



Representative Corinne W.L. Ching

March

District 27 Newsletter

LILIHA · NUUANU · PUUNUI · ALEWA HEIGHTS · PALAMA

March 2012

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Representative Ching's 2012 Committees

- Higher Education (HED)
- Tourism (TOU)
- Health (HLT)
- Human Services (HUS)
- Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC)
- Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (JLCAIP)

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Dear Family and Friends:

We are now half-way through the 2012 Legislative Session. Known as 'crossover', where Senate Bills are transferred to the House and vice versa, it provides the opportunity to have as many sets of eyes and thoughts on each measure, to ensure the best decision is made. Please check out the thorough breakdown of bills on the Capitol website:

www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Our office continues to compile your thoughts and viewpoints. If you did not receive our annual survey in the mail, please find a copy included as the last page in this newsletter. We highly encourage you to visit the website listed above, as there are important issues ranging from a state-owned bank, the relaxation of environmental laws and additional instruction time, that should interest you and will affect lives.

We wish to address your concerns. We would appreciate a few moments of your time to complete our survey. Please always feel free to contact our office, or email us directly at repching@capitol.hawaii.gov. You may also submit your thoughts through www.facebook.com, or follow us on twitter (@RepCorinneChing) for the most up-to-date information from our office.

Mahalo nui loa,

Corinne W.L Ching, State Representative



Walk Wise Hawaii

Steps for a safe Crossing:

- STOP
- WAIT
- LOOK (Left, Right and Left Again)
- LISTEN
- ALL CLEAR?
- WALK (keep looking and listening as you cross, until you reach the other side)

Vitality Project: Revitalizing Our Community

The community of Liliha is continuing the first-ever Vitality Project in the State of Hawaii. The Vitality Project is based on the Blue Zone and Thrive, Crookston Model from Minnesota and consists of a three pronged model: **Promote community cleanliness, self-preservation, and sustainable growth**-all of which are vital components to harnessing heritage in our lovely Liliha/Nuuanu. In order to follow this model, we must pay close attention to various initiatives and practices. We must first **maintain our community economy** while simultaneously creating a **Walkable**

Livable Environment. When available, instead of driving to a large wholesaler for your daily goods, take an invigorating stroll to your local "mom and pop" store. Keep the money within your community! The **restoration of old buildings** embraces our past while motivating future businesses. This no brainer has been in the works for years and is gaining more momentum! It is also important that we have **convenient access to and focus on fresh fruits and vegetables.** This can be as simple as growing your own home garden or switching out white rice for brown rice. We are currently

working on a community garden initiative so be on the lookout for one near you! We are pleased to announce the return of the **Nuuanu Farmers Market** at Honolulu Central Seventh Day Adventist Church. It will reopen April 3 and is scheduled for every Tuesday, from 4:30-7:00pm!



Rep. Ching showing a "hands on approach" in revitalization



Check out all the fresh offerings at the Nuuanu Farmers Market at Honolulu SDA Church. Re-opening April 3, from 4:30-7:00PM!!

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The Farmers Market is an excellent way to reshape the focus to our local economy and local community. Farmers **Markets are the quintessential hubs of sustainability**. Strong encouragement of civic engagement and events that connect us with one another are proven to prolong life and reduce stress. There is an inherent joy through interaction. That is why we are focused on the revitalization of our community. The framework that hoists up our revitalization project stems from an

important piece of Hawaiian culture: the Green Anthurium. The Anthurium exemplifies the definition of vitality; **to live and develop**. Inspired by a dear friend, the late Ms. Beverly Ho, **The Green Anthurium embodies the reminder to live and eat well**. Instead of gifting decadent sweets, give the gift of “green”. The Anthurium is among the longest living plants. By giving the Green Anthurium, you’re saying, “Thank you, I appreciate you-be well, live well.” Hence our newest endeavor, the **Green An-**

thurium Project. Along with past efforts, the Green Anthurium Project aims to cultivate a healthier, more fulfilling lifestyle that will cradle our local economy, beautify our surroundings, invigorate our neighbors, and most importantly create a tighter, happier, and more vibrant community! We can help ourselves, by helping each other! Imagine that! Please join us for I Love Liliha (details below) and Liliha Clean Up (upcoming in November)!

March is National Kidney Month, March 27th is Diabetes Awareness Day!



On opening day, Rep. Ching spoke to Farrington High School students about diabetes prevention.

National Kidney Month reminds us of the importance of doing all that we can to better ourselves and our surroundings. Organ donations are truly simple acts of altruism that save lives. As most everyone is probably aware at this point, diabetes has a stranglehold on our islands and must be directly dealt with. Kidney failure is one outcome of diabetes, particularly diabetes type 1

but oftentimes diabetes type 2 as well. Awareness is vital for its treatment and prevention. Following the Green Anthurium Project is a great first step to battling the disease that affects our friends and family. It is estimated that diabetes is now costing the State of Hawaii over \$1 Billion dollars annually. While these costs are eye-opening, the more important issue is the health of our

keiki. If current dietary trends continue, one in every two children born after the year 2000 will be directly affected by diabetes throughout their lives. That’s a horrifying statistic that we must address now. There is no more time to waste. Diabetes can be curtailed but it is up to us to begin the fight by embarking on healthier, revitalizing lifestyles!

COME JOIN US!

Iolani Palace Royal Egg Hunt—April 7th, 10AM-12PM
Come join us at the Iolani Palace on Sunday, April 7th for the annual Easter Egg Hunt! This is an opportunity for children to collect hidden eggs on the Palace grounds while simultaneously learning about the palace and the history of Hawaii!
For more information, please feel free to contact our office or log online: <http://www.iolanipalace.org/>

Keep Informed !

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**9th Annual
I Love Liliha Festival
August 26, 2012
www.iloveliliha.org**



Legislative Update

Resolutions Towards Vitality:

- Requesting the Department of Health to Convene a Task Force to Expand a School Garden Program Statewide.
- Requesting the Department of Education to Explore Options in Preventing Likelike Elementary School From Future Closure.
- Requesting That a Diabetes Prevention Task Force Be Established to

Study Prevention Strategies, Track Policy Changes and Report to the Legislature with Recommended Actions Halting These Epidemics.

- Requesting the Department of Transportation and the Department of Transportation Services to create markers acknowledging Historic Liliha Town on local, city and state roads near/around Liliha.

Now that our legislative session has reached cross-over, the Senate will be hearing testimony and voting on the **following bills intro'ed by Rep:**

H.B. 2824 Relating to Hawaiian-Grown Cacao Month; Designates February as "Hawaiian-Grown Cacao Month".

H.B. 1952 Relating to Bone Marrow Transplants; Appropriates funds, subject to a dollar-for-dollar match in private funds, as a grant

For Hawaii Pacific Health to establish a bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii.

If you would like to submit testimony on these measures or anything moving through the legislature, please visit: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>



Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars!

March:

Your Health & The Built Environment Event:

Sponsored by AARP, Hawaii Department of Health, UH Cooperative Extension and UH Manoa, is pleased to extend the invitation to attend this free event with guest Dr. Richard Jackson, from UCLA. Dr. Jackson will discuss how architecture and community design have an impact on our physical, mental and social health. **Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 5:30 p.m to 7:00 p.m., at St. John Hall, UH Manoa.** For more information, please feel free to contact our office or register:

<http://rjpauhana.eventbrite.com>

Historic Preservation Awareness Day:

As the Founder of the Heritage Caucus, Representative Ching is pleased to participate in the 2012 Historic Preservation Awareness Day. This is the 10th year Historic Hawai'i Foundation will join the State Legislature's Heritage Caucus to host this event. Come join us on **Friday, March 30, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** on the third floor lanai circling the rotunda. The exhibits are free and open to the public. The event is also sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

April:

The Royal Egg Hunt at Iolani Palace:

Representative Ching is pleased to foster community

events that engage our families and businesses. This year, Representative Ching asked Iolani Palace to create an Egg Hunt, as a fundraiser for the Historic Preservation Fund. This event was designed to expose our community's youth to history and immense culture. This free event is on **Saturday, April 7th, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** Children of all ages are encouraged to join!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

- Abandoned Vehicles: 532-7700 X5
- Bulky Item Pick-up: 832-7840
- Crime Stoppers-Non-Emergency: 955-8300
- Crystal Meth Hotline: 586-1328
- Dept. of Trans. Services: 768-8303
- Graffiti Hotline: 529-3222
- Handi-Van: 456-5555
- Honolulu Yard (Street Repairs): 768-8303
- HPD District 5-Non-Emergency: 732-8200
- HPD District 1-Non-Emergency: 529-6395
- Narcotics/Vice (Drug Manuf/Dealing): 529-3101
- Pothole Hotline: 768-7777
- Senior Citizen Information: 523-4545



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LILIHA™

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Although Representative Ching may not support these issues, we would greatly appreciate your input on these measures, which are moving forward at the Legislature.

GAMBLING

SB 2984 Relating to Gaming: (Intro by Sen. Solomon) Establishes the Banyan Drive gaming establishment development district and grants a renewable 20-year license for one stand-alone casino within the district. Imposes 15% tax on gross receipts.

Opposed To In Favor Don't Know

STATE-OWNED BANK

HB 1840 Relating to State-Owned Bank: (Intro by Reps. Oshiro, Tsuji) Establishes a task force to review, investigate, and study the feasibility and cost of establishing a state-owned bank. Requires a report to the Legislature.

TOLL ROADS

HB 2153 Relating to Toll Roads: (Intro by Reps. Souki, Ichiyama, Yamashita) Authorizes director of transportation to impose toll charges on existing highways or construct new toll roads. Provides for agreement with private entities to construct, operate, and maintain toll roads. Prohibits toll roads where there is no alternative route available without a toll being charged.

PLASTIC BAGS

HB 2260 Relating to Environmental Protection: (Intro by Rep. Coffman) Requires businesses in the state to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer.

Although the following issues may not have bills currently attached; as they have become debated issues, we would appreciate your opinion should measures arise.

HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT: The proposed elevated rail would be 20 miles long, gut many major roadways and cost the state upwards of an estimated \$5 billion dollars.

Opposed To In Favor Don't Know

SAME SEX MARRIAGE: As of January 1, 2012, Governor Abercrombie signed a Civil Unions Bill that gives gay partners the same state rights as married couples. What are your thoughts on same sex marriage?

Additional Comments/Concerns:

