



REPRESENTATIVE DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii
District 14: East and North Kauai

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you want to share your concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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Environmental Protection**

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Finance
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Aloha kakou!

Aloha,

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health. With the end of session and getting back home to my family, friends, and of course, beautiful Kauai, this has rejuvenated my spirits and given me more time to hear your concerns on what you feel worked or didn't work this past legislative session.

For me, it was a very different experience this time around as I was able to serve from the very beginning of Session. I am happy to report that a significant bill that I introduced, HB 2626, Safe Routes to School, was supported by both the House and Senate and now sits on the Governor's desk for his signature. I want to thank Bev Brody, Get Fit Kauai, for her impassioned efforts to help me shepherd this bill through the process, and the state-wide support from many of her colleagues and organizations. However, on the other hand, another bill that I introduced, HB 2627, which would have created an additional bargaining unit for our water safety officers, failed to pass this session. This bill would ensure that those who are responsible for ensuring our safety at our beaches get the recognition they deserve at the bargaining table. I send a shout out to Dr. Monty Downs and all of the Kauai Lifeguards who lobbied hard and with such professionalism— I am so proud of them. We hope to return next session and work just as diligently with better results.

Along with this, I have been reflecting on how we can improve our community, our government, and our futures. How can we create a diverse, robust, economy that provides high-quality jobs? How can we continue to provide the services that we need while keeping the cost of living on Kauai at a level where people are not forced to leave because they are priced out of paradise? How can we minimize our impact to the environment as we continue to grow? How can we ensure that we have a safety net in place to protect those that are in the most need? How can we continue to improve our public school system and college so that we can continue to produce individuals that are ready to compete with the rest of the nation and the world?

These are just some of the questions that we seek to answer. These are just a few of the many issues that we need to address, together. I look forward to seeing all of you and hearing your ideas and possible solutions.

Malama Pono,

Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami

District Highlights

Safe Routes to School Bill Moves Forward

HB 2626, introduced by **Representative Kawakami**, will provide a means for school communities to design, improve, and/or implement safe routes for our island keiki and their parents to walk or bike to and from school. The bill has gained strong support from the Department of Education, and encompasses smart growth principles. Hopefully this broad support will be enough to see the fruits of our labor come to reality.



Photo courtesy of Tommy Noyes.

Update on Kolo Road Repairs

The State Department of Transportation reported that the emergency repair work on Kolo Road in Kilauea is progressing on schedule. Project completion is targeted for the end of summer. Thank you to the North Shore community and businesses for your patience and the many travel adjustments that you endured during re-stabilization and construction of the roadway.



Photo courtesy of State DOT

Kilauea School National Board Certified Teachers



Congratulations !

Joanne Thompson (5th Grade), Judy Waite and Farrah Krovova (6th Grade), and Mike Kline (SPED), all teachers at Kilauea Elementary School earned the highest credential available to American educators by recently becoming National Board Certified Teachers through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's professional skills and content knowledge. The certification takes one to three years to complete.

Research shows that students taught by Board Certified teachers consistently see the highest gains in achievement, as demonstrated by the Kilauea Elementary School faculty. They continue to aspire excellence in teaching to help students reach their full potential.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our next generation.

Kauai House District 14 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

With the budget constraints, our House District 14 was very fortunate to receive the following allocations for our schools, roads, agriculture sustainability and other projects. A big Mahalo to the House and Senate Leadership for their support.

Upgrade East Kauai Irrigation System	\$ 75,000
New Library, Kapaa Elementary School	\$ 6, 000,000
Repair & Maintenance, Kapaa Elementary School	\$ 455,000
Waterline for Fire Protection, Hanalei Elem. School	\$ 125,000
Repair & Maintenance, Hanalei Elementary School	\$ 212,000
Repair & Maintenance, Kilauea Elementary School	\$ 118, 000
Repair & Maintenance, Kapaa High School	\$ 746,000
Replacement Main Water Piping, Mahelona Hospital	\$ 1,100, 000
Asbestos Removal, Mahelona Hospital	\$ 500,000
Restripe, signage, Lighting, Mahelona Hospital	\$1, 900, 000
Acquisition of Hanalei Boat Ramp	\$ 2 ,000,000
Repair of Hanalei River Breach	\$ 2,100,000
Stabilization of Lumahai Hillside	\$ 2,500,000
Land Acquisition, Design, Construction, Waioli, Waipa, Waikoko Bridges	\$ 11, 500,000



HIGHLIGHTS

2012 Hawaii State Legislature

The economy is still the number one concern of Hawaii residents. The legislature's priorities in 2012 included economic recovery, assisting new industry and job creation. For the first time in four years, the legislature was not faced with a revenue shortfall in excess of a billion dollars. Lawmakers were able to balance the state budget without major revenue enhancements while still supporting programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people. Here is a brief listing of measures that I supported in the 2012 Legislative Session which have been transmitted to the Governor for his signature. Many of the bills focused on the environment, Native Hawaiian community, renewable energy initiatives, job creation and education.

OHA Settlement, Kakaako Makai Lands Transfer SB 2783, a historic milestone for the Native Hawaiian Community, transfers approximately 25 acres of land in Kakaako Makai valued at \$200 million resolving all disputes and controversies relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' portion of income and proceeds from the Public Trust Lands between November 7, 1978 and June 30, 2012. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law on April 11 as Act 015.

Watershed Protection HB2012, the state budget bill, includes appropriations of \$3.0 million in general obligation bonds and \$2.5 million in special funds for watershed protection.

Naphtha Tax HB 2740 extends the sunset provision for the reduction of the fuel tax on naphtha sold for use in a power-generating facility to December 31, 2015; retains the tax rate at 2 cents per gallon instead of the default tax rate for liquid fuel at 17 cents per gallon.

Photovoltaic on Ag Lands HB 2150 authorizes the use of photovoltaic systems, biogas, and other small-scale renewable energy systems that are producing energy solely for use in agricultural activities on property in agricultural districts.

Agriculture Inspection HB2244 calls for stricter compliance with quarantine laws. In addition, HB2012, the state budget bill, includes general funding for 29 plant and pest inspection related positions.

Mortgage Foreclosures HB1875 amends the mortgage foreclosure law to provide additional protections for Hawaii's homeowners; the bill also makes the dispute resolution program permanent.

Unemployment Compensation HB2096 sets the employer contribution rate at schedule F for calendar year 2012. Without the bill, the employer contribution rate would have increased to schedule H, resulting in higher contribution payments by employers to the detriment of businesses. HB2096 also maintains the maximum weekly benefit amount for an unemployed person at seventy-five per cent of average weekly wages for 2012.

Friends of the Library HB1054 authorizes affiliates of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii and certain nonprofit organizations supporting state library branches to use state library facilities for concessions, vending machines and other activities, and to maintain their own accounts for the net proceeds under specified conditions.

Safe Routes to School HB2626 encourages children to walk and bicycle to school; statutorily establishes the Safe Routes to School Program and Special Fund and surcharges on moving violations and violations involving speeding in a school zone; provides \$250,000 out of the Special Fund for use by DOT for the Safe Routes to School Program.

Concussion Awareness HB2273 requires the Department of Education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers SB2779 authorizes the establishment of and appropriates \$1.4 million for aging and disability resource centers in each county to streamline access to services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers.

Junior Kindergarten SB2545 establishes the executive office on early learning and advisory board to plan for a keiki first steps program in the 2014-2015 school year as a replacement for junior kindergarten.

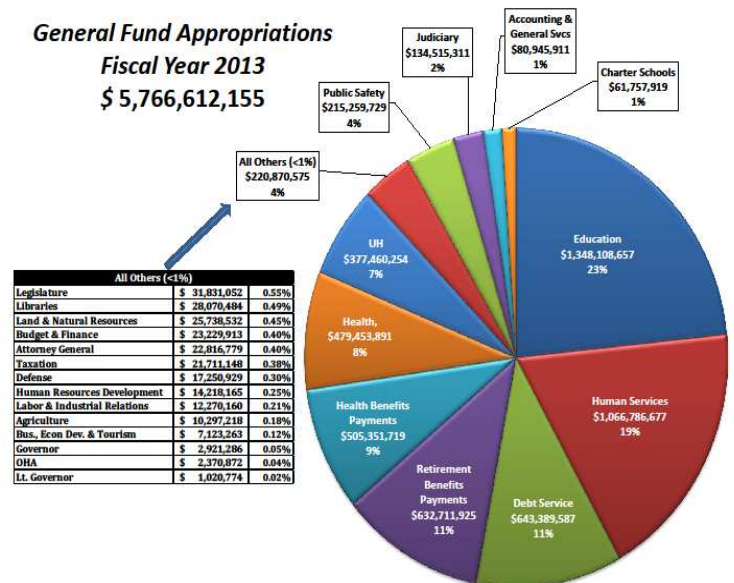
Health Insurance HB1964 limits the out-of-pocket costs for cancer treatments under health insurance plans.

HB2012—The State Budget Bill

General Fund Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2013

\$ 5,766,612,155



All Others (<1%)		
Legislature	\$ 31,831,052	0.55%
Libraries	\$ 28,070,484	0.49%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 25,738,532	0.45%
Budget & Finance	\$ 23,229,913	0.40%
Attorney General	\$ 22,816,779	0.40%
Taxation	\$ 21,711,148	0.38%
Defense	\$ 17,258,929	0.30%
Human Resources Development	\$ 14,215,165	0.25%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 12,270,160	0.21%
Agriculture	\$ 10,297,218	0.18%
Bus., Econ Dev. & Tourism	\$ 7,123,263	0.12%
Governor	\$ 2,921,286	0.05%
OHA	\$ 2,370,872	0.04%
Lt. Governor	\$ 1,020,774	0.02%



Honoring Senator Daniel Akaka for the 2011 Recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense. Pictured (from left to right) are Senator Kouchi, House Speaker Calvin Say, Senator Akaka, Representative Tokioka, Mrs. Akaka, Representative Morikawa, and Representative Kawakami.



Honoring Tosha Taylor for the Boys and Girls Club of Kauai Youth of the Year Award.



Super science students from Kauai and their teachers visited the Capitol while on a short break during the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair 2012.



Mahalo to Bev Brodie for her commitment and leadership with the Safe Routes to School program.



Members of The Hawaii Construction Alliance visited Rep. Kawakami's office during session to thank him for his support of CIP funding and measures that support job growth.



Kauai legislators welcoming University of Hawaii Head Football Coach Norm Chow.