



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · FALL 2013

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ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

The interim has been busy especially with the House Finance Committee conducting site visits on Oahu and Hawaii Island as showcased in this newsletter. The Committee will continue conducting site visits throughout the state over the next few months in preparation for next legislative session.



In addition to the site visits, I have been attending meetings relating to education. In this newsletter, I highlight the Defend Waianae campaign spearheaded by the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE), which seeks to address chronic absence and dropout rates in the Waianae community. What makes this initiative unique is it engages the community to develop solutions together to improve school attendance. I look forward to continuing with the collaborative effort of school officials, parents, students, and community partners.

I am also grateful for the many community members and special guests who participated in the Town Hall Meeting on Education. Even with their busy school schedules, I was very proud that the principals of Waianae High, Maili, Leihoku, Makaha, and Waianae Elementary Schools, and Kamaile Academy made time to attend the meeting. The overall responses from the meeting based on the surveys collected were positive. Anyone who missed the meeting will have an opportunity to view it on Olelo.

It is my honor to continue to serve you. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

MAHALO,

JO JORDAN,
DISTRICT 44 REPRESENTATIVE



(L-R): REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN, KALEI KAILIHIWA, ANN MAHI, AND DON HORNER.

Town Hall Meeting on Education a Success

On August 27, I held a Town Hall Meeting on Education with special guests, Board of Education (BOE) Chair Don Horner, DOE Complex Area Superintendent of Nanakuli & Waianae Ann Mahi and Director of the Ka Pua Initiative Kalei Kailihiwa. I opened up the evening with an overview of the DOE and Charter School budgets as part of the overall State Budget. I also detailed school capital improvement projects, lump sum appropriations, school construction, and education-related measures enacted by the 2013 Legislature.

BOE Chair Don Horner touched on the DOE Strategic Plan, which focuses on three main goals: Student Success, Staff Success and Successful Systems of Support. DOE Complex Area staff Ann Mahi and John Wataoka highlighted the following accomplishments: an increase in highly qualified teachers from 61% in 2008 to 91% in 2013, an increase in the graduation rate at Waianae High School from 65% in 2009 to 75% in 2013, plan to incorporate digital technology in the Waianae Complex with websites for the complex area and schools, and the importance of community partners.

The presentation by the DOE was followed by Kalei Kailihiwa and Maile Keliipio-Acoba, representatives from Kamehameha Schools Ka Pua Initiative, who noted that the largest concentration of Native Hawaiians in Hawaii is along the Waianae Coast. The 3 Point Ka Pua Strategy includes: Collaborations that Move the Needle for Kids, Schools that are centers of the community, and Community Learning Centers.

Audience members were allowed to ask questions after the presentations and I am grateful to everyone who attended and appreciate that Olelo Waianae filmed the meeting so it can be viewed by those who were unable to attend the meeting that evening.

TOWN HALL ON 'OLELO

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6pm, Ch. 54

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 8am, Ch. 49

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2pm, Ch. 49

Saturday, Oct. 19, 10pm, Ch. 54

Mount Kaala Natural Area Reserve Visit

Several members of the House Finance Committee and staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) participated in a visit to Mount Kaala Natural Area Reserve, which consists of 1,100 acres of dryland to wet shrub forest. In 2012, most of the activity in the area has involved maintaining fences and the lower Kaala access road, monitoring hoofed animal activity and conducting control when necessary, and completing the remaining portion of the boardwalk replacement project in collaboration with partners. Weed control is currently focused at the summit bog where it is native dominated. As part of the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) rare plant program, staff monitored and surveyed plants in the lower western portion of the Natural Area Reserve indentifying threatened and endangered species occurring in that area. NARS staff also coordinates DLNR's watershed initiative, which is aimed at working to ensure fresh water is available for the people of Hawaii in perpetuity by protecting our watershed forests.



Kaala Natural Area Reserve. (July 19, 2013.)

Prior to the House Finance Committee's visit to the Mount Kaala Natural Area Reserve on July 19, the Committee started its site visits on Oahu with a walkthrough/site visit of the Department of Taxation on July 17. The primary source of revenue collection, the Department of Taxation, has been facing high turnover rates and staffing shortages, impacting the optimal collection of tax revenue.

Although I wasn't able to attend the site visit to Hawaii Island from August 7-9, I was able to participate in the site

visit on August 20 to the Federal Detention Center and the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). The stark comparison between these two facilities evidences how much attention is needed to improve the State's corrections facilities.



Department of Taxation. (July 17, 2013.)

On August 23, the House Finance Committee visited the State Archives and viewed rare items including a Hawaiian petition, coin mints, Hawaiian Kingdom Official's uniform, and a signed 1852 Treaty with Great Britain including the attached seal. The Committee also viewed the renovation project at the Kamamalu Building in downtown Honolulu. The final site visit in August was to Honolulu Harbor. The tour started on the road at Pier 1, continued to Sand Island, and concluded with a Tug Boat tour. The House Finance Committee will continue conducting site visits statewide over the next few months.



OCCC. (August 20, 2013.)

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE SITE VISITS



The House Finance Committee in a conference room at DOTAX.



The House Finance Committee were briefed before a tour of OCCC.



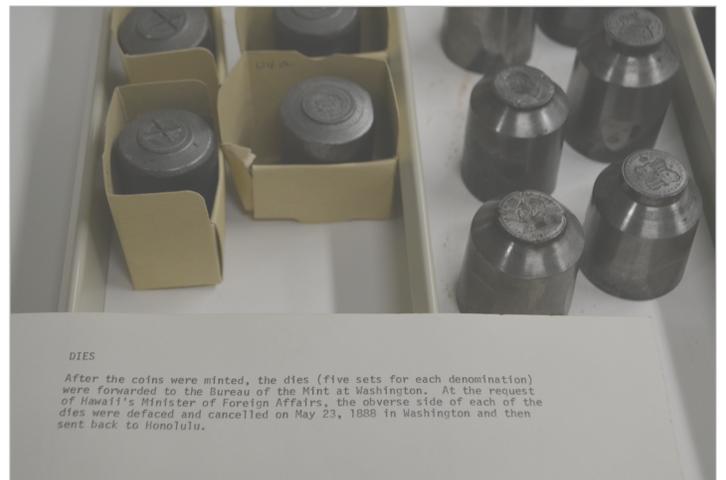
Kamamalu Building under renovation.



At Honolulu Harbor, before the Hokulani.



Inside the Hawaii State Archives Building.



DIES
After the coins were minted, the dies (five sets for each denomination) were forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint at Washington. At the request of Hawaii's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the obverse side of each of the dies were defaced and cancelled on May 23, 1888 in Washington and then sent back to Honolulu.

Dies used to strike coins of the Hawaiian dollar at the State Archives.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MODEL

Waianae Intermediate School Focuses on Chronic Absenteeism through Community Engagement

School absence has been a growing issue facing the Waianae Coast. The Defend Waianae campaign, spearheaded by the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE), seeks to address chronic absence and dropout rates in the Waianae community.

Defend Waianae's inaugural event took place at Waianae Intermediate School on July 18. Students with high absence speak openly about their experiences and concerns. The event, which invited those affected most by chronic absence, was the first of its kind in the state of Hawaii.

Discussion facilitators and notetakers were present at the meeting in order to document the feedback provided by participants. Parents were asked about challenges they faced in getting their children to school as well as challenges their children experienced in interacting with their classmates and teachers. Some key challenges that were discussed in the small groups were the lack of adequate school bus coverage, mental health issues including social anxiety and depression, and stigmatization of being homeless.

Students were given an opportunity in the library to bond with each other through icebreakers and personal storytelling. Alumni of Waianae High and Intermediate Schools spoke to current Waianae Intermediate students about the importance of education and attendance.

A follow up meeting was held on August 22 to present the information gathered at the inaugural event to attendees to help develop solutions together to improve school attendance. I am thankful that INPEACE and their partners organized this forum. Both students affected by chronic absence and their parents were able to voice their concerns and provide input into how the school may be of greater support moving forward.

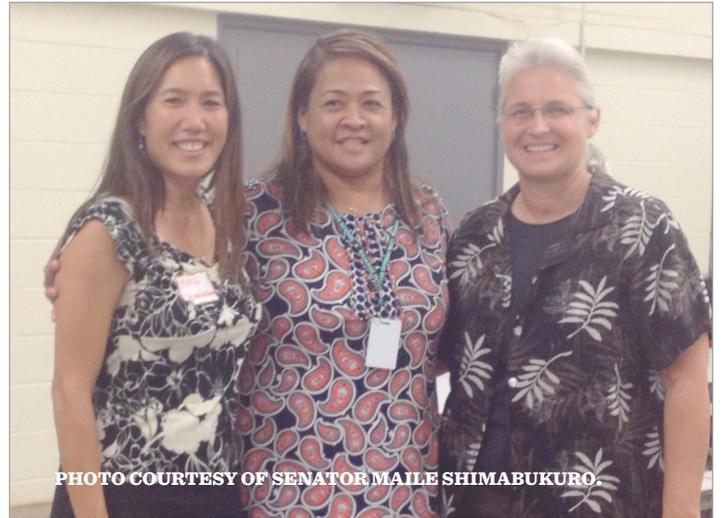
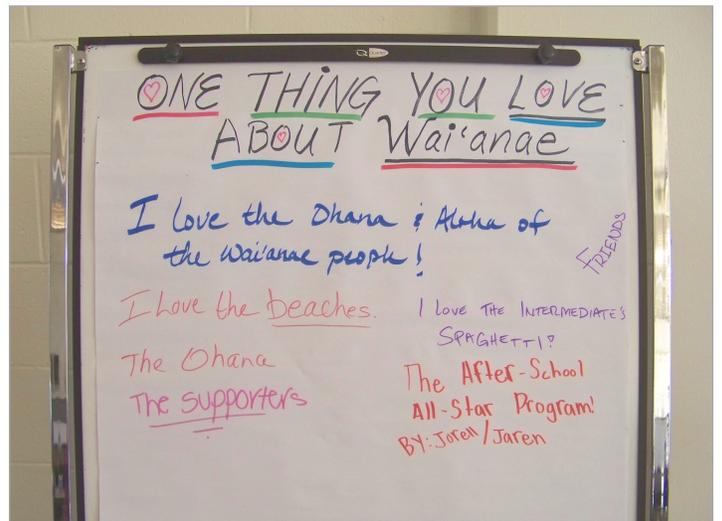


PHOTO COURTESY OF SENATOR MAILE SHIMABUKURO.

SENATOR MAILE SHIMABUKURO, WAIANAЕ INTERMEDIATE PRINCIPAL RAEHELLE FABRAO, AND REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN.



Attendees listed a few of their favorite things about Waianae.

Connect with Rep. Jordan



Official Website

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>
click on "Legislators"
click on "Jordan"



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