



Lawmakers Listen

A Community Meeting Hosted by *Representative Bert Kobayashi*

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

6:30 — 8:00 p.m.

Waialae Elementary Public Charter School Cafeteria
1045 19th Avenue Honolulu 96816



Speaker Joe Souki



Vice-Speaker John Mizuno



Majority Leader Scott Saiki



Majority Floor Leader
Karen Awana

Rep. Bert Kobayashi will be joined by House Leadership, including Speaker Joe Souki, Vice-Speaker John Mizuno, Committee on Finance Chair Sylvia Luke, Committee on Finance Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto, and Committee on Health Chair Della Au Belatti in briefing the community of the 2013 legislative session and hearing your feedback on issues that matter most to you.

For more information, please call

Rep. Bert Kobayashi's office at (808) 586-6310, or email

repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov



Rep. Bert Kobayashi



Finance Chair Sylvia Luke



Finance Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto



Health Chair Della Au Belatti



**Pastor “Waxer” Tipton of Kapahulu
and
Representative Bert Kobayashi
on the State House Floor**

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I am happy to share with you the accomplishments of the 2013 State Legislature. My House and Senate colleagues approved bills that address the needs of a wide spectrum of the State's population. This session focused on the State's long term needs such as reducing long term fiscal liabilities, repaying our reserve funds, promoting economic development, education, sustainability, and improving the quality of life for our residents.

This newsletter includes highlights of the 2013 Legislative Session and features brief descriptions of some of the more significant measures that passed. It does not take into account any vetoes by the Governor after the Legislature adjourned.

Please keep in touch with me about your concerns and please feel free to email me at repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov, call me at 586-6310, or fax me at 586-6311. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the House of Representatives.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Representative Bert Kobayashi
House District 19
Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu**

**Highlights of the 2013 State Legislature
*More Collaboration and Transparency in the 2013 Legislative Session***

After a very successful session, the Hawaii State Legislature adjourned on Thursday, May 2, 2013. The legislative process was much more collaborative and transparent compared to years past. This allowed for a very productive session where many bold and long overdue measures were passed.

On the state budget, the Legislature took care of the needs of the state while remaining financially responsible. It passed many good community oriented legislation including those dealing with early education, sustainability, improving state finances, and good government. The budget negotiations were closed nearly three days ahead of time. This was an unprecedented event which allowed the Legislature to avoid the last minute chaos of passing bills and allowed members and the public to review amendments to bills in a timely and more comprehensive fashion.

The following is a list of key bills that passed the 2013 Hawaii State Legislature:

SB1084, SD1, HD1 – Early Childhood Education – Proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private vendors of early childhood education programs.

SB1093, SD2, HD2 – Relating to School Readiness – Establishes the School Readiness Program within the Early Learning System.

SB106, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Aging – This is an omnibus bill to fund various kupuna health and human services programs:

- Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Services Coordinator;
- Kupuna Care Program;
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers;
- Senior Centers; and
- Healthy Aging Partnerships.



HB1147, HD2, SD2 – Relating to Campaign Spending – Requires non-candidate committees to identify certain top contributors in advertisements.

HB1133, SD2 — Relating to Public Lands — Repeals the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC). Signed into law on April 22, 2013 by Governor Abercrombie as Act 038.

HB17, HD1, SD2 — 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.

SB4, HD2 – Relating to Motor Vehicles – Requires back seat passengers to use seat belts. (Front seat passengers are already required to use seat belts.)

SB642, HD2 – Relating to Health – Requires cigarettes and tobacco products to be sold in a face-to-face exchange between the retailer and the consumer. Amends the Medical Marijuana Law (in operation since year 2000) and transfers the program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health.

SB1171, SD1, HD2 – Relating to the Review of Historic Preservation Projects – Allows for phased review of certain construction projects as related to historic preservation and burial sites.

SB237, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Public School Lands – Authorizes the Department of Education to develop three school sites in a pilot project for additional revenue to DOE.

SB1087, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Green Infrastructure – Establishes a financing structure to provide low-cost loans for green infrastructure equipment (solar water heaters, PV, etc.) to achieve measurable cost savings and Hawaii's clean energy goals.

The following is a list of key bills that did not pass the 2013 Hawaii State Legislature:

SB1306, SD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation – Permits the regional systems of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and their health facilities to transition to non-public status.

SB472, SD1 – Relating to Marijuana – Makes it a civil violation to possess twenty grams or less of marijuana subject to a fine of \$100. This is the marijuana decriminalization bill.

SB1095, SD2, HD2-Relating to Early Childhood Education -This measure will allow the Office of Early Learning to contract with private early learning education programs.

HB174, HD2 – Relating to Food Labeling — Imposes labeling requirements and import restrictions on imported genetically engineered produce (GMO).

HB622, HD1, SD1, CD1 – The Media Shield Law – Extends the news media privilege against the compelled disclosure of sources and unpublished sources for two years.

HB1109 – Relating to Marriage Between Persons of the Same Sex – Extends to same-sex couples the right to marry and to receive all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage as opposite-sex couples receive under the laws of the State of Hawaii.



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FY 2013-15 State Budget

HB200 – Relating to the State Budget – The upcoming FY 2013-15 Biennium State budget:

- Is both smaller and bigger; \$260,000,000 smaller than the Governor’s proposal; partially restores many cuts of the 2009-2012 Legislatures;
 - Has no new taxes (7 tax/fee proposals were killed this year);
 - Puts \$427,000,000 in reserves (“rainy” day and hurricane funds, health insurance fund);
 - Cuts 269 vacant positions and related funding; and
 - Adds \$110,000,000 for computers (Tax Department, central computers, hospital records).
- A. The final biennium budget is \$260,000,000 less than the Governor’s proposed budget; restorations were made to plant/pest quarantine, tax collections and audits, 5% pay cuts, etc.
- B. 7 tax/fee proposals killed were for soda/sugar beverages, plastic bag fee, conveyance tax, tobacco, general excise tax, hotel room tax, and casino gambling.
- C. Adding to reserves improves the State’s bond rating. Added were \$50,000,000 to “rainy” day fund, \$160,000,000 to hurricane fund, and \$217,000,000 to the health insurance fund. Also approved was a bill to fully fund the \$15 billion deficit in the health insurance fund by adding increasing large funds to the health insurance fund w/ full funding by FY 2019.
- D. Cutting 269 vacant positions and related funding makes for greater budget transparency.
- E. Tax Department computers get \$36 million, central computer system \$60 million, State hospital electronic records \$14 million.