



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN

HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · DECEMBER 2014

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I wanted to begin by wishing you all the best this holiday season and express how truly grateful and honored I am to continue to serve as Representative of House District 44. Both the House and Senate have identified leadership and committee assignments and I am pleased to announce that I will continue to serve as a member on the Committees



on Finance, Health, Housing, and Human Services.

In this newsletter, I highlight the over \$5 million in construction underway or released for improvements at Waianae Public Schools. Additionally, I provide a short summary regarding the informational briefings I've been attending over the past six months related to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation in order to hear from clients and staff of these community hospitals so solutions can be designed to fit each community.

A substantial portion of this newsletter is dedicated to providing an update on homeless and housing issues recently received from the various housing agencies in order to prepare for next legislative session. I also was appreciative of the opportunity to visit Hale Wai Vista, Kulia I Ka Nu'u (formerly known as Kahikolu), Maili III, and Green Homes at Lualualei with Craig Hirai, Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation and members of his staff during the summer.

I look forward to continuing to work together on these and other issues. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

MAHALO,

JO JORDAN,
DISTRICT 44 REPRESENTATIVE

Electrical Upgrades Underway and Funds Released for Improvements at Waianae Public Schools

Construction totaling \$1,148,733 at Waianae Intermediate School, \$1,014,300 at Leihoku Elementary School, and \$361,200 at Kamaile Academy for electrical upgrades are underway. Additionally, construction totaling \$448,367 for an ADA Transition Plan at Makaha Elementary School was scheduled for earlier this year. Funds were also released for the following capital improvement projects:

- \$500,000 for design of a New Administration Building for Waianae Elementary. This project was identified as a priority in my CIP bills introduced in 2012 and 2013 after meeting with the former principal of the school who explained that this project was a priority. In 2013, the State legislature included in the State Budget funding of \$500,000 in FY13 for plans and design and \$4.5 million in FY14 for construction for a new Administration Building for Waianae Elementary School.
- \$684,000 for Waianae High: \$13,000 to reroof dining room & kitchen, \$67,000 to replace center bleachers, \$304,000 for miscellaneous repair & maintenance for Race to the Top Zone of Innovation, and \$300,000 for electrical upgrade.
- \$934,000 for Kamaile Academy: \$127,000 to replace fire alarm & PA, \$39,000 for miscellaneous repair & maintenance for Race to the Top Zone of Innovation, \$500,000 for a new fire hydrant, and \$268,000 for a whole school, classroom renovations.

HOUSING

The Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing and the House Committee on Housing held a joint informational briefing on November 12 in order to receive an update on various housing development plans and proposed 2015 Legislation as it relates to housing and assisting the homeless.

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)

The Committees heard first from Colin Kippen, the Hawaii State Coordinator on Homelessness on the work of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). As an alternate member of HICH, I participated in the formulation of the plan adopted by the HICH and presented to the Committees which includes the following four sectors: 1) Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System, 2) Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing, 3) Increase Economic Stability and Self-Sufficiency, and 4) Improve Health and Stability.

The legislative priorities identified by Colin Kippen include the following:

- Development of Affordable Housing (\$15 million for the development of micro units and closing the loophole in the conveyance tax law).
- Expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing resources (\$3 million to continue the Housing First initiative within the base budget of the Department of Human Services).
- Addressing Economic Factors Relating to Housing.

Lori Tshako, Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office then reported that 44 Homeless shelters statewide were funded at \$11.14 million and homeless outreach was funded at over \$2 million to



Rep. Jordan with volunteers and staff from HHFDC at Hale Wai Vista.

8 contracted providers to conduct outreach to clients living on the streets, in cars, at beaches, and other places not meant for human habitation.

Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC)

Craig Hirai, Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) noted that Statewide, approximately 28,100 new housing units are estimated to be needed between 2012 and 2016. He further explained that the Statewide projected housing need between 2012 and 2016 for lower income families is approximately 19,000 units. For the same time period, first-time homebuyer need is approximately 4,800 units for moderate income families (80-140% AMI). HHFDC reported that collaboration on affordable housing production is occurring between Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) who are working together to:

- Support affordable housing development in Kakaako, Kalaeloa, and East Kapolei
- Coordinate rules to ensure consistency and continuity with respect to housing affordability and sustainability
- Explore new infrastructure
- Seek more funding resources

Additionally, HHFDC noted that it is collaborating with HCDA on reducing the cost of housing development in transit-oriented development areas through innovation, including lowered parking requirements and micro units and identifying Transit-Oriented Development opportunities on State land.



Rep. Jordan on a site visit at Lualualei Green Homes.

HOUSING

HCDA reiterated that not enough housing is being built for our population and the information presented focused more on Kakaako noting that population in the Kakaako area increased from 2,249 in 1990 to 6,239 in 2000 and to 10,673 in 2010.



Craig Hirai, HHFDC Executive Director leading a tour inside a unit at Hale Wai Vista.

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

DHHL noted similar housing development challenges referenced by HHFDC such as high construction costs, lack of infrastructure/capacity, and lack of funding. The DHHL strategies to increase housing production include:

- Secure future federal funding
- Rent-with-option-to-purchase
- Leverage affordable housing credits
- Reduce home costs through a Packaged Homes Pilot Project
- Higher densities, especially in Transit-Oriented Development areas.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) reported that across Hawaii, the HPHA portfolio consists of 85 properties or 6,195 total units and HPHA administers 5,638 housing vouchers serving over 11,000 families or more than 31,000 individuals earning 30% of the Average Medium Income (AMI) or below, or “extremely low income”.

HPHA also shared that based in large part on the “Special Teams” repairs and renovations, occupancy

rate improved from 80% in 2012 to 98% in 2014 and vacant unit turnaround time decreased from 267 days in 2012 to 7 days in 2014. Additionally, redevelopment projects on the horizon promise to bring fresh ideas for innovative, sustainable, mixed-use design. Some of the future projects are located within the City’s Transit-Oriented Development Zones, which will allow for higher densities as well as greater opportunities for tenants to access jobs, schools, businesses, services, etc.



ABOVE and BELOW: Rep. Jordan with volunteers and staff from HHFDC at Maili III.



	Federal Public Housing	State Public Housing	Section 8	Totals
Children (ages 0-17)	4,978	244	2,666	7,888
Elderly (ages 72 & over)	1,669	581	397	2,647
Veterans	<i>not tracked</i>	<i>not tracked</i>	55	55+
Homeless (intake over the last 5 years)	2,473	123	541	3,137

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Informational Briefings Related to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

The House Health Committee conducted a series of planned informational briefings and community-based public hearings related to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), its Regional Boards, and their plans to streamline operations and address anticipated shortfalls beginning on Kauai on June 30, followed by East Hawaii on July 28, West Hawaii on September 22,

and most recently on Maui on November 10. Both the House and Senate Committees held an informational briefing on Oahu on September 19. As a member of the Health Committee, I attended all of these informational briefings in order to consider different proposals to address the financial burdens and unsustainable costs of maintaining the HHSC. Part of its financial problems are that HHSC facilities are located in Hawaii's rural communities where they are unable to generate enough revenue to support operational costs. However, these communities would likely not receive healthcare if these facilities were not in the area.

Recent task force recommendations have concluded that significant structural and organization changes are required. There have been attempts to resolve the system's financial problems including exploring public-private partnerships and the sale of several facilities to the private sector. These and other proposals will continue to be explored this upcoming legislative session.



Rep. Jordan with Rep. Kawakami at the informational briefing related to HHSC held on Oahu.

Connect with Rep. Jordan



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