



Representative Corinne W.L. Ching

District 27

Neighborhood Board Newsletter

LILIHA · NUUANU · PUUNUI · ALEWA HEIGHTS · PALAMA

February 2012

**Office of
Representative
Corinne Ching**
415 S. Beretania Street,
Rm330
Honolulu, HI
96817

T: 808-586-9415
F: 808-586-9421
E: repching@capitol.hawaii.gov

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:

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your Representative. February marks many exciting milestones – Cacao Month, our staunch efforts to remedy the consequences caused by the Hawaii Medical Center-East's bankruptcy, and our continued efforts to raise awareness on Diabetes.

Our office continues to foster a safe, healthy and prosperous district. In this newsletter we report on the progress of our initiatives and ask you to join us this 26th Legislative Session to participate in moving issues that are important to our community. It is with much gratitude and appreciation to you, our constituents, who call and write in, as well as conducted presentations and stopped by our office. I encourage you to contact me directly at 586-9415 or at repching@capitol.hawaii.gov regarding any issue. While our district has been presented with some profound challenges recently, it remains our goal to meet those challenges with courage and determination and work together to find the solutions.

Mahalo nui loa,

Corinne W.L Ching
State Representative



Walk Wise Hawaii's

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)

Update: HMC, Diabetes & More

The following bills, supported by Rep. Ching are currently moving through the legislative session:

Regarding HMC:

HB 608- RELATING TO HEALTH

Appropriates emergency funds, subject to dollar-for-dollar private matching funds, to be expended by the Department of Health for grants to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease

management program. (HB608 CD2). Passed as an Act 2/4/2012

HB 609-HD1-RELATING TO HEALTH

Authorizes the assimilation of Hawaii Medical Center-East into the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2012. Passed, awaiting session vote.

HB 1952-RELATING TO BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS

Appropriates funds, subject to a dollar-for-dollar match in private funds, as

a grant subject to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Hawaii Pacific Health to establish a bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii. Effective July 1, 2012. Referred to Committee on Finance for vote.

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Rep. Ching sits during a recent Committee on Health hearing



Press Release on Rep. Ching's Diabetes bill moving through committee

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HB 2345 –SPRB TO ASSIST ST. FRANCE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII.

Authorizes the issuance of SPRBs of up to \$80,000,000 for St. Francis Healthcare System to construct healthcare facilities. Effective 07/01/2012. Passed with amendments, to be voted on during an upcoming session before next hearing committee.

Regarding the Economy:

HB 2863 – RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT (Hiring incentive tax credit): Provides for a job creation income tax credit to business for hiring recently laid off employees. The credit is equal to a fraction of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes that business will pay on the newly-hired employees. Referred to Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business for hearing.

Regarding Diabetes:

HB 2865- RELATING TO DIABETES Permanently establishes through codification the department of health's diabetes prevention and control program; designates that the program shall have a director who shall lead the State's fight against diabetes. Passed with amendments to create a taskforce. The bill will continue through session before continuing to financing. Introduced by Rep. Ching.

February is Hawaii Grown Cacao Month!



Rep. Ching poses with members of Hawaii Chocolate & Cacao Association (HCCA) after providing invocation Feb. 1st, 2012

Cacao has been known for its antioxidant and health benefits, its wide breadth of uses and an economically promising industry in the agricultural field. Representative Ching recognizes its potential to create sustainable job creation and worked towards introducing House Bill 1589, which designates February as Hawaii Grown Cacao Month. According to a Honolulu Ad-

vertiser article in 2010, "Hawaiian-grown cacao has a reputation for producing high quality chocolate." In celebration, Hale'iwa Farmer's Market on the North Shore kicked off Cacao Month by highlighting local chocolate vendors and tours of Wailua Estate Cacao Orchards. The event also featured chocolate demos, chef demos, and keiki activities, with visits to

Wailua Estate Cacao Orchards. Furthermore, Representative Ching will be attending the **Hawai'i Chocolate Festival at Dole Cannery on February 25th, 2012, 12PM to 5PM.** Echoing the views of the 'Buy Local, It Matters' campaign, join us in celebrating Cacao a local ag that can promote feasible and sustainable job growth this February.

COME JOIN US!

ART AT THE CAPITOL—MARCH 2ND, 5PM-7PM
Come join us at the Hawaii State Capitol on Friday, March 2nd for the 4th Annual Art at the Capitol. This is an opportunity to meet legislators as they open their doors to share more than 460 pieces of art, as a part of the State's Art in Public Places Programs.

For more information, please feel free to contact our office or log online: www.facebook.com/artatthecapitolhawaii

Keep Informed !

@RepCorinneChing

www.facebook.com/repcorinneching

repching@capitol.hawaii.gov / (808) 586-9415



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

