

# SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

January 2012



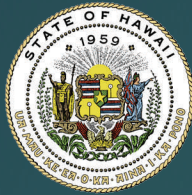
Serving Hawai'i's  
Senate District 2

Encompassing the  
following  
communities:

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Puna,

Ka'u



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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit *Senator Kahele's page*  
at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## Aloha

Aloha pumehana kakou,

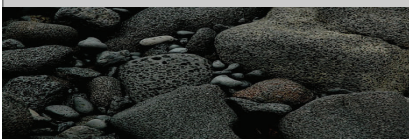
It's that time of year again...the beginning of the 2012 Legislative Session! This will be an exciting year at the capitol as I continue to address ongoing issues and begin to tackle new concerns.

This past year has been filled with many new and interesting experiences for myself and I cannot wait for this session to begin. My staff and I have already started drafting measures that will benefit the people of Hawai'i.

I look forward to working with you, my fellow Hawai'i Islanders, in creating a brighter and sustainable future for generations to come.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

*Gilbert Kahele*



## Community Forums

On the heels of the many "Talk Story" forums held by Senator Kahele throughout the district, two additional forums were held to address specific issues raised in the community. On December 1st at the Pahoehoe Neighborhood Facility, Senator Kahele, who was joined by Hawai'i Island's Highway District Engineer Sal Panem, gave an update to the community on the ongoing Highway 130 projects. Constituents were informed of the widening of the Keaau-Pahoehoe Road to 4 lanes as well as the roundabout planned to mitigate traffic where the Keaau-Pahoehoe Road intersects with Old Government Road. Overall, the meeting was a success as community members greatly appreciated the timely update of one of the main traffic arteries in the district.

The following night, at Waiakea High School, Senator Kahele was joined by Board of Education Vice Chairman Brian DeLima. Together they gave the community an update on the new appointed Board of Education as well as to allow the community to express any concerns they may have with the Department of Education. The meeting started with Mr. DeLima explaining how the new appointed board would be streamlining their processes and in return saving the State

upwards of \$1 million annually. Conversations eventually turned to focus on issues closer to home such as the possible conversion of Laupahoehoe School to a charter school.



*Senator Kahele and Brian DeLima address the Waiakea High School wrestling team prior to the Board of Education forum*



*Senator Kahele and his constituents listen to Sal Panem discuss Highway 130 projects*



## Senator Kahele's Staff Members



*Back Row: Linda Menda & Daniel Holt  
Front Row: Shawna Lau Kong*

For the 2012 Session, Senator Kahele has put together a staff that has a combined 11 years of legislative experience. Their diverse backgrounds will provide a comprehensive outlook on the various issues that come before them.

Our office manager, Linda Menda, has worked for the likes of former Senate President Colleen Hanabusa. She keeps the office organized and, most importantly, keeps Senator Kahele on time!

Shawna Lau Kong, a Big Island native, is a Legislative Aide and is currently in her second session with Senator Kahele. Previously, she was the Legislative Aide for former Senators Russell Kokubun and Dwight Takamine.

Our newest staff member is Daniel Holt. Daniel comes to us from the Ways and Means (WAM) committee where he has resided for the past 2 sessions. His knowledge gained while working in WAM will definitely come in handy as we work on our Capital Improvement Projects.

Together, Senator Kahele's staff will work diligently towards helping the people of our state, and especially Hawai'i Island, address their concerns. They continue to work hard each day and look forward to serving Senator Kahele and his constituents of Senate District 2.

## Out and About...



*Senator Kahele at the Children's Justice Center of East Hawai'i*



*Senator Kahele at the HGEA Retiree's Luncheon*



*Senator Kahele, Special Olympics Gold Medalist Louie Perry and Mayor Billy Kenoi at the Pahoehoe Christmas Parade*

*Pupukahi I Holomua  
Unite to move forward*