



MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

FEBRUARY 2012

# Representative **Kymerly Pine**

## HAPPENINGS AT THE CAPITOL

Aloha!

It's been very active here at the State Legislature with many bills being heard. With the recent closure of the Hawaii Medical Center in 'Ewa Beach, having another hospital and emergency room in the area are some of my top priorities. I've supported two bills that help with our urgent need for medical care: HB 1953 and HB 1846 allow for funds to be provided for emergency medical services, ambulances and for Wahiawa General Hospital.

HB 2379 is a bill that authorizes the Hawaiian Homes Commission to allow gambling on Hawaiian Home Lands, which was deferred in the Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

The "move over" bill HB 2030 requiring vehicles to slow down and vacate the lane closest to stationary emergency vehicles on a highway passed into the judicial committee. Police say Hawai'i is the only state that does not have a "move over" law.

Join me in giving Stacie Kunihsa a big *mahalo* for all the great work she did as Principal of Pohakea Elementary School. She raised test scores and got members of the private sector involved in the Building Dreams, Building Passions effort to find innovative ways to help students. She accepted a new job as Principal of Kanoelani Elementary School in February.

Please give my office a call at 586-9730 or email me at [reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov) with questions and issues that are important to you.



**Kymerly Marcos Pine**

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**Committees:**

- Economic Revitalization and Business
- Housing Health
- Human Services
- Hawaiian Affairs
- Culture and the Arts



Scanning this QR code on your smart phone will take you directly to Rep. Pine's legislative website.

## FEBRUARY 9TH HMC CLOSURE TOWN HALL MEETING RECAP

At the HMC Closure Town Hall meeting we learned the medical community is very interested in reopening a hospital and emergency room at the former HMC West building. Contact my office for handouts given at the meeting at 586-9730 or [reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov).



## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Here are some of the issues I am keeping an eye on:

### Elder Abuse

- I voted in support of HB 2192 which makes it harder to take advantage of our elders in financial matters.
- I also supported HB 2098 which allows someone who was taken advantage of financially the opportunity to sue for damages.

### Cyber Crime

- HB 1776 on companies providing information to law enforcement in emergencies has passed the house judicial committee with amendments.
- HB 1709 which makes it a felony to impersonate another person and commit aggravated harassment against someone also passed the house judicial committee with amendments.

## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY

An upcoming *Time With Kymberly Pine* show on Olelo features Chef Ed Kenney of Town and Downtown restaurants. His motto is to buy 'local first, organic when possible, with aloha always.' He talked about how he buys directly from local farmers to create the menu at his restaurants. HB 2703 is about food sustainability by the year 2020. If we can increase our local produce from farmers by 10 percent, that will create more than 2,000 jobs.

Local Farmer's Markets

### Ewa Beach Elementary School

91-740 Papipi Road Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Ewa Beach Community Park

91-955 North Road Friday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KROC CENTER



Rep. Pine attended the grand opening celebration of the Kroc Center in Ewa Beach at 91-3257 Kualakai Parkway. The center is a wonderful addition to our community that features a café, gym, aquatic facility, auditorium, meeting spaces and more. (Photo courtesy of Tyson Yamada, Proforma Favorable Impressions)

## SMALL BUSINESS, JOBS, ECONOMY

A *Time With Kymberly Pine* show on Olelo features James Tollefson, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and Melissa Teves Pavlicek of the National Federation of Independent Business. We talked about businesses, jobs and the economy.



## LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE FOR 2012



My colleagues and I created a legislative package for 2012 to solve some of the challenges facing our state. We have a four-part recovery program to stabilize jobs, lower the cost of living, protect our community, and improve government transparency and accountability.

Many people in our community have said that jobs and the economy are on the forefront of their minds. Some residents may be counting on their last dollar – or coin – to get the things that they need most. To make it easier on businesses to create jobs, we support a bill that gives business owners an income tax credit when they hire people who are on unemployment. The tax credit would be equal to the amount of unemployment insurance taxes paid. To get the credit, the job needs to be a full-time permanent position. Another bill would delay the scheduled unemployment tax increase. Businesses presently pay about \$667 per employee.

Some business leaders say the scheduled increase would add about \$180 to \$650 per employee. If the increase goes up as scheduled, it may make it harder for businesses to hire people. In addition, I support a bill that creates a property-assessed clean energy (PACE) program in Hawaii. PACE allows home owners and business owners to obtain low-interest loans that cover the upfront costs to install renewable energy systems and increase energy efficiency.

The second part of our plan is to make government more transparent, we have several bills that we proposed. One bill requires an audit of all special funds to be done on a regular basis which assists in shedding light on how your tax dollars are being used. Also the Legislature will look at a bill to require all legislation to include any costs involved. This would let lawmakers and the public know how much money a bill would cost or generate in before it passes. We also want more transparency on nominees for any appointments including judicial and legislative positions. This empowers the people to give their input before the position confirmation is made when the names of the nominees are released.

In other areas of transparency, we are asking that the balance sheets for the state departments be made available online for the public to see so they know where their money is going to.

Our third part focuses on lowering the cost of living. To do that we are proposing bills that require a two-thirds vote by the legislature on any tax or fee increase. Another way to lower the cost of living is to support a bill that allows other types of biofuels so we will be less dependent on the costly fuel importation.

The fourth part protects our community. We want stronger computer fraud laws since nearly everyone is online. My colleagues and I are pressing for higher penalties for people who illegally access computer systems. We are also proposing a bill that allows Hawaii courts in criminal cases to issue a warrant, subpoena, or order the reproduction of records outside Hawaii.

I hope you will contact me with any of your concerns. Please give my office a call at 586-9730 or email me at [reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov) with any questions.

## “REP. PINE’S INBOX”



Representative Pine’s office receives many phone calls, emails and letters on a daily basis from constituents with questions and concerns about things happening in the community and State Capitol.

To make communicating even easier and more effective, we recently launched “Rep. Pine’s Inbox”, a video series in which Rep. Pine responds to your questions and concerns via email each week.

If you have a question for Rep. Pine or a concern about something in the district, please contact our office. If you are not yet on our mailing list, you can join by calling at 586-9730 or by emailing a request to [reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov).

## VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

We are looking for students, retirees, political science majors, and anyone else interested in volunteering for the Office of State Representative Kymberly Pine. If one prefers to stay in the district, duties such as assisting the Representative at community events and meetings are also appreciated. For Boy Scout and Girl Scout volunteers, earning points by collating and prepping monthly newsletters can be coordinated with staff and done in the district or at the Capitol.

Rep. Pine will continue to execute surveys with residents by email and mail on a regular basis. Assistance from volunteers, whether it be for just a few hours a month or by the week, helps residents stay informed on issues and may offer the Representative direction on votes to be cast.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or interning at Rep. Pine’s office or in her district, please call our office at 586-9730, email [reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov) or visit Room 333 at the State Capitol. Mahalo!

## JOIN REPRESENTATIVE PINE’S EMAIL LIST AND STAY CONNECTED

Throughout the year, Rep. Pine generates surveys to poll the sentiments of her district. To participate in surveys, email a request to be added to the list at:

**[RepPine@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:RepPine@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Once you are on the list, you will receive updates on community and legislative events and notices from various state and city departments to help residents navigate through construction zones and other issues of importance. For monthly newsletters, links to videos and messages posting important announcements, visit:

**[www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)  
→House →Representatives →Pine.**