



Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy

District 23 - Mānoa, Punahou, University, Moili'ili

Our Manoa Legislative Town Meeting held this month had a good turnout and was eye-opening. I started by asking for signatures on a petition to save our military base from closure, knowing that the financial impact to the state would be devastating. Most people signed the petition so I am going to assume that base closure is something we don't want.

I continued with a short summary of the *State Financial Plan* showing deficit spending (red ink) for the next four years. Most the audience didn't seem to care until I asked them if it was ok to raise taxes to cover the deficit. There was a resounding "NO!" to that question.



Manoa Legislative Town Meeting—Jan. 6, 2015

Then we moved on to the problems at the University of Hawaii. I was surprised to learn that most of you do not want to cover the deficit in Athletics and the Cancer Center. I was very surprised at that response. I brought up bills that were part of the Majority Caucus Package. I polled the audience regarding the legalization of marijuana and the majority raised their hands saying they are not against this issue. The discussion got a little heated at times; I was again surprised.

For the rest of the night, the project at Paradise Park was discussed. The meeting was cordial, informative and will require a lot more discussion. There was a clear "*not in my back yard*" voice in the audience, even though tourism is the number one industry for the state. There were comments about making sure the project was a *not-for-profit* endeavor which is something contrary to good tax policy.

From my perspective, I spoke of the need for maintenance on that small portion of Manoa Road leading up to the Lyon Arboretum and the parking problem on Manoa Road which could be solved with this project. The owners of Paradise Park will be investing \$10 million dollars to renovate the entire property, including repairing the access road which is seriously needed. Again, I was surprised by the comment, "*who cares how much they are spending!*" I was very pleased, when looking at the faces of the participants during the conversation. It occurred to me that there are many sides to an issue and conversation is the only way we can learn about the different sides and why we agree or disagree.

I hope to have many more community meetings to discuss this subject as well as other issues and hear your concerns. Paradise Park's owners are willing to mitigate the concerns of the residents and that is a good thing. I will keep my eye on this project and note the sentiments of the residents.

Aloha,

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2015 Opening Day of the 28th Legislature



Rep Choy, wife Laurie and mother, Mrs. Kazuko Choy



Rep Choy taking the Oath of Office



Sherry Menor-McNamara, Rep. Choy, UH Manoa Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman, Elmer Kaai, Associate Athletics Dir for External Affairs John McNamara

International Hospitality Center Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program Representative Choy's "Shadow for a Day"

The FLEX program encourages long-lasting peace and understanding between the U.S. and the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union. Flex provides opportunities for high school students to spend a year in the U.S., living with a family and attending an American high school.

Ms. Mariya Korneva, a high school student from Russia, who is spending her year attending Maui High School, shadowed Rep. Choy for the day attending a hearing, reading bills and assisting him in bill signing. Rep. Choy walked the building introducing her to the other Reps as well as being recognized in the House Gallery.



Congratulations!

Mary Cooke

Manoa's very own *Mary Cooke* has been chosen to be one of four honorees at the **38th Annual YWCA Leader Luncheon** on Wed., May 27, 2015. For 37 years, the YWCA of Oahu has honored women leaders who demonstrate a commitment to or exemplify their mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. For more information & to purchase a table/individual tickets, email: leaderluncheon@ywcaoahu.org or call 808-695-2620.

Elizabeth Tsuruda

Elizabeth "Liz" Tsuruda has been promoted to **Manoa Complex Supervisor**. She will oversee the staff at Manoa Park and pool, McCully Park and pool and the Ala Wai Community Park. Liz is excited to learn more about the parks in the complex and about the Department of Parks and Recreation. Congratulations, Liz!



28th Hawaii State Legislature Representative Isaac Choy's Committee Assignments

Chair

House Higher Education (HED)

Member of:

- Education (EDN)
- Agriculture (AGR)
- Economic Development & Business (EDB)
- Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts (VMI)
- Tourism (TOU)



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