



Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813



Representative Justin H. Woodson

Aloha,

I wanted to take a few moments to thank you for allowing me to serve you. It is an honor, that I do not at all take lightly. I will continue to work very hard for you each and every day. Please enjoy this newsletter that explains some of the initiatives we are working on in the office to better serve the community.

Please feel free to reach out to us at anytime. Aloha.

Sincerely,

Justin



Matthew Ige, Governor David Ige, and Representative Justin H. Woodson on Opening Day

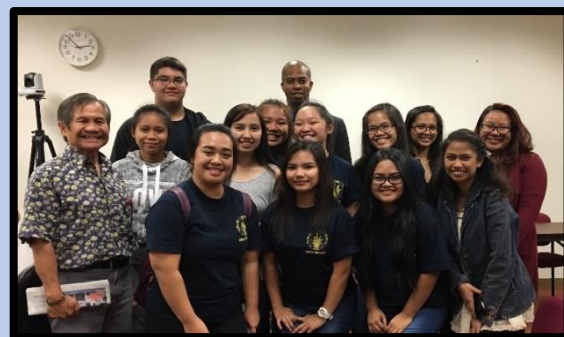
Top 10 in 10

One of my greatest passions and priorities since taking office has been ensuring that our K-12 public education system continues to progress. Our public school system is critically important as it has a direct impact on how well our kids and our community will do in the future. For the past decade, **Hawaii has seen a substantial increase in scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).** In fact, Hawaii is ranked number one in the nation for NAEP score improvements. Because of this achievement, I have spent many years looking at ways to make not only Hawaii's school system one of the top in the country, but to make the overall country's school system one of the best in the world. This year I introduced a resolution known as the Top 10 in 10 Education Reform. It received **overwhelming support from all 51 House members. The goal of this resolution is to make Hawaii and the US one of the Top - 10 educational performers in the world within the next ten years.** To achieve this, I am asking for additional funding from the United States Department of Education (ED) to satisfy per pupil spending needs. It also requests additional Federal Funding for state and community lead reforms and seeks additional effective teaching for educators whom choose to participate.

Hawaii Promise Program - Hawaii's Version of Free College

As Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, I introduced HB 1594, known as the "Hawaii Promise Program." If you want to earn a certificate of completion in automatics or receive a bachelors degree in biology, this bill would cover the unmet direct costs needs of qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus, making college education affordable if not **"free" for most students who qualify for in-state tuition.** HB 1594 received overwhelming support from all 51 members of the House. I also received testimony from aspiring and enrolled college

students across the state, who shared their personal stories, explaining how this bill would help them. One student, Briana, shared that she works every day after attending classes at a local community college to help pay for tuition and help her parents pay for bills and groceries. Because her family is struggling financially, this bill would alleviate financial burdens for Briana and allow her and her brother to attend college as well. For these reasons, I will continue to fight for college affordability.



Representative Justin H. Woodson and students from Leeward Community College who attended a hearing in support of HB 1594

Weighted Student Formulas (WSF)

According to the Hawaii State Department of Education, the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) is a method used to **equally distribute funds** for school budgets. The formula is comprised of a **baseline spending amount** per student, with **additional funding for various student needs.** For the biennium budget, the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) and the Board of Education (BOE) requested that the WSF budget be increased by \$50 million, which equates to \$290 in additional per student funding. I believe that **adequate per pupil funding is necessary for schools to provide quality education.**

Kupuna Care

Last year we secured \$1.7 million in funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers and \$32,000 for the fall prevention and early detection services for the elderly. To further support our kupuna, this year I, co-sponsored HB 608, which would appropriate **\$4.1 million for Kupuna Care funding.**

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

This year I am supporting the increased operational and maintenance costs of Ka Hale A Ke Ola (KHAKO) through grants-in-aid (GIAs). KHAKO is a comprehensive resource center, offering shelter, transitional housing, counseling, and medical care to serve Maui's homeless. **Working with other service providers, KHAKO has created a system to effectively address the issue of homelessness. I believe we can work with them to SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE the number of homeless individuals we have in Central Maui and across the island.** KHAKO's GIA requests aid for micro-unit housing developments which can be built at one-third the cost of traditional affordable housing. In addition, **we will be able to potentially use the model in other locations across Maui and help address the issue of affordable housing.**

Cybersecurity

Working with others, I am supporting the University of Hawaii Maui College's (UHMC) to secure a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund the *Computer Science Principles for All Hawaii* (CSP4Hawaii) program. The CSP4Hawaii program promises to educate our newest generation of students who are already living in an ever-expanding and advancing technological world. The national agenda to make computer science education available to children from an early age is one that must be embraced in order **to make our own students competitive in a progressively technological world.** The benefits of CSP4Hawaii will be numerous. The program will provide professional teaching and learning opportunities in computer science education to high school teachers and students throughout Hawaii, and in doing so, increase the number of women and minorities in the field of computer science. With the growth of social media, establishing a cyberspace workforce has now become a matter of national security. The National Security Agency (NSA), which deals with our national intelligence and security, **anticipates hundreds of thousands of new cybersecurity jobs in the coming years. We want to do what we can to prepare our kids to take advantage of these good paying Cybersecurity jobs which pay an upwards starting salary of \$100-150K.**

Film Industry

This year I introduced HB 423, which **again addresses the inequitable hiring practices of film companies.** Under HB 423, any film production company may receive up to 35% on income tax credit provided that **at least 55% of the production's crew is hired from the county in which the qualified production costs are incurred.** The film industry in Hawaii has increased employment as well as promoted Hawaii as a visitor destination.

Immigration

I am pleased to announce the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will be piloting biometrics collection for immigration benefits on Maui, from February 27 to March 3, 2017.

Maui will be the first outer island to receive this much needed mobile immigration service.

The program will be helpful in **saving time, money, and resources for people who would normally need to travel to and from Oahu to get biometric work done.**

I would like to thank the USCIS for their support for this important program. **If the program attracts enough interest and proves successful on Maui, the program may be promoted to other neighbor islands as well.**

Currently the Mobile Biometrics Station will be at the

Royal Lahaina Resort located at 2780 Kekaa Drive and stay on Maui.

Notices for appointments (Form I-797) were mailed out beginning Feb. 10, and include specific instructions.

If there are any questions, please contact USCIS at 1-800-375-5283.

Community Update

Representative Justin Woodson

2017 Legislative Session

DISTRICT 9

KAHULUI

PU'UNĒNE

OLD SAND HILLS

MAUI LANI

2017 Capital Improvement Projects Requests

\$6.3 million	Maui Regional Sports Complex Highway Entrance
\$2.5 million	Maui Waena Intermediate School Air Conditioning Systems
\$2.0 million	Kahului Elementary School Air Conditioning Entrance
\$150,000	Kahului Harbor Restrooms

Public Schools – Heat Abatement

Two of our four District 9 schools without air conditioning - Maui High School and Lihikai Elementary School – are scheduled to get air conditioning systems in all classrooms. To continue the commitment to improve the quality a proper learning environment for our children, I will be working this session to **secure additional funds to install air conditioners in our remaining two schools without air conditioning** — Kahului Elementary and Maui Waena Intermediate.

Energy-Cost Savings

This year, I introduced HB 1593 which directly assist Hawaii's underserved residents by using dormant funds from the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Loan Program to create the Clean Energy Savings Jump Start Program, with the intent of rapidly deploying funds to assist disadvantaged communities with investments in clean energy and energy efficiency. This battery-tech bill will further help reduce cost and continue progress with renewable energy.

Kahului Airport Car Rental Facility

Construction of Kahului Airport's new car rental facility began. The purpose of the facility is to consolidate the car rental companies into one convenient location. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$340 million. It will be **financed by the car rental customers, not taxpayers**, through a per-day facility charge. In addition, **the project is expected to create over 500 good paying jobs.**



Central Maui Sports Complex

Phase 2 of the Central Maui Regional Sports Complex was completed. The 65 acre plot now consists of two additional softball fields and close to 200 parking stalls. Phase 3 of construction will include four baseball fields, two soccer fields, and additional parking.

