

# Representative Justin Woodson



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## 2014 Community Update Kahului - Puunene - Maui Lani - Old Sand Hills

### 2014 Legislative Session Highlights

Last year the Maui delegation proved we were not afraid to take up tough issues. We passed many bold and long overdue measures. Working with my colleagues, I was able to secure **\$172 Million** in the 2013 Hawaii State Budget for the Kahului area!

This year Governor Neil Abercrombie released **\$305.5 Million** for Kahului Airport Improvements, roadway improvements, and construction funds for a consolidated car-rental facility. With the additional new items added to the supplemental budget, this brings the total Capital Improvement Projects to **\$405 Million for the Kahului Area for 2014.**

I am grateful for the opportunity to be your Representative. In fulfilling my number one responsibility of being accessible to you, I have walked the entire community. **If I missed you and you would like me to visit you at your home, please call the office and I will be happy to visit you.**

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact myself or my staff at any time. We will be happy to assist you.

Mahalo

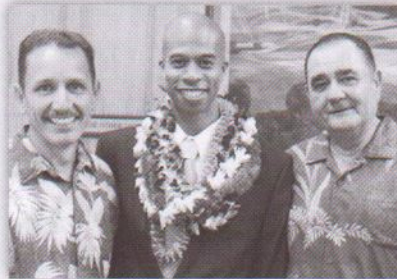
Justin Woodson

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Gospel of Alpha Omega International, Vice President
- Kings Cathedral Young Ministries, Volunteer
- Maui High School SCC, Member
- Friends of Maui Waena, Member
- Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Member
- Japanese Cultural Society of Maui, Member



Above: Representative Woodson takes lead for Housing Committee Hearing and speaks about plans to use innovative ways to address housing challenges.



Cesar Gaxiola and Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez of J. Walker Cameron Center received **\$2.225 Million** in Grant-in-Aid funding.



Mike Morris, CEO of Maui Family YMCA, worked diligently alongside Rep Woodson to receive **\$2 Million** in Grant-in-Aid funding.

#### 2014 Budget Accomplishments!

- \$300 Million ..... Released for Kahului Airport Rental Facility
- \$10 Million..... Widening of Puunene Avenue
- \$9.7 Million..... Central Maui Regional Sports Complex
- \$2.225 Million ..... J Walker Cameron Center
- \$2 Million..... Maui Family YMCA
- \$300,000 ..... Construction of MHS Weight and Wrestling Facilities
- \$450,000 ..... Expansion of MHS Band/Choir Facilities
- \$500,000 ..... Ka Lima O Maui
- \$50,000 ..... MHS Booster Club
- \$175,000 ..... Child and Family Service
- \$210,000 ..... Hale Mahaolu
- \$200,000 ..... Ho'okupa'a
- \$125,000 ..... Hui Malama Learning Center
- \$550,000 ..... Maui Economic Development Board
- \$140,000 ..... Maui Economic Opportunity
- \$927,532 ..... Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

# Some 2013-14 Legislative Achievements

## 2013 Budget Accomplishments!

\$172 Million for Central Maui

\$50 Million for Kahului Airport

\$22.7 Million for Maui Memorial Medical Center

\$2.5 Million for New Middle School

\$6 Million for Kahului Harbor

\$9.7 Million for Central Maui Regional Sports Complex

\$950,000 for Maui Economic Opportunity

\$210,000 for Hale Mahaolu

**Homelessness ACT 222** Assists individuals facing or experiencing homelessness by funding various homeless and housing programs. Also provides substance abuse treatment and mental health support services. These programs are scheduled to start soon.

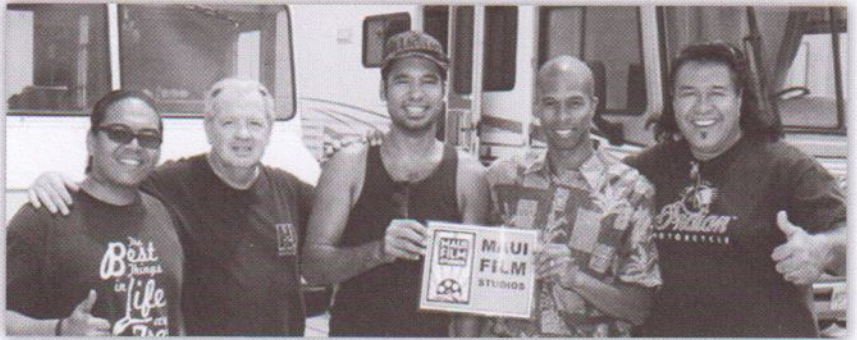
**Hawaii Growth Initiative ACT 274** is a program that provides funding, incubation, and logistical support for small businesses that focus on bringing new technological advancements to the islands. This will generate new economic opportunities for all of the people of Hawai'i as well as their industries. This innovation promotes sustainability and progressive industries, grows our local economy and provides jobs for our communities. This is one of the types of initiatives the Legislature is working on to further diversify the economy. If you would like to learn more about the HI Growth Initiative please visit the website: <http://hsdc.hawaii.gov/hi-growth-initiative/>.

**Green Energy Market Securitization ACT 211** is an innovative new method of providing funds to middle and low income households interested in obtaining photovoltaic solar panels for their homes. This type of program has proven to dramatically lower energy costs.

**Kupuna Health Programs ACT 214** Establishes and funds an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Services Coordinator, Kupuna Care Program, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Senior Centers, and Healthy Aging Partnerships. It also appropriates funds for programs and services that support our Kupuna and established the Task Force on Mobility Management.

## Film Industry Profits from Tax Credit

With the newly implemented Film Tax Credit Maui Island can expect great new beginnings, a more diverse economy, and more good paying local jobs for our communities.



Above: Rep. Woodson joined by actor Richmond Branscombe and Maui Film Studios personnel.

**Film and Digital Media Industry Development ACT 89** was signed into law following the 2013 Legislative Session to promote growth in the film industry by providing tax incentives. It was estimated this tax incentive could bring in millions for our State; and it has done just that. With the newly operating, world class **Maui Film Studios**, Maui Island alone is expected to generate over **40 Million** dollars so far. This will create well-paying jobs and an infusion of new money into our local community. This is an industry that we grow! Here is a short list of the productions Maui can expect so far for 2014:

**Atheria - \$20 Million Dollars**

**Point Break 2 - \$1.9 Million Dollars**

**Dakine Catalog - \$100,000 Dollars**

**Hollywood Exes - \$100,000 Dollars**

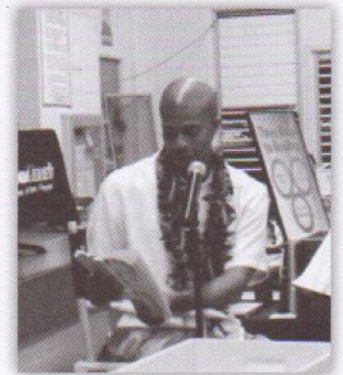
**Carrillo Digital - \$25,000 Dollars**

**Total Divas - \$15,000 Dollars**

## Read Aloud America!

Lihikai Elementary School April 2014 Read Aloud America was a tremendous success. Maui News reported: "More than 450 students, parents, volunteers and school officials in attendance. Every child went home with a book that night and some with grand prizes."

Right: Representative Woodson reading to Elementary Students.



## Representative Woodson hosts fundraiser for Maui Island Foodbank!



Rep. Justin Woodson earned donations from selling roses and truffles for Valentine's Day; turning a profit for the Maui Island Foodbank.

Left: Representative Woodson delivers roses for Valentine's Day.

## Rep. Woodson helps organize Finance Committee visit to Maui which resulted in funding!

As a member of the House Committee on Finance, Rep. Woodson along with Sen. Keith-Agaran were able to secure funds for the construction of a new band room, weight room, and fitness room for Maui High School. Rep. Woodson coordinated a visit to Maui High School to help demonstrate funding need.



Maui High School Principal Bruce Anderson, Band Director Kerry Wasano, Athletic Director Michael Ban and Department of Accounting and General Services Maui Director, Wade Shimabukuro with members of the House Committee on Finance.

Secured funds include:

- \$50,000 for MHS Booster Club
- \$300,000 for the construction of MHS Weight and Wrestling Facilities
- \$450,000 for the expansion of MHS Band/Choir Facilities



Members of the House Committee on Finance were also able to visit the Maui Film Studios, where they got to see the 2013 Film Tax Credit directly benefit the local economy.

Maui Film Studios CEO Socrates Buenger and Actor Richmond Branscombe meet with the members of the House Committee on Finance.



If you missed the event you may watch the meeting at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/hawaiihouseblog>

## Rep. Woodson Works Hard to Help Improve Public Education

**Maui Waena Intermediate School.** Rep. Justin Woodson attends a community forum to discuss the future Maui Waena expansion project that has been long-awaited by members of the community. Rep. Woodson has been working with Principal Jamie Yap, Mayor Alan Arakawa, and Department of Education facilities directors to push the project to break ground shortly.

**Rep. Woodson meets with teachers.** At the HSTA forum, members also discussed ways to improve education for both teachers and students. The meeting focused on ways in which positive adjustments could be made to complement the Department of Education's New Strategic Plan.

**Rep. Woodson and Education as Finance Member.** In addition, as a member on the House Committee on Finance, Rep. Woodson's primary responsibility is the Department of Education operation budget adviser to Chair Sylvia Luke to promote effectiveness and efficiency when preparing the State budget. Throughout the Session Rep. Woodson has been meeting with the Board of Education, teachers, and every principal of every school in the district to address their current operational, repair, and maintenance needs. Rep. Woodson has been able to help secure funds to develop a new weight room, fitness room, and band room for Maui High School. It has also become apparent that the community will need an additional middle school within the next few years. Rep. Woodson also helped appropriate funds to both locate a site and design a new middle school. Lastly, Rep. Woodson also works with the Board of Education to implement legislation to create more effective learning environments for students and teachers.

## Lawmakers Listen

Representative Justin Woodson was able to coordinate members of the House Leadership to participate in Central Maui's Lawmakers Listen.

Representative Justin Woodson had a great turnout on Maui for the **Lawmakers Listen** community meeting. The event provided the public an opportunity to discuss important issues prior to the start of the 2014 Legislative Session directly with their State Representatives. The **entire core leadership team and a majority of the subject matter chairs were present in Kahului** to address the specific concerns of Maui residents.

## Some measures introduced by Rep. Woodson that passed the 2014 Legislature

**HB 2411/SB 2469 - Telehealth Reimbursement** - Modern advances in technology have made it possible for healthcare professionals to provide services for patients remotely over long distances. For families and individuals living with disabilities and or in remote areas, these new advancements in healthcare are extremely beneficial. In order to promote & sustain these programs HB2411 promotes proper market value reimbursement for services provided through the telehealth program to be equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between health care providers and patients.

**HB 2413 - Worker's Protection, Prevailing Wages, and Benefits** - In order to help Hawai'i's working families HB2413 expands the current prevailing wage law to all labor related public-private partnerships. This bill will promote fairness, safety and higher wages for all workers involved with public-private partnerships within the construction industries.

**Other important measures - SB 2609 - Minimum Wage** - Increases minimum wage rate to \$10.10 by January 2018. The increase will be gradually and responsibly. The wages will increase to:

- \$7.75 per hour beginning on 1/1/15
- \$8.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/16
- \$9.25 per hour beginning on 1/1/17
- \$10.10 per hour beginning on 1/1/18.

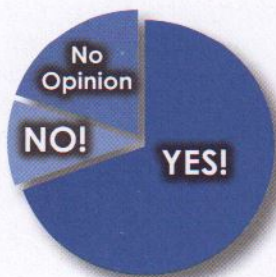


Above: Governor Neil Abercrombie signs consumer protection for Hawaii homeowners alongside Representatives Woodson, McKelvey, and Senator Rosalyn Baker.

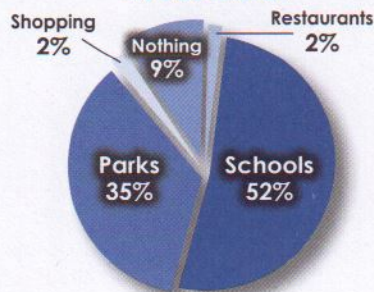
## You Responded, We Listened!

Earlier this year I sent out a survey to get feedback from our community on issues most important to you. Here are the results.

Should the State Legislature increase the minimum wage?



Our community needs more:



Biggest Concern about our Community:



*"I am pleased we were able to pass a responsible minimum wage bill."* - Rep. Woodson

Regarding the need for more **schools and school improvements** as a member on the House Committee on Finance I have worked very closely with Mayor Alan Arakawa and DOE facilities to expand Maui Waena as well as perform repair and maintenance on the other schools in our district. We are also working on budgeting a new middle school for Central Maui. We have already appropriated funds to both locate a site and design the middle school. The second need you made apparent were parks. The State is now working closely with the community on the development of the **Central Maui Regional Sports Complex**. Road Repair maintenance is overdue. I am happy that it is finally being done. There has been **\$10 Million dollars allocated to widen Puunene Road**. As the vice chair on the Committee on **Housing** I am looking at innovative ways such as subsidizing infrastructure to reduce costs, the viability of micro-homes for a fraction of the costs, and any solutions that can be implemented in the near future. Lastly, our community expressed strong concern for our **Kupuna**. I have been a strong advocate for our Kupuna throughout my term. Last year, I was able to help pass ACT 214, for Kupuna health programs. This ACT established and funded an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Services Coordinator to assist with aging and disability resource centers. I will continue to support legislation that supports our Kupuna.