



# SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate - District 5



Vol. 5 Issue 2

February 2013 Newsletter

[Wailuku](#)

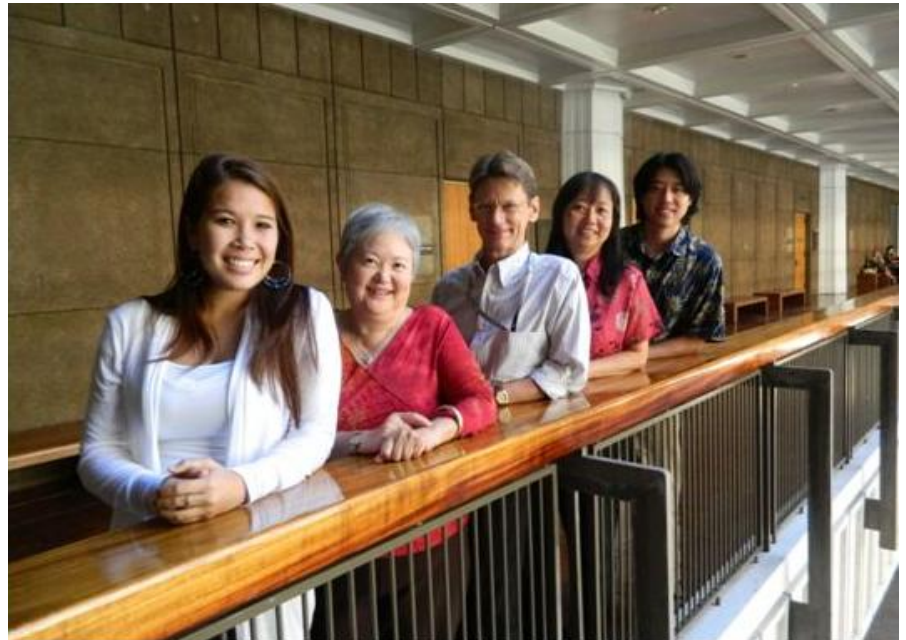
[Waihe'e](#)

[Waikapu](#)

[Kahului](#)

## What's In This Issue

- Meet Our 2013 Staff
- High School Interns
- Survey Results
- Photo Gallery
- Capital Improvements Maui
- Legislative News



*From Left to Right: Megan Jorgensen - Legislative Aide; Ann Takaki - Office Manager; Jimmy Nelson - Special Assistant; Susan Wong - Legislative Assistant; Hayden Hashimoto - Legislative Aide*

## A Message From Gil

Dear Neighbors:

We are now about a third of the way through this legislative session. This year 1388 bills were introduced in the State Senate including 474 bills from the Abercrombie Administration.

As Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs and a member of the Senate Committees on Higher Education, Transportation and International Affairs, and Ways and Means, I have had the opportunity to hear and provide input on legislation impacting a wide range of issues.

**MEET OUR 2013 STAFF**

Among the measures still alive for consideration is a bill for better identification of genetically engineered products, and one proposing a task force to recommend food safety guidelines for locally grown products. Also under consideration: whether the State should invest more heavily in early childhood education, recognition of grandparents' visitation rights in child custody cases, and clarification of the Island Burial Council law to address quorum issues.

The Senate has started its Neighbor Island Video Conferencing (SVC) pilot project. This technology will allow neighbor island government representatives and citizens to testify remotely during standing committee hearings of two Committees: Education (EDU) and Technology and the Arts (TEC). We hope this will provide more opportunity for Maui residents and officials to participate in the legislative process without the lost time and expense of traveling to Honolulu. For more information please see: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/videoconf.aspx>

In the months ahead, I will continue working with my colleagues, Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator J. Kalani English, to ensure that the voices of the people of Maui are heard and that our concerns are properly addressed in the Hawaii State Senate.

***Aloha,***  
***Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran***

## MENTORING MAUI HIGH INTERNS



*Ina Male, a Maui High Senior from Albania interned with Gil on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Ina lives with a host family under the auspices of the International Hospitality Center*

*Jared Agtunong, a Maui High Senior visiting the floor of the Hawaii State Senate. Jared interned with Gil January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup> as part of his Senior Project.*



# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Mahalo for your response to our Community Survey!

We assigned points to each proposed project or issue based on the priority indicated by each respondent. Projects ranked highest priority received five points, those ranked second priority received four points, etc. We have grouped the results below into five major areas:

**State and Community Capital Improvement**

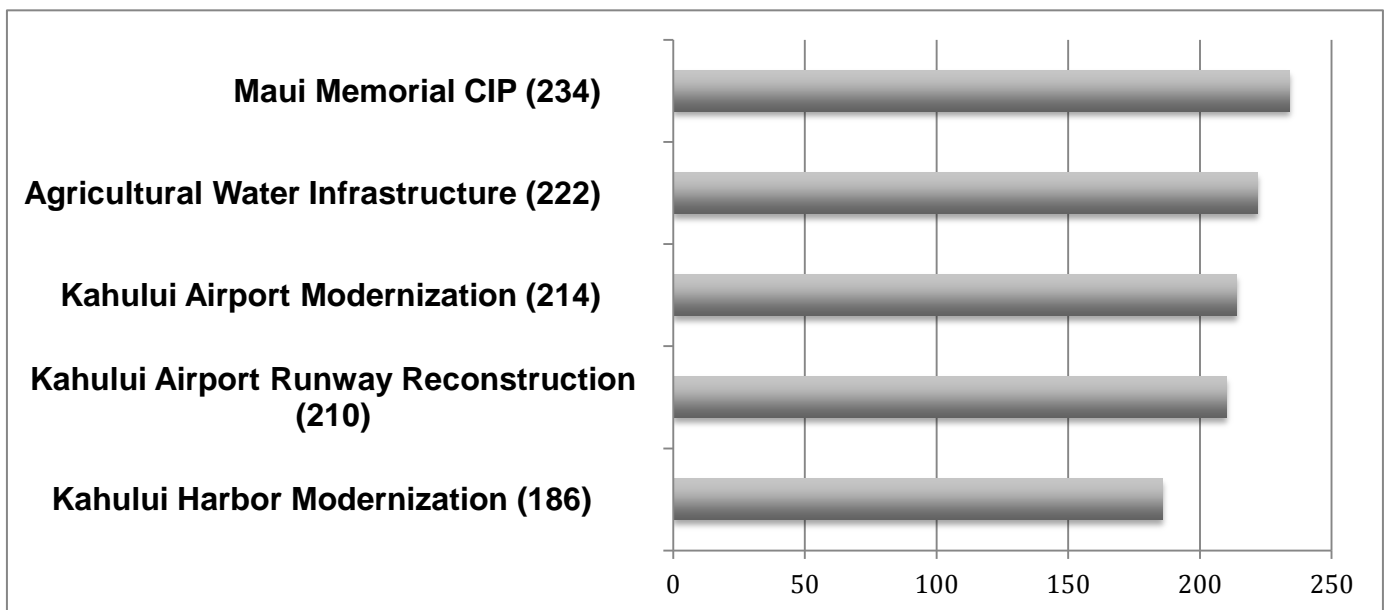
**County Infrastructure**

**Justice and Social Issues**

**Education**

**Other**

## STATE AND COMMUNITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT



## County Infrastructure

- Residential Water (238)
- Agricultural Water (224)
- Public Transportation System (176)
- Wastewater Treatment (171)
- Kahului Drainage Modernization (170)
- Re-Use of Treated Water (157)

- New Central Maui Intermediate School (193)
- UH Maui College Capital Improvements (158)
- Baldwin High Athletic Facilities (87)

## Justice and Social Issues

- New Jail at Pulehinui to Replace MCCC (277)
- Creating an Environmental Court (220)
- Legalize Same Sex Marriage (123)
- Legalize Gambling (99)
- Legalize World Series of Poker Events (69)

## Education

- More 4-Year Degrees at UH Maui College (221)
- Kihei High School (220)
- Maui High Facilities and Classrooms (195)



## Other

Supporting State Natural Resources and Environmental Programs (239)

Amending Statutes Related to Local Farming and Food Processing (174)

# PHOTO GALLERY



*Chair Galuteria, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs Committee are briefed on Waikiki Scenic Byways.*



*District Family Court Judge, Kevin Souza and his family visit the Senate on the day of his confirmation.*



*First Circuit Court Judge, Dean Ochiai and his family visit the Senate on the day of his confirmation.*



*Senator Keith-Agaran greets newly confirmed Department of Public Safety Director Theodore Sakai and his wife Ruth on the Senate floor.*

## CENTRAL MAUI CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The Governor has recently released funds for a number of important capital improvement projects in Central Maui.

### Maui Memorial Medical Center

Energy Audit and Installation of Energy Saving Equipment - \$200,000

Energy Efficient Lighting - \$250,000

Installing Above Ground Storage Tank - \$220,000

Imaging Department - \$3,000,000

**Maui High School**

Auto Shop Roof Replacement - \$398,514

**Waiehu Beach Road**

Iao Stream Bridge Rehabilitation - \$1,458,000

**Maui Comm. Correctional Ctr.**

**LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

**COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Governor's Messages**

659 – 666

**AHA MOKU  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominees: Frances Kaluiwa, Piani Kaawaloa, Keith Robinson, Kyle Nakanelua, Winnifred Basques, Leslie Kuloloio, Karen Poepoe and Thomas Hashimoto.

**COMMITTEE ADVISED AND CONSENTED TO THE NOMINATIONS**

**SB 1360**

**CONDO COMMON  
EXPENSES - GET  
EXEMPTIONS**

Makes permanent the general excise tax exemptions for condominium common expenses paid by managers, sub-managers, and sub-operators and for hotel employee expenses paid by hotel operators and timeshare projects.

**REFERRED TO WAYS AND MEANS**

**SB 407**

**ISLAND BURIAL  
COUNCILS**

Clarifies statutory provisions relating to composition and quorum of island burial councils.

**RECOMMENDED THE MEASURE BE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS**

**BILLS INTRODUCED BY GIL**

Requires the department of health to classify and recognize qualified hospitals and health care centers that provide care to stroke patients. Allows hospitals and health care centers to publicly advertise their status as stroke facilities. Requires hospitals and health care centers to report data to the department. Requires the department to create guidelines

**SB 1348**

**Stroke Facility  
Legislation**

for pre-hospital stroke-triage assessment and maintain a statewide stroke database. Requires the department to provide an annual report to the governor and legislature. Takes effect on 7/1/15.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE MEASURE BE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS**

Makes driving a motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer equipped with dangerous wheels a violation. Defines dangerous wheels.

**SB 337**

**Dangerous Wheels**

**REFERRED TO WAYS AND MEANS**

Establishes the offenses of cruelty to a law enforcement animal in the first and second degrees. Adds a definition for “law enforcement animal”.

**SB 635**

**Law Enforcement  
Animal Cruelty**

**REFERRED TO JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE**

**OTHER ACTIVE LEGISLATION**

**SB 615**

**Genetically Modified  
Fish, Fish Products**

Prohibits the sale of genetically modified fish or genetically modified fish products in the State beginning 1/1/2014 unless appropriately labeled as genetically modified or produced or partially produced with genetic modification methods.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT RECOMMENDED THE MEASURE BE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS**

**SB 238**

**Student instructional  
Hours**

Amends the definition of “student instructional hours” for elementary and secondary schools.

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION RECOMMENDED THE MEASURE BE PASSED UNAMENDED**

**SB 1095**

**Early Childhood  
Education**

Establishes the early childhood education program within the early learning system

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFERRED THE MEASURE TO WAYS AND MEANS**

## **SB 707**

### **Repealing the PLDC**

Repeals chapter 171C, HRS, relating to the PLDC. Deposits funds appropriated to the DLNR, into the land conservation fund. Deposits proceeds in the stadium facilities special fund and the school facilities special fund into the general fund. Transfers PLDC employees and assets to the DLNR.

**PASSED THIRD READING AS AMENDED ON THE SENATE FLOOR.  
TRANSMITTED TO THE HOUSE.**

## **SB 326**

### **Good Agricultural Practices**

Creates and appropriates funds for a good agricultural practices task force to develop food safety guidelines for locally farmed products.

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS RECOMMENDED THE MEASURE  
BE PASSED WITH AMENEDMENTS**

# **BILLS THAT MISSED FIRST DEADLINE**

The first major deadline in the Senate has passed, and some bills identified by the media as hot issues have not reached their final committees for consideration and are technically dead in the Senate.

Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. Permits marriage licenses to be issued beginning 12/2/2013 but prohibits solemnizations until 1/1/2014.

## **SB 1369**

### **Same-Sex Marriage**

Grants 20-year license for one stand-alone casino in Waikiki not in a hotel. Establishes Hawaii Gaming Control Commission. Imposes 15% wagering tax on gross receipts. Creates State Gaming Fund and Compulsive Gambler Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 07/01/2013.

## **SB 769**

### **Waikiki Casino**

Legalizes the personal use of marijuana in a specified quantity. It requires licensing to operate marijuana establishments and subjects marijuana establishments to excise taxes and income taxes.

## **SB 467**

### **Marijuana Legalization**

Creates an income tax exemption on the first \$50,000 of income for family farms, family farm communities, and family farm cooperatives.

## **SB 363**

### **Farm Income Tax Exemption**

# CONTACT US

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