



# REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI

DISTRICT 19 DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA, KAIMUKI,  
KAPAHULU



**Representative  
Kobayashi  
Speaking on the  
House Floor  
at the  
State Legislature  
on  
Important Issues  
Affecting our  
Community**

Aloha!

It has been exciting working with my fellow legislators during the 2013 Legislative Session. I have been focusing my time on important issues such as protecting our environment, supporting our elderly, funding our schools, building our State economy, and others.

Currently, I serve as the Vice Chair of the House Human Services Committee. I am also a member of the Health, Housing, and Finance Committees.

Many of you have contacted me throughout the legislative session and I truly appreciate your ideas and input. Some of you have also testified on bills that would help our community. It is your determination and help that motivates me; mahalo for your input.

As the legislature passes the midpoint of the session, many of the 2,872 bills that were introduced have been vetted and only a few hundred have survived. Soon the House and the Senate will be working together in various conference committees to work out their differences on the measures for final passage.

It is a privilege to be your advocate and voice at the State Legislature. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve you.

Mahalo nui loa,

Representative Bert Kobayashi  
19<sup>th</sup> House District

Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu



**Kalani High School Robotics Team  
(before going to the National Champion event)  
and Representative Kobayashi at the State Capitol**

**Grand opening  
of the state of  
the art  
Community  
Media Center  
at Kaimuki  
High School**



On February 27, 2013 Representative Bertrand Kobayashi attended the opening of the newest Community Media Center at Kaimuki High School. This state of the art media center marks the beginning of a much anticipated partnership and collaboration between 'Olelo, DOE TeleSchool Branch, and Kaimuki High School. With this Media Center, students will have opportunities to network with other community members and producers, provide video and equipment training, as well as learn skills in interviewing and editing. 'Olelo strives to mentor, guide, and train students toward possible careers in media production.

## 2013 Mid-Session Legislative Report

The following is a preliminary report of some of the bills still alive in the Hawaii State Legislature up to the First Crossover or the midpoint of the 2013 Regular Session:

SB472, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Marijuana – Makes it a civil violation for adults to possess twenty grams or less of marijuana subject of a fine of \$100. (I'm opposed to this.)

HB1483, HD2/SB1306, SD2 – Public Hospitals – House and Senate differ about whether State Hospitals should be able to enter into a public/private partnership with Banner Hospitals of Arizona.

HB321, HD1 – Relating to Elections – Provides for voter registration on Election Day at polling places.

HB1147, HD2 – Relating to Campaign Spending – Requires non-candidate committees to identify certain top contributors in advertisements.

HB1133/SB707, SD2 – Relating to Public Lands – Repeals the Public Land Development Corporation.

HB17, HD1/SB1162 – Relating to Shoreline Vegetation – Ensures public lateral access along the shoreline by requiring landowners to remove human-induced, enhanced, or unmaintained vegetation interfering with access.

HB200, HD1 – Relating to the State Budget – House Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget items for Representative District 19:

- \$1 million for design and construction for improvements to the Hawaii Film Studio on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue;
- \$150,000 for installation of grass and irrigation system at Waikiki Elementary School;
- \$500,000 for classroom and courtyard improvements to Kapiolani Community College;
- \$450,000 for design and construction to pave the parking lot at Kaimuki High School;
- \$3.2 million for renovation of the Boys and Girls locker rooms at Kaimuki High School;
- \$250,000 for resurfacing and extending the basketball courts at Kaimuki Middle School;
- \$6.5 million for construction and equipment to improve the Kalani High School girls locker and shower room; and
- \$60,000 for replacement of the stage floor and curtains at Kahala Elementary School.

The following is a list of high visibility issues that are dead for the 2013 session:

Gambling-Casino gambling – Grants a 20-year license for a stand-alone casino in Waikiki and imposes a 15 percent wagering tax on gross receipts.

Soda Fee - Imposes a fee of 1 cent per ounce on sugary beverages to raise money for state obesity and chronic disease prevention programs.

Plastic Bag Fee - Imposes a fee (10 cents) on single-use checkout bags to help fund watershed protection.

Same-Sex Marriage- Allows same-sex couples to marry under state law.

Mail-in Voting-Requires the Office of Elections to develop and implement a statewide voting modernization program that requires all registered voters to vote by mail starting in 2016 for all elections held in the State.

Gun Control - No significant changes are alive.

GMO Requires all imported (not Hawaii Grown) genetically engineered produce be labeled as such and authorizing the labeling of other foods and food products to indicate that they are free from genetically engineered organisms.



## Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

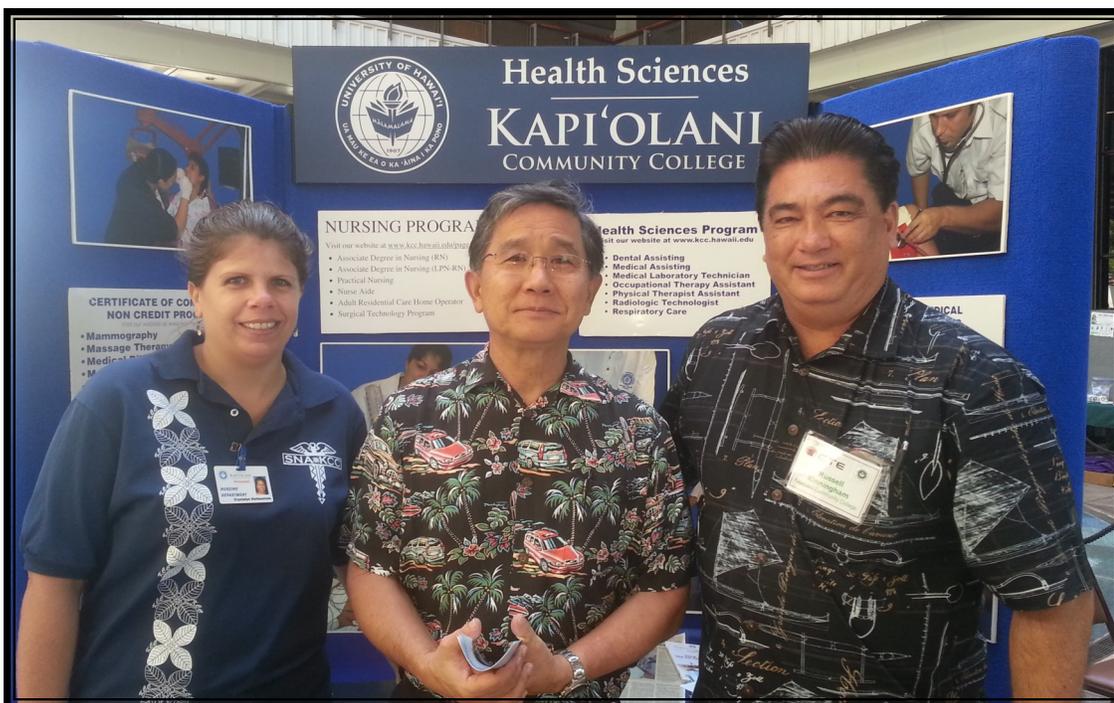
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**Rep.  
Kobayashi  
and Kapiolani  
Community  
College  
Health  
Sciences  
Instructors**

On March 20, 2013 the University of Hawaii School of Medicine set up informative displays and distributed brochures at the State Capitol. Representative Kobayashi met with several members of the Kapiolani Community College School of Health Sciences staff and was updated on their work and future needs.