

Freeway Service Patrol

841-HELP (4357)

**Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday
5:00am to 7:00pm, except holidays**

The Hawaii State Department of Transportation established the Freeway Service Patrol in 2009. This proven traffic congestion relief program is free and saves motorists time and money. Providing emergency roadside service keeps freeways clear and prevents traffic from backing up and causing longer commute times, especially during peak rush hours.

The Freeway Service Patrol covers a total of approximately 23 miles of freeway in both directions, including a 15.8-mile stretch along the H-1 Freeway from Kunia Road to University Avenue, a 4.8-mile stretch along the H-201 Moanalua Freeway, and 2.1 miles of the H-2 Freeway from the H-1/H-2 interchange to Ka Uka Boulevard.

For more information please go to www.fsphawaii.com.



electric company (i.e. HECO) customers to purchase or acquire a renewable energy system or device, and provide for billing and payment through the customer's electricity bill. Allows the PUC to implement such a program.



Sylvia welcomed eager students from Lincoln Elementary School to the State Capitol on April 18, 2011.

Act 69 (SB1347 Achieving portfolio standard) An electric utility company and its affiliates may aggregate their renewable portfolios in order to achieve the renewable portfolio standard. This bill allows the spreading of renewable energy costs and expenses to a utility's affiliates and their ratepayers, and to recover costs and expenses through a surcharge.

Act 199 (SB1244 Biofuels) Expands the renewable energy siting process to include biofuel production facilities with the capacity to produce and distribute 100,000 gallons or more of biofuel annually.

Act 198 (SB181 Photovoltaic for single family homes) Establishes a working group to determine the feasibility of requiring all new residential single family construction to in-

corporate the design and minimum installation equipment needed for future adoption of a photovoltaic system.

NATIVE HAWAIIANS

Act 195 (SB1520 Native Hawaiian roll commission)

Establishes a 5-member commission in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to prepare and maintain a roll of qualified native Hawaiians. The commission is required to publish the roll to facilitate the start of a commencement for the purpose of organization.

Act 54 (SB2 Public land inventory) Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a public lands information system. The purpose is to maintain comprehensive information about the lands held in the public land trust as described in the Admission Act of the Hawaii State Constitution. The trust status of these lands will be further studied and reviewed for accuracy.



On April 1, 2011, the State House honored the Blue Planet Foundation for its significant contributions to Hawaii's clean energy movement. Sylvia congratulates Blue Planet board member, former Governor George Ariyoshi on the floor of the House.



REP. SYLVIA LUKE

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Honolulu, HI 96813

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2011 Legislative Update

REP. SYLVIA LUKE

NUUANU • PAUOA • PACIFIC HEIGHTS • PAPA KOLEA • PUNCHBOWL

Dear Neighbor,

This has been another challenging year for Hawaii. Despite our economic troubles, the legislature was able to balance the state budget and offer a sound financial plan that provides for essential government services without raising the general excise tax (GET). However, we continue to look for ways to improve our economy and build the foundation for future growth. This update provides highlights of some of the measures passed this year that address the needs of our community.

As this year quickly comes to a close, we look forward to the next legislative session beginning in January 2012. Please share with me any ideas you may have for legislation or for making our community and Hawaii a better place to live.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the State House. Please keep in touch with me about your concerns. If you ever have any questions or require my assistance, please feel free to contact me anytime.



With warmest aloha,

Sylvia

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DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Lincoln Elementary School

Design for A/C upgrades in buildings E and D \$200,000

Roosevelt High School

Renovation of existing science labs \$900,000

Upgrading of campus fire hydrants

(Phase 1 campus fire protection) \$1,000,000

Royal Elementary School

Plans and design for building C.Ground and site improvements;Vequipment and appurtenances \$200,000

Replace campus fire alarm system \$44,802

Stevenson Middle School

Plans, design and construction of Building A, Multi-purpose science learning center \$7,200,000

Re-roof of Building A (Administration Building) \$11,370

Papakolea Sewer System Upgrades

Design, construction and equipment to rebuild existing sewer system \$5,000,000

Papakolea Development Center

Design and construction for improvements to the Papakolea Development Center \$250,000

2011 Legislative Reapportionment Plan

The 2011 Reapportionment Commission has published a final plan for new legislative districts for the State of Hawaii. These new districts will be in effect for the 2012 Election. The following is the new map for House District 26. However, with impending lawsuits regarding this plan, there may be the possibility of changes in the near future. For more information on the reapportionment process please visit the Commission's website at www.hawaii.gov/elections/reapportionment.



HOW THE BUDGET WAS BALANCED

At the start of the session, the primary challenge of the legislature was how to rectify a \$1.3 billion deficit (over the period including the current FY11 and the next biennium FY12 and FY13), after facing and closing a \$2.1 billion



Sylvia and Representative Della Au Belatti congratulate former Representative Mina Morita on being confirmed as the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission on March 14, 2011.

deficit in 2009 and another \$1.2 billion in 2010. As in 2009 and 2010, the legislature achieved a balanced budget this year through a combination of budget cuts and increasing revenue. About half of the deficit was closed by making cuts to the state budget, and we avoided having to raise the general excise tax (GET) which would have seriously impacted every resident and business in the state.

Act 164 (HB200 State budget bill) Covers the next two years and appropriates \$5.4 billion in General Funds (\$11 billion in All Means of Financing) for FY2012, and \$5.5 billion (\$10.9 billion in All MOF) for FY2013. In order to solve a projected deficit of about \$1.0 billion over the next biennium, the legislature made over \$600 million in cuts and passed revenue generating or transfers bills totaling over \$600 million (the financial plan leaves a healthy projected surplus in case revenue projections fall again).

Included in the cuts are labor savings of \$88.2 million in each year of the biennium on the assumption that most state workers will take a 5% pay cut. In addition, the legislature passed **Act 57 (HB575 Extension of salary cuts)** which extended a 5% pay cut for state legislators, judges, the governor, lieutenant governor, and department heads and deputies.

Act 124 (SB120 Non-general fund transfers) Transfers \$38 million from special funds to the general fund.

Act 97 (SB570 Tax deduction) Eliminates the deduction for state taxes paid for high income individuals, temporarily limits itemized deductions for high income individuals, and delays the standard deduction increase for low-income filers. Generates \$113.5 million.

Act 105 (SB754 Repeal GET exemptions) Repeals various GET business exemptions for 2 years. Generates \$385.8 million.

Act 103 (SB1186 TAT and HTA Cap) Caps the counties' share of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) until 2015 generating \$40.4 million. Caps the TAT going to the Hawaii Tourism Authority generating \$34.9 million.

Act 104 (HB1039 Rental Vehicle Surcharge) Increases the rental vehicle surcharge for one year and diverts the increase to the General Fund for FY12 only. Generates \$60 million for FY12.

Capital Improvements (CIP) The budget bill includes an investment in local infrastructure, mostly through the issuance of general obligation (GO) bonds, to help stimulate job creation through the construction industry and to ensure that state facilities are properly maintained. Total appropriations (all means of financing) for CIP projects are \$1.8 billion in FY12 and \$1.0 billion in FY13 (of those totals, GO bond appropriations are \$1.0 billion in FY12 and \$412 million in FY13). The CIP budget funds:

\$816 million for Department of Transportation projects - Airports, Highways and Harbors

\$328 million for Department of Education projects, including charter schools and public libraries

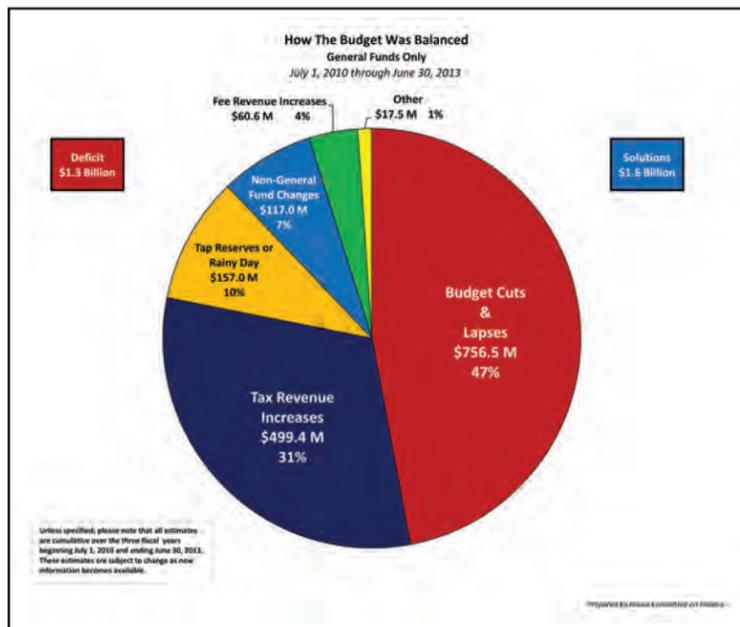
\$174 million for the University of Hawaii system

\$149 million for the Department of Health and the state hospital system

through the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

\$7.8 million to repair and reconstruct infrastructure due to tsunami damage

\$20 million for various grants to nonprofit organizations



On March 15, 2011, Sylvia along with Representative Della Au Belatti, Senator Carol Fukunaga and Senator Rosalyn Baker congratulate the Roosevelt High School team on the PBS Hawaii launch of the Hiki No (Can Do!) Student News Network. Hiki No is the first of its kind in the nation.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Act 163 (HB1038 Employees' Retirement System unfunded liability) For state and county workers hired prospectively (after June 30, 2012), the bill makes needed changes by decreasing employees' benefits and increasing contribution rates in order to maintain the retirement system in a fiscally responsible manner and reduce the state's unfunded liability in the future.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Act 1 (SB232 Civil Unions) Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect January 1, 2012.

Act 34 (HB546 Gender Identity) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity, both as a matter of public policy and with regard to employment practices.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS, BUSINESS AND LABOR

Act 48 (SB651 Mortgage foreclosures) With the passage of this bill, Hawaii has one of the strongest mortgage foreclosure laws protecting owner-occupants in the country. The new law establishes a 3-year Mortgage Foreclosure Dispute Resolution Program for non-judicial foreclosures beginning no later than October 1, 2011. The law voids any mortgage foreclosure actions taken by an unlicensed nonexempt mortgage servicer and prohibits egregious misconduct by foreclosing mortgagees.

Among other things, the law also permits under certain circumstances the conversion of non-judicial foreclosures to judicial foreclosures. The law



On January 12, 2011, Sylvia, Senator Carol Fukunaga and Representative Della Au Belatti hosted a community meeting at Stevenson Middle School to update area residents on the Papakolea Master Plan.

prohibits deficiency judgments after non-judicial foreclosures under certain circumstances. It also requires certain large mortgage servicers to maintain an office in Hawaii to address consumer inquiries, complaints, and to accept service of process starting July 1, 2012. There is now a moratorium on any new non-judicial foreclosure under the old process until July 1, 2012.

Act 146 (HB141 Labor trafficking) Establishes Class A and B felony offenses for labor trafficking, an offense for nonpayment of wages, and an offense for unlawful conduct with respect to documents.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

Act 5 (SB8 Appointed BOE) Implements the constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2010 requiring that the Board of Education members be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Allows the governor to nominate candidates directly and requires those nominees to meet certain qualifications.

Act 52 (HB945 Student instructional time) Implements the minimum school year and student instructional hours requirements passed last session in a feasible and fiscally responsible way. Exempts multi-track schools from the requirement, staggers the implementation of the student instructional hours requirements, permits waivers, and requires the DOE to assess the ability of schools to comply.

Act 214 (HB688 School bullying) Provides for a safer learning environment by requiring the Board of Education to monitor the Department of Education for compliance with the rules and statutes on bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying. Requires a compliance report to the Board.

Act 148 (SB1485 Reconstituting schools) Authorizes the Superintendent of Education to reconstitute public schools

that are failing, not including charter schools. Under reconstitution, the superintendent may replace staff, contract with a private entity to manage the school, and/or change the membership of the school community council.

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Act 204 (HB1520 On-bill financing) Supports the state's clean energy objectives by requiring the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an on-bill financing program that would allow

investigate an on-bill financing program that would allow