



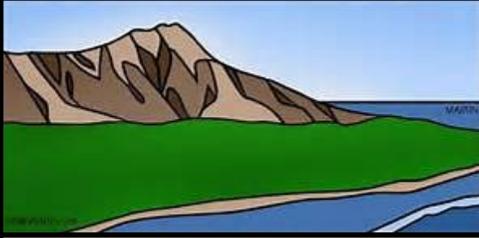
BERTRAND KOBAYASHI STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 19 - DIAMOND HEAD,
KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street, Room 403 Honolulu, HI 96813



March 2016



Aloha,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me to serve you in the Hawaii State Legislature. It is truly an honor and privilege to work with you in creating laws that help improve our community and state.

Please find the results of my 2016 Community Survey. My special mahalo to the many residents who took the time to complete the survey and communicated their concerns to me.

My top priority remains being accessible and responsive to you, so I encourage you to continue to share your thoughts with me about any issue that is of concern to you. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov or at 586-6310.

Mahalo nui loa,

Bert Kobayashi

RESULTS OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY SURVEY



Thank you very much for participating in my 2016 Community Survey below. Approximately 324 responses were received, with several surprises which are in **BOLD!**

The results of this year's Community Survey were as follows:

DO YOU SUPPORT FUNDING FOR:

1. Grades K-12 Education

More Funds:	68%
Same Funds:	24%
Less Funds:	5%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	3%

2. Public Libraries

More Funds:	36%
Same Funds:	50%
Less Funds:	10%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	5%

3. University of Hawaii Academics

More Funds:	48%
Same Funds:	37%
Less Funds:	11%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	4%

4. University of Hawaii Athletics

More Funds:	19%
Same Funds:	30%
Less Funds:	46%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	4%

5. Homeless

More Funds:	45%
Same Funds:	32%
Less Funds:	17%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	6%

6. Give counties more of "hotel room" tax

More Funds:	46%
Same Funds:	29%
Less Funds:	6%
No Opinion/Don't Know:	19%

My special mahalo to the 36% who provided handwritten or email comments. Please feel free to contact me or my staff at 586-6310 or repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you.

**Student Sierra Hisatake
Interviews Representative Bertrand Kobayashi**

Kaimuki High School freshman Sierra Hisatake interviewed Representative Bertrand Kobayashi for 'Olelo Community Media on opening day at the Legislature. Please go to for interview video (starts at 2:50 minutes through 5:30). http://olelo.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=30&clip_id=52991

The 'Olelo Kaimuki Community Media Center is located on the school's campus and welcomes young and old community members to share their messages, stories, and ideas with the public by producing their own videos that air on Oahu's public access television channels (#49, 53, 54, and 55). Professional video equipment and facilitation training are available to aspiring volunteer producers.

For more information, interested community members can call (808) 737-8803 or email kaimuki@olelo.org 'Olelo <<https://www.facebook.com/olelocommunity>>



**KAIMUKI HIGH
STUDENTS
RESEARCH FOR
UH's HAWAII
STREAM
BIOASSESSMENT
PROTOCOL**

Kaimuki High students assessed the biodiversity of Palolo Stream and the Ala Wai Watershed areas, conducting important research for the University of Hawaii's Stream Bioassessment Protocol. In early February, sixteen students, from sophomores to seniors, collected four large fishnets overflowing with 270 suckermouth armored catfish from the Palolo Stream that borders the Kaimuki campus. The students performed critical research that catalogued the stream's organisms and counted the numbers of native and non-native species. This biological data was used to determine water quality and habitat conditions for comparison to other neighboring streams.

A collaborative effort of several K-12 public and private schools in the Ala Wai Watershed area, including Kaimuki High's students, are helping to investigate how migratory populations: 'o'opu (fish), 'opae (crustaceans) and hihiwai/hapawai (mollusks), in the Manoa, Palolo and Makiki Streams, change over time with changing climate and increased landscape (man made) modifications. Native freshwater populations (species) in Hawaiian streams reflect their quality of habitat.

The collected data helps to better understand the watersheds overall health, and helps to improve habitat quality by removing invasive species, which now dominate many of our Oahu waterways. Invasive species can drastically alter Hawaii's streams with non-native flora, fauna and diseases, water quality degradation, and higher temperatures and oxygen levels. Native to South America, the suckermouth armored catfish has bony, flexible outer plates and spines that drive out native species in competition for food and space. The students were able to see and experience first-hand, the scope of environmental problems on their own campus.



Taxpayers Making \$62,000 or Less Can Prepare and E-File Federal Tax Returns for Free

Every taxpayer with a 2015 Adjusted Gross Income of \$62,000 or less may visit www.IRS.gov/freefile to prepare, complete and e-file their federal tax returns at no cost. Free state return options are also available. In addition, **Free File** provides basic online e-filing services, called *Free File Fillable Forms*, to all taxpayers regardless of income. **Free File** can also be used to e-file an extension for free.

Free File also helps taxpayers with the new health care requirements. By using **Free File**, most taxpayers will simply have to check a box to report health care coverage for the entire year. *Free File Alliance* member companies have continually worked with the IRS to strengthen the Free File program, and taxpayers have consistently reported that it is user-friendly and efficient. Responding to a 2009 IRS survey, 96 percent of users said they found **Free File** easy to use, while 98 percent said they would recommend the program to others.

The *Free File Alliance*, a coalition of 13 industry-leading tax software companies, has partnered with the IRS since 2003 to help low and middle-income Americans prepare, complete and e-file their federal tax returns online. The *Free File Alliance* is committed to giving 70 percent of taxpayers free access to the industry's top online tax preparation software. More than 46 million returns have been filed through **Free File** since its inception. For more information, visit www.freefilealliance.org.

Meet the 2016 Staff of Representative Kobayashi

Please feel free to contact our staff at
586-6310 or e-mail at
repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov for
any assistance or questions



(L to R): Jessi Tsukayama Intern, Melvia Kawashima Legislative Assistant, Joni Ekimura Legislative Assistant, and Ed Thompson Office Manager



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania Street Room 403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Contact Bert at :
Phone: 586-6310
Email: repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov



Representative Kobayashi was a guest speaker at La Pietra' Schools American Government class with junior and senior students.



CITY RENOVATING KAIMUKI COMMUNITY PARK RECREATION CENTER



The City and County of Honolulu has begun renovating the recreation center building at Kaimuki Community Park. During the construction, portions of the parking lot and the basketball courts will be closed as the private contractor uses the area to store their equipment.

The recreation center building will be getting a much needed new roof, ceiling and interior improvements. The building sustained water damage over the years that has affected the kitchen, restrooms, offices, stage and storage areas on the second floor.

The scope of work includes removing the current roof and replacing it with a new one, removing the old neon lighting ballasts (dangerous due to toxic mercury) and updating it with newer technology light fixtures. The contractor will have 128 days to complete their work with an estimated completion date of August 17th.

The recreation center will remain open and staff will continue to work in their offices on the ground level during the renovation. Recreation programs will continue at Kaimuki Community Park, with some being relocated to the gymnasium for the duration of the project. The tennis courts will also remain open to the public.