



Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays to our families in the 29th District of the House of Representatives. May everyone be blessed with friendship, good will, and a prosperous new year!



Joey and Maan Manahan

Opening Day

Please join us for this year's Opening Day Celebration to be held on January 16, 2008 at the State Capitol Room 421. There will be lots of food and fun!



Kapena



House of Representatives

Legislative Update

2007



A Newsletter From State Representative Joey Manahan

29th DISTRICT
Kalihi Kai, Kapalama,
Mokaeae, Sand Island



Superferry



Representative Manahan reviews testimony relating to the Superferry at the joint hearing of the House Committees of Transportation and Finance

Provisions of Act 2 include the following:

- The State Department of Transportation to perform an EIS for certain improvements made to commercial harbors.
- Permits operation of a large capacity ferry vessel company prior to completion of EIS upon meeting certain minimum conditions.
- Establishes a temporary Hawaii Inter-island Ferry Oversight Task Force.
- The State Auditor to conduct a performance audit on, among other things, how the State conducted its proceedings and determined that harbor improvements related to the operation of a certain large capacity ferry vessel company should receive an exemption from the need to conduct either an EA or an EIS under chapter 343 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In the end, both supporters and opponents of the measure urged their communities to come together, noting that the issue has been one of the most divisive in the State's history.

"Hopefully, the differences that we've had can be somehow brought together so that in the next few months we can heal -- so that the community can heal as we move along with this new vehicle of transportation," said House Transportation Chairman Joe Souki (D, Waihee-Wailuku).

Lawmakers wrapped up the second special session of the year, giving final approval to the Superferry bill. The State House passed the measure by a vote of 39-11, with one representative absent. Senate members passed the bill with a 20-5 vote.

"The bill was a good compromise between both houses and the executive branch, and it was the best we could do under the circumstances," said Representative Manahan who supported the measure with reservations after the second round of marathon hearings held by the joint House Committees on Transportation and Finance.

Representative Manahan further explained that although the concept of an inter-island ferry system is good, there are still many questions that the administration has not been able to answer especially with regards to why the law requiring an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS), chapter 343 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, was circumvented.

Senate Bill 1, Senate Draft 1, now known as Act 2 after it had been signed into law, imposes tougher conditions than the proposal introduced at the beginning of the special session, but emerged as the one most lawmakers can live with.



Superferry viewed from Sand Island Beach Park

State Capitol, Room #421 Honolulu, HI 96813

Legislative Update

State Representative
Joey Manahan

Phone: 586-6010
Fax: 586-6011

email: repmanahan@capitol.hawaii.gov



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Representative Manahan Goes to Washington DC

This Summer, I was fortunate enough to be able to pay an official visit to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation in Washington DC to advocate for the Veterans Equity Act, legislation that would grant long overdue pensions to our World War II Filipino Veterans and discuss with them other matters pertaining to our State.

Recently, U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka announced that House and Senate conferees have approved the appropriation of more than \$691 million for Hawaii-related labor, health, education, and military construction initiatives.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Accompanied by my colleagues from the Filipino Caucus, I met with Bradley Mays, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Deputy Director Thomas Pamperin, to discuss the current status of World War II Filipino Veterans who are currently receiving benefits and the possible implementation of benefits and pensions should the Veterans Equity Act pass.

Hale Koa: Meeting with Brigadier General Belinda Pickney

While in DC, my colleagues and I also personally delivered a petition and conveyed concerns regarding alleged sexual harassment cases committed by the management of the Hale Koa Hotel towards its workers to Brigadier General (BG) Belinda Pickney, Commanding



Representative Manahan (far right), Filipino Caucus Members Magaoay and Mizuno, and BG Belinda Pickney

General of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department of the U.S. Army.

The alleged sexual harassment cases were protested by Local 5, the Coalition for Filipino Solidarity, and other concerned civil rights groups and community leaders.

The meeting with BG Pickney resulted in a prompt investigation into the management of the Hale Koa Hotel, and the victims have since been able to settle their cases against Hale Koa management. The workers have also been able to unionize and they are now members of Local 5.

BG Pickney is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia and oversees all of the military's recreational facilities and programs around the world.



U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono



U.S. Senator Dan Inouye



U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie



U.S. Senator Dan Akaka

Taste of Kalihi

This year, I was lucky enough to be able to chair the Volunteer Committee of the, first of hopefully many, Taste of Kalihi event. The block party was part of a larger effort by government, the private-sector, and the community to revitalize our local economy.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who grew up in Kalihi, said the event is designed to attract a diverse cross-section of the community to one place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the City and County of Honolulu, Kamehameha Schools, and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the event as well as members of the Fil-Am Clubs of Farrington High School, the Farrington High School Gear-Up Students and Coordinators, as well as members of the Young Police Academy, whose volunteer efforts largely contributed to making this event a success.



Gail Haraguchi and Senator Donna Mercado Kim



Mayor Hannemann, Alma Caberto, Angelli Callo, Maan Manahan, and Edna Alikpala



Electric Slide



Farrington HS Volunteers and Joey



Senator Menor, Members of Local 5, and Joey



Senator Clearence Nishihara, Louie and Belen Butay, and Joey

VOTE! Exercise your rights and let your voices be heard.

If you or someone you know has just moved into the district and would like to be a registered voter, allow us to assist you through the process. Call us at 808-586-6010 or email at repmanahan@capitol.hawaii.gov. It's never too early. And let it not be too late.