



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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

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## Aloha Neighbors,

The 2013 Legislative Session opened on January 16 and I truly appreciate the best wishes offered by many of you, especially those who journeyed to the Capitol.



In this newsletter, I highlight a few Opening Day activities including my interview conducted by students from the Nanakuli Boys & Girls Club. Additionally, I provide an overview of the Governor's State of the State Address and congratulate Senator Daniel K. Akaka for receiving the inaugural Hawaii Aloha Order of Merit award. I also announce my House Committee assignments and briefly summarize a few of the bills I introduced this session.

Some of the bills not referenced in this newsletter that I would like to mention here include HB512, which proposes to increase the minimum wage. I also introduced a number of bills pertaining to housing which include HB518, appropriating funds for the state rent supplement program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing in order to obtain and maintain permanent housing; HB519, appropriating funds to the Dept. of Human Services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in the State; and HB521, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and the appropriation of funds for deposit into the rental housing trust fund to finance affordable rental housing development.

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



## Governor Neil Abercrombie Delivers State of the State Address

On the House of Representatives floor on January 22, Governor Neil Abercrombie delivered his state of the state address. Among his priorities are the state's budget, energy, economy, early learning initiatives, and Kupuna Care.

Governor Abercrombie plans to invest in early learning programs in order to close the current performance gap among our students who are entering kindergarten between those who have attended preschool and those who have not. "Investing now in our children's early years of life will pay off dividends down the road in the form of healthy and contributing adults, reduced crime and incarceration, crime costs, and less dependency on social services."

The governor proposed further investment in modernizing infrastructure and embarking on the construction, repair, and maintenance of our schools. "These projects could mean that the state not only will be investing back into our economy, but through partnerships generate needed revenue not otherwise available."

The legislature will be considering the Governor's proposals this legislative session, but we especially look forward to hearing your input.

# OPENING DAY

## 'Olelo Youth Capitol Commentary

Interviewer Serena Willis, a student at Nanaikapono Elementary, asked me, "What do you have planned for your community?"

On opening day, four students from the Nanakuli Boys & Girls Club came by my office to wish me a good session and to interview me for an 'Olelo Program titled *Youth Capitol Commentary 2013*.

I responded that I am planning to work on our education, specifically early learning initiatives targeted to our youth from 1 to 5 years old. With the creation of the Office of Early Learning, I acknowledge that over 85% of a person's brain development takes place during their early childhood. Early life experiences lay the groundwork for a child's lifelong learning and behavior.

Furthermore, I announced plans to continue working in cooperation with the Interagency Council on Homelessness to end homelessness in ten years, and with job training agencies to better prepare our residents for the workforce.

## MA'O Organic Farms Recycling Program a Success

In an effort to promote healthy living, organic local produce and sustainability, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs delivered fresh organic produce harvested at MA'O Organic Farms to each legislator's office. They also provided an administrative update on OHA's current and upcoming projects, stressing that "what is good for Native Hawaiians is good for Hawai'i as a whole."

My office participated in MA'O Organic Farm's reusable box collection program. The various legislative offices delivered their boxes to me so that the boxes could be reused by future MA'O Organic Farms consumers. In total, my office collected 67 boxes. According to Managing Director Gary Maunakea-Forth, MA'O Organics Farms has had a produce box recycling program in place for more than two years.



Students from Nanaikapono, the Nanakuli Boys & Girls Club, and Waianae High School visited the Legislature on Opening Day to interview legislators for 'Olelo Community TV's *Youth Capitol Commentary*.

**From left to right:** Tatyana Samuels, Zion Samuels, Representative Jordan, and Serena Willis. (not pictured: Jesse Revollar)



Nanaikapono student Serena Willis interviewing Representative Jordan on opening day.



Gary Maunakea-Forth, Managing Director of MA'O Organic Farms, picked up reusable boxes.

## Committee Assignments

I have been assigned as a member to the Committees on Finance, Health, Housing, and Human Services, allowing me to continue my work over the past two years in 3 of these 4 committees and providing an opportunity for me to further my work on Housing that I have been doing as an alternate member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

## Bill Introduction

January 24 marked the deadline to introduce bills. I initiated bills on topics ranging from education, public safety, agriculture, and homelessness, to name a few.

### **Greenways, HB505**

Directs the Office of Planning to develop a plan for a statewide greenways plan.

### **General Excise Tax, HB506**

Prohibits the State from paying or reimbursing contractors for the General Excise Tax (GET) as a result of the management audit of the DOE's school bus transportation services where it was uncovered that the DOE includes within its contracts with school bus service providers a provision specifying that the DOE will pay the GET of these contractors. The DOE estimated it would pay more than \$2 million in School Year 2012 for contractors' GET.

### **Food sustainability, HB508**

Exempts from the procurement code any contract by governmental bodies to procure fresh meat and produce, and animals and plants for use by any governmental body.

### **Makua Valley, HB509**

Establishes the Makua Valley Reserve Commission to oversee preservation and restoration activities in Makua Valley on Oahu.

### **Election Day registration, HB511**

Allows election-day voter registration in order to increase civic participation.

### **Care Homes, HB1022**

Requires all operators of adult foster homes, adult residential care homes, assisted living facilities, expanded adult residential care homes, and community care foster family homes to obtain and maintain sufficient liability insurance.

### **"Homeless Bill of Rights", HB1205**

Provides equal treatment for homeless people; provides employment discrimination protection for homeless people to facilitate their entry into the workforce and exit from homelessness.

### **Department of Human Services Compliance, HB1207**

Requires the Dept. of Human Services to report on the State's program integrity compliance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 as it relates to medicaid program integrity within managed care health plans, the fee-for-service program, and the children's health insurance program.

### **Licensing and Certification Fees, HB1208**

Requires the Dept. of Human Services (DHS) to establish fee schedules for specific programs to facilitate a smooth transition of major functions from DHS to the Dept. of Health (DOH) and provide DOH with an immediate basis for collection of licensure and certification fees.

### **Safe Schools Act, HB1226**

Establishes a new chapter to prohibit discrimination in Hawaii's public schools and to protect students from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment.

### **Capital Improvement Projects for the 44th District, HB1302**

Appropriates over \$15 million in capital improvement projects for construction, repair and maintenance work for the 44th Representative District.

### **Social impact bonds, HB1402**

Requires the Executive Office on Early Learning to conduct a study on the feasibility of using social impact bonds to fund early learning programs and services in the State.

## SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA

### Senator Daniel K. Akaka Awarded Aloha Order of Merit

Senator Daniel K. Akaka was named inaugural recipient of the Hawaii Aloha Order of Merit. The award ceremony took place on January 14 in the House.

Senator Akaka spoke extensively about his early childhood, his mother, and the spirit of aloha. "I made a conscious decision to exemplify the aloha spirit through my actions and words because I was told by my kupuna that that was my kuleana."

He closed his speech by singing Peter Moon's "Hawaiian Lullaby" and bade the audience farewell.



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