



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN

HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · FALL 2015

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Aloha Neighbors,

The House Finance Committee is continuing to conduct site visits statewide and in this newsletter I highlight the first sight visit to Hookele Elementary School in Kapolei. I also organized a site visit to the Waianae Boat Harbor with Governor David Ige, House Housing Committee Chair Representative Mark Hashem, HHFDC Executive Director Craig Hirai, City Managing Director Roy Amemiya, and Leeward Housing Coalition member Cynthia Rezentes in order to inform state and city leaders of homelessness in Waianae.



Additionally, I attended national conferences including the CSG West Annual Meeting in Vail, Colorado. With the theme of "Balance Your Attitude with a Change in Altitude," this year's annual meeting provided an opportunity to engage in substantive policy issues affecting our region, learn from dynamic speakers, take advantage of professional development sessions, promote regional cooperation and network with important stakeholders in a collegial atmosphere.

Following the CSG West Annual Meeting, I attended the NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle, Washington. Each summer, NCSL brings thousands of legislators and staff together for its Legislative Summit, the largest and most substantive meeting of its kind in the nation. The Legislative Summit features more than 100 sessions and presents nationally renowned experts on the most critical state issues. It also provides one-of-a-kind professional development opportunities and the chance to connect with colleagues from around the country.

Since I will be holding a Town Hall Meeting focused on education, this newsletter highlights initiatives at Waianae Elementary and Intermediate Schools and Kamaile Academy. I hope you'll join us on October 27th.

Mahalo,

Jo Jordan,
District 44 Representative

Funding Released for Capital Improvement Projects

Governor Ige's Administration announced the release of funding for several Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and included on that list were \$4.5 million to provide a new Administration Building at Waianae Elementary School; \$1.5 million to replace/renovate the deteriorating bleachers at Waianae High School; \$500,000 (Design only) to connect Buildings SP and T at Waianae High School for its "Searider Production" program; \$750,000 for construction for increased drainage capacity along Farrington Highway in the vicinity of Princess Kahanu Avenue on Oahu; \$2.7 million to replace Maipalaoa Bridge in Waianae, Oahu with a new bridge that meets current seismic and vehicular load requirements; and \$28.8 million for design and construction for a new Administration and Allied Health Facility at University of Hawaii-West Oahu. ◀



Waianae Intermediate Students Receive Backpacks

Teach For America - Hawaii joined with American Eagle Outfitters, STATE Bags, and Kamehameha Schools to donate 1,000 new backpacks filled with school supplies to students during Waianae Intermediate School's Spirit Week assembly. All students received backpacks designed by STATE Bags with school supplies donated by American Eagle Outfitters and Kamehameha Schools. The donation is the result of Kileigh Barringer, Jillian Frederic, and Danielle Jupiter, Teach for America corps members at Waianae Intermediate who entered the school into a national contest. ◀

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE SITE VISITS



Rep. Jordan attended a walk through site visit of Hookele Elementary School in Kapolei.

The House Finance Committee began its site visits with a walk through of Hookele Elementary School in Kapolei on July 20. This \$40 million school is the first large DOE, Facilities Development Branch project utilizing Design-Build as the procurement method, which was constructed and opened in 16 months as detailed below. Unlike the traditional approach for construction, which consists of the separate selection of a designer and contractor, design-build has a single point of responsibility. This approach reduces risks and overall costs. It also requires funding up front.

Timeline

- April 3, 2014: Groundbreaking
- September 16, 2014: BOE approves name Hookele Elementary School
- March 6, 2015: Phase II construction complete
- Summer 2015: School furniture is moved in
- July 29, 2015: School open to students

The 78,404-square-foot campus is comprised of seven buildings surrounding a central courtyard including a library, cafeteria and a dedicated arts and science building. The campus features air-conditioned



The buildings at Hookele Elementary School are painted in vibrant colors that were chosen by Hookele students.

classrooms, learning gardens, flexible learning spaces, a covered play court and a wireless network throughout all buildings. The school meets the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Schools 2009 standards. In addition, the school includes an onsite bio-retention and native landscaping. Multiple drop-off entries for parents and school buses as well as expansion areas for increased enrollment if needed have also been incorporated into the plan.



Rep. Jordan speaking with **Damon Gray** (left) of Kiewit Building Group, who led the tour of the Hookele Elementary School campus.

HAWAII JOINS NATIONAL TURNAROUND ARTS INITIATIVE

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities will expand its successful Turnaround Arts initiative into 5 additional school districts - including Kalihi Kai Elementary, Kamaile Academy and Waianae Elementary in Hawaii - as the program continues to successfully help turn around low-performing schools, narrow the achievement gap and increase student engagement through the arts. This follows last year's major expansion of the program after a Booz Allen Hamilton evaluation of the program's effectiveness. Turnaround Arts now reaches over 22,000 of the country's highest-needs students in 49 schools in 14 states and DC. The Committee also announced that Turnaround Artists Jack Johnson, Jake Shimabukuro and Alfre Woodard will "adopt" Hawaii Turnaround Arts schools and work directly with students and teachers to support their arts education.

The newly expanded program is funded through a public-private partnership, receiving over \$5 million over the next 3 years from the U.S. DOE, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Ford Foundation and other private foundations and companies to bring arts education into low-performing schools. The program leverages approximately an additional \$10 million contributed in local funds over the same period. The money will be used to hire new arts and music teachers; bring teaching artists, art supplies and music instruments into schools; and support arts integration with other core subjects such as reading, math and science.

In Hawaii, the Hawaii State DOE and the Hawaii Arts Alliance will be the local program partners for Turnaround Arts. Research evaluation results show that participating schools are demonstrating improved academic performance, increased student and parent engagement, and improved culture and climate. On



Rep. Jordan with Turnaround Artist **Jack Johnson** at Kamaile Academy. *Photo courtesy of Sen. Maile Shimabukuro.*

average, Turnaround Arts schools showed a 23% improvement in math proficiency and a 13% increase in reading proficiency over 3 years, as well as showing reductions of up to 86% in student disciplinary issues and sharply increased attendance.

All schools participating in Turnaround Arts will receive training and resources to address their individual needs. Resources will include a summer leadership program, in-school professional development, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organization, art supplies, and musical instruments. Participating schools were competitively selected by program partners according to national guidelines. Selection criteria included demonstrated need and opportunity, strong school leadership with district support, and a commitment to arts education. Turnaround Arts schools represent elementary and middle schools from across the country and encompass a diversity of student demographics in urban and rural settings. <

Representative Jo Jordan
House of Representatives
415 S. Beretania St., Room 323
Honolulu, HI 96813

Town Hall Meeting on Education

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Waianae District Park

Multi-Purpose Room

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Light refreshments will be served from 6:30pm.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail the office of Representative Jordan at **(808) 586-8460** or **repjordan@capitol.hawaii.gov**.