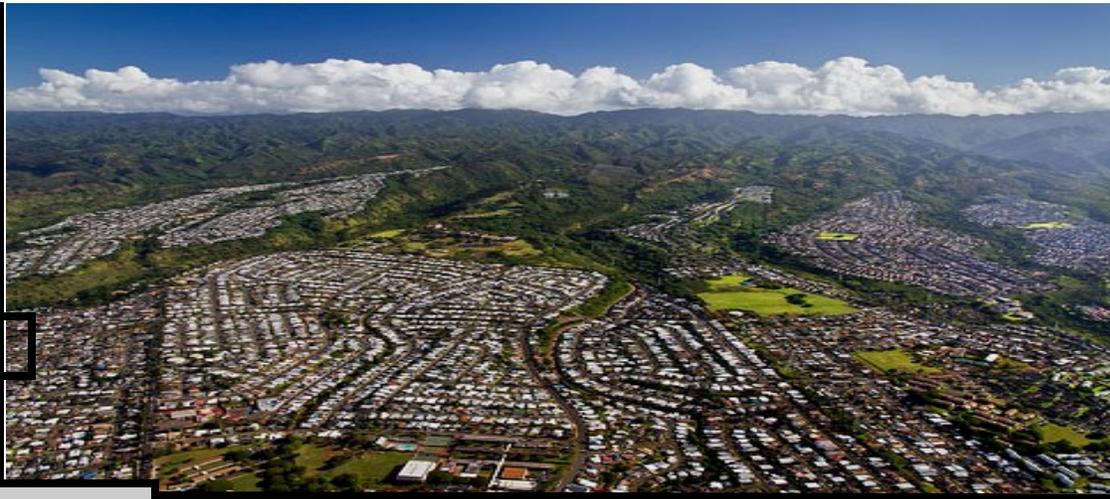


SENATOR DAVID IGE



January 2013



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

The opening day of the 27th Legislature is upon us and despite the economic challenges that we face, I remain hopeful and optimistic that this will be a great year for our state. Now more than ever, it is important that we work together in order to create a better future for Hawaii.

I am honored to return as Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee this session and humbled by the responsibility of managing our state budget with my colleagues in the House and Senate.

The opening day of the legislative session was held on January 16th and we welcomed new members to the Senate, celebrating this new beginning with family and friends. We welcome you to join us as we kick off the 2013 session and encourage your feedback and thoughts regarding your legislative interests. Please do not hesitate to stay connected with me on facebook at www.facebook.com/senatordavidige.

As we usher in this new year, we recognize that there are many challenges ahead for our nation and State. I want to assure you that I remain committed to serving and advocating for the people of our community.

The foundation of our country rests in "government of the people, by the people and for the people," thus making each of us an important participant. Your participation in the process of governing our State is a very valuable part of our democracy.

Aloha,

David Ige

"HOT TOPICS" IN 2013

The 2013 session will be filled with many challenges and issues that will require much attention and collaboration. As your senator, I strive to be transparent and keep an open line of communication on where I stand on the issues that will impact our community. Here are some of the issues to watch for during this upcoming legislative session and my thoughts on these topics.

Same Sex Marriage:

Last year, we established civil unions in the State of Hawaii, to provide the rights, benefits, and obligations of marriage that are within State law for same-sex couples. The US Supreme Court will be considering several cases involving the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which would affect the rights of same-sex couples from the federal perspective. I believe that we should await the decision of the court before we take further action in Hawaii.

Gambling in Hawaii:

I continue to stand in opposition to any form of gambling here in Hawaii. I don't believe that the revenues from gambling would justify any ill social ramifications and other impacts that gambling would have on our community.

Tax Increases:

The cost of living in Hawaii continues to be a burden on residents, and there is never a "good" time in which we want to raise taxes if we can find other solutions to meet the essential needs of government. Tax increases would be the absolute last resort to meeting our economic demands. We must continue to look for ways to improve the economy and opportunities to make strategic investments in State government.

Legalization of Marijuana:

I am opposed to making changes to legalize marijuana and changes to the current laws because it is still illegal by federal law .

Although there is growing support for the legalization of marijuana on the mainland in such states like Washington and Colorado, I do not feel that Hawaii should follow this trend.



Contact us at:

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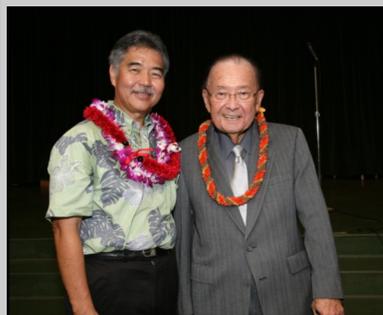
ALOHA SENATOR INOUYE



Services for Sen. Daniel Inouye as he lies in state in the capitol rotunda.



Sen Ige and family pictured with Sen. Inouye in October of 2012.



Members of the Hawaii State Legislature and the public gathered at the Hawaii State Capitol Rotunda on December 22, 2012 to pay their final respects to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, an American hero who inspired many across the nation with his integrity and compassion. Members of the public visited the Hawaii State Capitol until midnight to express their fond aloha to the great Senator. On December 20, 2012 Senator Inouye received the rare honor of lying in state at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. Senator Inouye passed away on December 17 at the age of 88. He was the most senior member of the U.S. Senate and the President Pro-Tempore -- third in line to the presidency. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962 and was serving his ninth consecutive term when he died.

CHANGE IN THE SENATE

Senate Vice President Donna Mercado Kim (Sen. District 14) has been selected as the President of the Senate and will preside over the 27th Hawaii State Legislature, which convened on January 16, 2013. Senator Ronald D. Kouchi (Sen. District 8) will serve as Senate Vice President. Senator David Ige (Sen. District 16) will continue as Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, with Senator Michelle Kidani (Sen. District 18) serving as Vice Chair.



Top pic: Former Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz was appointed to replace Sen. Dan Inouye in the US Congress.

Middle pic: Former Senate President Shan Tsutsui was appointed Lt. Gov. , replacing Schatz.

Bottom pic: Sen. Donna Kim was selected to lead as Senate President, replacing Tsutsui.

WE'VE MOVED...

Before



After



After 19 years of serving the community from room 215 in the State Capitol, Senator Ige moved down the hall just before the start of the 2013 legislative session. After some renovations, Senator Ige and staff relocated into room 208. If you happen to be in the neighborhood, we invite you to come on by and check out our new office.



NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY...

AIEA LIBRARY UPDATE

Groundbreaking on a new state of the art Aiea Library is set to begin next month. The public library projected size is 19,000 square feet, twice the size of the current one. It will be located near the intersection of Aiea Heights Drive and Halewiliko Street, the site of the old Aiea Sugar Mill. Senator Ige and area lawmakers have dedicated \$8.1 million dollars for this new facility which is projected to open in early 2014.

Meanwhile, the current Aiea Public Library is offering a unique program for keiki in the community. From January 16 through March 6, they will offer pre-school storytime every Wednesday at 10:30am. The program is free and will be conducted in the Meeting Room. Children ages 3 through 5 are invited to hear stories, learn fingerplays and rhymes, and make a simple craft. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. For more information, call the library at 483-7333.

IGES KITCHEN...

CARAMEL TOFFEE APPLE DIP



- 3/4 cup **Sugar**
- 2 tsp **Vanilla**
- 2 - 8 oz. **Cream Cheese**
- 1/2 bottle / tube of **caramel**
(Found usually in the ice cream section)
- 3 - 4 **Skor /Heath Candy Bars**
(Or Heath Toffee Pieces in baking section)
- Apples** (organic is better)

1. Mix the first 3 ingredients until smooth.
2. Spread in pan.
3. Pour and spread caramel.
4. Sprinkle candy pieces on the top.
5. Slice apples and enjoy!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 14 - Aiea Neighborhood Board Meeting

(Aiea Public Library 7:30 pm)

Jan 17 - Aiea / Pearl City Town Hall Meeting

On Traffic and Transportation

(Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria 7:00 pm)

Jan 21 - Aiea Community Assoc. Meeting

(Aiea Library 7:00 pm)

Pearl City Community Assoc. Meeting

(Pearl City Shopping Ctr Conf. Rm 7:00 pm)

Jan 22 - Pearl City / Aiea Neighborhood Board

(Waiau District Park Complex - 7:00 pm)

PEARL RIDGE ELEMENTARY VISITS THE CAPITOL



Students from Pearl Ridge Elementary visited the State Capitol in January. While visiting with Senator Ige, the students participated in an interactive discussion with the senator and got a first hand account of what goes on in the State Capitol. The students were accompanied by Principal Mrs. Lauren Dunn and three teachers.

WAIMALU ELEMENTARY LIBRARY BREAKS GROUND

Waimalu Elementary will soon have a brand new, state of the art library. After a few years of delay, ground breaking for the new library finally took place in December 2012. The old library, which was built in 1959, covered 3,888 sq. ft. Based on the state Department of Education guidelines, it is 35% less than what is recommended for a school of that size. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2014.





Senator David Ige
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, HI 96813

STAY CONNECTED...



Senator Ige will be updating his page with highlights from the session, news in the community and a recipe every Monday by a member of his staff.

www.facebook.com/senatordavidige



Contact Us

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FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR IGE

Priorities for 2013 session

This session we hope to make targeted strategic investments that will help to move our communities forward. Although the economy is improving, we have to be careful about how and where we target our investments in state government. We plan to chart a strategic course in the following areas to ensure the proper use of our available resources.

SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

We will be putting a priority on safety net programs and health regulatory services that the state provides. We will look for ways to restore the core government services that protect the health and safety of our community to the departments that were decimated by layoffs and budget reductions. For example, we hope to invest in positions for inspectors in the Department of Health and Agriculture that were cut in previous years due to the poor economic climate.

INVESTMENT IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Hawaii Senate has been a leader in reorganizing and reengineering what we do in serving the public. We believe that the State of Hawaii can do more with less if we make strategic investments in core technology. By enhancing and investing in informational technologies, we will save money in the long run while making material and resources more readily available to the public.

SUSTAINABILITY

This session we will continue to look for ways to decrease our dependency on outside sources, and instead, invest in energy and food sustainability resilience. Although we have made significant progress in this area, we want to look for further investments to move the state forward. As I review the budgets of our various state departments, a common budget request for utilities like water, sewer, and electricity continues to rise. We need to make strategic investments in state government facilities to reduce the long term costs. By investing in these type of programs, we will lead Hawaii in producing more for our own consumption and support related industries, such as farmers and agriculture.

EDUCATION

We recognize and probably understand more than any other community that education is the key for the upward mobility of our community. The Department of Education is racing to meet the requirements of the Race to the Top funds and has made significant progress in the last several years. We continue to support that momentum and assist in upgrading the standards to ensure that our young people are prepared to compete and excel in the new global environment.

OPENING DAY 2013

Snapshots from Opening Day at the State Capitol on January 16, 2013.



Senator Ige greets visitors to his new office



Senator Ige's staff serves up some ono treats



Sen. Ige participates in an Opening Day interview with students from Olelo.