1551 HD2 provides a tax credit for qualified media infrastructure projects. I voted in favor of this bill that will provide a 20% tax credit for production studios related to film and TV

Watch the "Fontaine Factor" On Akaku2 Channel 53 Wednesdays 8:00pm

## STEM Conference – at Wailea Marriott

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I had the honor and privilege to attend the 2011 Hawai'i Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) conference held at the Wailea Marriott. The conference participants included 18 Hawai'i middle and high schools, along with Kihei Charter High School.

I was so impressed with the knowledge and dedication each student had with their particular project. Seeing students so committed to technology and learning is heartwarming.



Rep. Fontaine with students at the STEM Conference

As a community we need to continue to support our children that are interested in science and technology. Hawai'i's keiki can be on the cutting edge of new technology. Our children will help shape the future.

Congratulations parents, students, educators, and sponsors for a job well done.



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