



REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI

DISTRICT 19 DIAMOND HEAD, KAHALA, KAIMUKI, KAPAHULU

February 2013



OPENING DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Kobayashi Family: Bert, Mary Lou, David,
and constituent Joanne Lundstrom.

Happy New Year! The 2013 Regular Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature began on January 16, 2013. As the new Representative for District 19, I am humbled to represent the broad range of residents, businesses and organizations within our district.

Representative District 19 includes the communities of Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, and Kapahulu. Among the concerns identified by community leaders for our area are meeting the special needs of our kupuna, economic revival, job creation, and education.

Given the diverse range of neighborhood concerns and special needs, I will work to support legislation that addresses important issues impacting our community and State. I plan to work closely with my House and Senate colleagues, Councilmember Stanley Chang, and government program managers. Our collaboration will be critical as the State and City administrations face federal funding issues with our new Congressional delegation.

I look forward to building upon your ideas for a vibrant House District 19 community in the weeks ahead. Please contact me at 586-6310 or at epkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov. We are here to serve you!

Mahalo nui loa,

Representative Bert Kobayashi

House District 19
Diamond Head, Kahala, Kaimuki, Kapahulu

Kahala Elementary School Tours the Capitol with Representative Kobayashi



Meet the Staff of Representative Kobayashi:

- Ed Thompson
- Karen Iwamoto
- Joni Ekimura



Members of Kobayashi's staff include Office Manager Ed Thompson, who brings more than 20 years experience in federal/state/county government and the private and non-profit sectors with him in addressing complex state/city issues. Senior Legislative/Policy Aide Karen Iwamoto has over 25 years of experience with the State Legislature, Honolulu City Council, and association management, giving the team long-term experience on many legislative matters. Legislative Aide Joni Ekimura has over 20 years of service in education and non-profit service. All are familiar with the nuances of government and can assist constituents in obtaining quick and accurate information.

Please contact Ed, Karen, or Joni to schedule an appointment to meet with Representative Kobayashi or express your community concerns at 586-6310.



Status of House Bills 2013 Session
2/13/13

Same Sex Marriage, No bills Heard – Issue Dead for this session

None of the bills in the House (HBs 1004, 1005, 1020 and 1109) have been heard and will not be heard this session.

Legalization of Marijuana deferred in JUD – Issue Dead for this session

HB699 (JUD, FIN) was deferred indefinitely by the Judiciary Committee and will not be heard in the House this session. The bill authorized legalizing marijuana and taxing it in a manner similar to alcohol.

Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC). Repeal Bill (HB1133) awaiting 3rd Reading

The unanimous decision by the House committees came after an all day hearing last Saturday where hundreds of oral and written testimony overwhelmingly called for a repeal of the PLDC.

21st Century Schools Bill (HB865) Decision Making in WAL/EDN/FIN on Friday 2/15

The bill establishes the framework for 21st Century schools through the redevelopment of school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA). With the large backlog of repair and maintenance to our aging schools there are very limited funds available for capital projects and this bill seeks to address that concern.

Fee on Sugary Drinks, No Measures in House – One Bill moving in Senate

There are no measures to tax sugary drinks moving in the House. There is a bill in the Senate (SB1085) that has passed out of the Senate Health Committee.

GMO Labeling (HB174) passed CPC. Next to FIN

CPC amended the bill to add a Part 2 which contains the contents of HB 631 also relating to GMO Labeling. A severability clause was also added. Requires all imported genetically modified fresh produce sold in Hawaii be labeled as genetically engineered. Applies only to imported produce and not processed or canned goods.

Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT), Four bills await final committee

There were several bills heard in the TOU committee on 2/11 regarding the TAT. HB971 (raising the tax) HB 970 (clarifying fees) and HB 1359 (making permanent the current rate) were all deferred.

HB 1339 (repealing the \$10 on complimentary rooms) HB 963 (eliminating the sunset on the current rate), HB955 (imposing civil penalties) and HB1349 (removing cap into the Tourism Special Fund) all passed out with amendments. HB955 goes to JUD ; all others to FIN.



Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

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KAIMUKI HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS
INTERVIEW
ALUMNUS
REPRESENTATIVE
KOBAYASHI

Kaimuki High School students and future Olelo reporters Aliana Taimanglo, Kerwinn Mendoza, Phon “Vicki” Huynh, and Aysia Morris filmed and interviewed Representative Bert Kobayashi on the Opening Day of the 27th Legislature. The students were surprised and pleased that Rep. Kobayashi is a proud graduate of Kaimuki High School. Rep. Kobayashi provided the students with information on his educational background, his legislative career, and government service.