

District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

JUNE 2011



Dear Neighbor,

The 2011 Legislature has ended, but the work continues!

In this month's *District 25 News*, read about unfinished legislative business, community solutions being proposed to address the persistent homelessness in our State, and how you can encourage the love of reading in the lives of children you know.

As for me, while I'll be splitting my time between my legislative and law offices during the interim between legislative sessions, I can still be reached at the Capitol. If you have any questions or I can be of assistance on community matters, please contact me at repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov or at 586-9425.

With aloha,

Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 25



The Shortlist

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

SPECIAL EVENT: A Community Conversation with MARC ALEXANDER, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

St. Clement's Church, Parish Hall
(1515 Wilder Avenue)
@ 6:00-7:30 pm

Join the Parish of St. Clement's and Representative Della Au Belatti for an intimate community conversation with Marc Alexander, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in Hawaii to learn more about the State's 90-Day Plan.

For details contact Rev. Michael Barham, Associate Pastor The Parish of St. Clement's, 955-7745; or Rep. Belatti, 586-9425, repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov

Friday, June 24, 2011

Friday Family Movie Night at Makiki Community Library

Movie starts at 6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:30 pm for Makiki Reading Program activities

Come one, come all to this movie showing of the fantastical voyage that takes Lucy and Edmund Pevensie, along with their cousin Eustace Scrubb, back to Narnia. They'll have grand adventures on the Dawn Treader, encountering dragons and mermaids along the way before reaching the edge of the C.S. Lewis created world. Don't forget to bring your Makiki Keiki Reading log to check your summer reading progress.

This event is hosted by Friends of the Makiki Community Library and Rep. Belatti. For more info, call 586-9425.

Saturday, July 9, 2011

18th Annual Art Spree 2011

The Contemporary Museum
(2411 Makiki Heights Drive)

Join Friends of the Contemporary Museum for this free, community-wide event that throws open the doors of The Contemporary Museum for all to enjoy.

There'll be urban mural artists, contemporary music and dance performances, and lots of keiki activities. Shuttle service is provided to the Museum from various sites in lower Makiki.

More info about Art Spree 2011, visit http://www.friendsoftcm.org/ArtSpr11_Event.htm

Unfinished Business of the 2011 Legislature

By DELLA AU BELATTI

Unfinished business – this was the phrase buzzing around the Capitol in the waning days of the 2011 Legislative session. In years past, conference committees, the final hurdle over which bills passed on their way to becoming laws, would string along into the late hours of the evening with agreement on bills coming long after the Legislature’s self-imposed deadlines. This year, the legislative deadline of 6:00 pm was mostly followed, thereby ending legislative negotiations

and leaving many bills in conference committees to be taken up in the 2012 Legislative session.



BILL LIMBO

Among those bills left in legislative limbo, nine bills were offered by Governor Neil Abercrombie as important enough to be taken up in the last days of session to see if compromise could be reached and rules could be waived to allow for their passage. These bills include:

- funding for the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) (SB239);
- authorization of bonds for qualified capital improvement projects by the University of Hawaii (SB809);
- funding for Hawaii’s Healthy Start program (HB614);

- funding for Hawaii’s Early Learning Council (SB289);
- provisions for development of public school lands (SB1385);
- funding for claims settled and/or awarded against the State (HB1001);
- funding for the upcoming APEC Leaders Meeting (HB1012);
- restructuring and expansion of the Public Utilities Commission (SB99); and
- creation of the regulatory structure to govern development of an interisland electric transmission cable (SB367).

Agreement on reconvening conference committees could not be reached between the House and the Senate, and this year’s session, in my view, came to an unsatisfactory conclusion. During the interim, I will continue to work on these and other legislative matters. In particular, as conference committee co-chair for Senate Bill 289, I am concerned with funding for Hawaii’s Early Learning Council.

HAWAII EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

The Council is tasked with designing Ha-



waii’s early learning system to be an accessible, voluntary, comprehensive and sustainable system that provides high-quality early learning experiences. Great strides have been made in the last few years as education officials, experts, early learning service providers, and members of the business community have worked diligently at gathering data and identifying strategies and goals for creating an effective early learning system.

Funding for the work of the Council is critical so that the State does not lose momentum in addressing early learning needs



of our communities and reaping the economic benefits of a high-quality early learning system.

As reported by a 2009 study conducted by the Good Beginnings Alliance, for every dollar invested in early childhood education, \$4.20 can be saved in the form of reduced spending on remedial education, crime, health and welfare. Funding for the Early Learning Council is also important with the impending end of the public junior kindergarten program in 2013.

If you have any questions about SB289 or any other bills that have not been moved on during the 2011 Legislative session, please contact me at repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov or at 586-9425.

See “Select Bills” sidebar on page 4

Governor, Legislature renew fight to stem homelessness in Hawaii

By DELLA AU BELATTI

In January 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie took a bold and early step in his administration in appointing Marc Alexander, former Vicar General for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, as his Coordinator on Homelessness in Hawaii. Simultaneously, the Honolulu Urban Caucus, comprised of State Representatives, Senators, and City Council members, collaborated to introduce a package of bills during the 2011 Legislative session with solutions to address the many facets of homelessness.

The Housing and Homeless Legislative Package included twenty-one measures that provided appropriations for affordable housing as part of transit-oriented development, workforce training, a part-time homeless care coordinator position for Aloha United Way 211, housing placement programs within the Department of Human Services (DHS), and a landlord liaison project. Other proposals in the Package included creation of an Interagency Council on Homelessness and prohibition of discrimination in real property transactions based on the lawful sources of income.

While these measures met different levels of success in the legislative process and will continue to be deliberated, three ideas have been incorporated into the Governor's 90-Day Plan on Homelessness in Hawaii that was announced on May 17, 2011. First, by executive order, the Governor is creating a State Interagency Council on Homelessness that will increase collaboration and community engagement with leaders of key state and federal agencies, community and faith-based leaders that represent the local continuum of care

for homeless services, homeless or formerly homeless persons, and business and philanthropic leaders.

Second, under consideration in the Governor's 90-Day Plan is a pilot "safe parking" program at one shelter that will meet the objective of ensuring that existing shelters are maximized for capacity and service. This "safe parking" program is similar to "safe havens" that have been debated in the Legislature. As proposed, "safe havens" are temporary overnight spaces provided to homeless people on open or vacant State-owned lands that would have certain minimum amenities and security. Senate Bill 900 proposes funds for a "safe haven" project and can be reconsidered in 2012 since this bill remains "alive" in conference committee.

Third, in 2010, the State Legislature empowered the DHS, in consultation with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, to create "Housing First" programs that

Snapshot of homeless in Hawaii

- Statewide, 12-15,000 people are homeless at some point of the year.
- At least 6,000 are homeless at any given day.
- Children make up 23.5-39% of the homeless.
- 17-42% of Hawaii's homeless are employed full-time.
- 37% of the homeless are of Native Hawaiian ethnicity.

Source: Hawaii H.O.M.E. (Homeless Outreach and Medical Education) Project (www.hawaiihomeproject.org).

Continued on page 4

Select bills remaining in 2011 legislative conference committees:

SB239: Extends annual \$4,000,000 authorization from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund moneys to JABSOM for operating expenses until June 30, 2015

SB809: Authorizes and appropriates up to \$100,000,000 to the University of Hawaii in revenue bond proceeds for construction and maintenance of qualifying capital improvement projects.

SB99: Restructures and expands the Public Utilities Commission.

SB367: Establishes a regulatory structure for installation and implementation of an interisland high voltage electric transmission cable system and for construction of on-island transmission infrastructure.

SB289: Appropriates funds for the Early Learning Council and the Families for R.E.A.L. program.

SB1385: Permits the Department of Education, with the approval of the Board of Education, to lease certain public school lands for the development of affordable workforce housing rental units under specified conditions.

HB 614: Appropriates funds for Hawaii’s Healthy Start program.

HB1001: Appropriates funds for claims against the State, its officers, and its employees.

HB1012: Appropriates funds for state law enforcement agencies relating to the planning and operation of security services and activities for the 2011 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders Meeting.

For further information on these bills (including testimony received, conference committee reports and different versions of these bills), visit the Hawaii State Legislature website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov and click on "Bill Status & Docs."

FREE Keiki Summer Reading Program at Makiki Community Library



This 6-week program is designed to encourage Keiki entering Pre-school to Grade 6 to improve their reading skills and enjoy themselves while

they’re doing it! Parents/students may register and pick up a start up packet at the Library circulation desk during regular business hours:

Wednesdays 2:00 — 6:00 pm;
Saturdays 12 noon — 4:00 pm;
and Sundays 12 noon — 4:00 pm.

This project is made possible by Rep. Belatti, Friends of the Makiki Community Library, and C&C Honolulu Makiki Park Summer Fun Staff. Call 586-9425 or visit www.makiki.info for more info. Requires parent/guardian oversight..

Homelessness in Hawaii *continued from page 5*

move chronically homeless individuals into housing while providing robust support services that lead to self-sufficiency. This year, Senate Bill 912 would have required DHS to immediately implement the Housing First program. In the Governor’s 90-Day Plan, pieces of “Housing First” are

“Also clear is that solutions will come from the community working together.”

adopted as the State administration intends to identify and assess people who are chronically homeless for immediate services in urban Honolulu. Actions to meet this objective include: completing a voluntary registry of persons who are homeless in urban Honolulu; rapidly housing with services those who are the most vulnerable; and offering services including psychiatric outreach services.

Clearly, solving Hawaii’s homeless problem will not occur overnight, and will likely always need to be vigi-

lantly pursued no matter who holds elected office. Also clear is that the solutions will come from the community working together. To learn more about Governor Abercrombie’s philosophy and initiatives, please join us for a community conversation with Marc Alexander on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. (*See Page 1 for more event details.*) We will discuss the State’s 90-Day Plan and how faith-based communities, charitable organizations, and regular citizens can be part of the State’s efforts to eliminate homelessness.

If you would like to be kept up to date with bills introduced as part of the Housing and Homeless Legislative Package, please visit <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/pkglist.asp> and click on “Housing and Homeless Legislative Package.” If you are interested in supporting these measures, please contact my office at repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov or at 586-9425.