



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 45 · WAIANAЕ, MAKАHА, MAKUА · MARCH 2012

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ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

The 2012 Legislative Session is at its midway point and in this newsletter I highlight several bills that passed out of the House and under consideration in the Senate. I also summarized bills that were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. On March 14, I'm hosting a Law-makers Listen Town Hall Meeting with House Leadership. Mid-session legislative highlights, some of which are included in this newsletter, will be provided with an emphasis on Economic Revitalization & Business and Water, Land, & Ocean Resources. If you missed the meeting, contact our office for more information on when the meeting will be televised on Olelo or accessed via the internet on Vimeo.



In addition to working on these bills this session, I also had the pleasure of spending time with students and chaperones of Makaha Elementary School and highlight that visit on the last page of this newsletter. It's exciting for me to have an opportunity to spend time with the future leaders of Hawaii.

Finally, I'm extremely grateful for the many volunteers who assisted with both the Puuhulu area Stream Clean Ups, which was highlighted last month and the Eku Stream Clean Up, which is highlighted to the right. The preliminary reports received by residents in the area indicate that the clean ups helped to reduce flooding during the recent rainy season. Still, we ask the community to remain vigilant and report any illegal dumping witnessed in the area since some trash has been reported recently. A Town Hall Meeting on Flood Mitigation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 from 7-8:30pm at the Waianae District Park in the Multi-Purpose Room. An overview of the clean ups, an update on the \$2 million in general obligation bond funds for the planning, design and construction of a flood mitigation project for Lualualei Flats/Puhawai Stream, and plans for the Waianae Coast Flood Mitigation Working Group will be discussed. I look forward to your participation and feedback.

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

MAHALO,

Jo JORDAN,
DISTRICT 45 REPRESENTATIVE

Eku Stream Clean Up in Makaha a Success

Mahalo to the over 25 volunteers who made the February 18 Eku Stream Clean Up a success, resulting in the removal of 8 truck loads of green waste, 6 truckloads of rubbish, and 1 truck load of metal waste from the stream! I wanted to extend a few special thanks to Raymond Eley, Jr., the Program Manager of E Kumu Wawae and the program participants who comprised half of the volunteers for the clean up; Pake Salmon, Communication Coordinator and volunteers of Ka Wai Ola O Waianae, a community driven initiative to stop illegal dumping and non point source pollution along the Waianae Coast; Al Frenzel, Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board member; Nicholas and Shelley Youngleson, Makaha residents; Lenore Pascubillo, Nanakuli resident, and Chad Flick of Schofield Barracks. I would also like to express my appreciation to State Civil Defense for conducting a recon of Eku Stream with a City and County drainage engineer prior to the clean up, Waianae District Park Director Jackie Spencer for allowing access to the staging area at Mauna Lahilahi Beach Park, the Waianae Boat Fishing Club for supplies, Fred Dodge for the gloves, and All Paradise Tree Service for assistance with the disposal of green waste. This clean up would not have been possible without the combined efforts of community members, organizations, businesses, and state and city government agencies and officials.



GO PAPERLESS!

Check out my online newsletter at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=jordan> or sign up for our electronic newsletter online at <http://eepurl.com/irEqE>. When you fill out the online form, you will be added to my e-mail list and you will get all future newsletters sent straight to your e-mail, not to your mailbox. Be sure to like my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/repjordan> for periodic updates.

Thanks for doing your part to save the trees.

2012 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

I have included a few of the bills that passed out of the State House up to First Crossover, or the midpoint of the 2012 Regular Session. Since the legislative session is still in progress, the status of the measures in this report will continue to evolve, but I encourage you to weigh in on these issues as the bills move over to the Senate.

Leeward Coast

Emergency Medical Care, HB1953 HD1

Appropriates funds to increase the on-call availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services on the Leeward Coast of Oahu and assist Wahiawa General Hospital in providing additional emergency room services.

Zipper Lane Extension Feasibility Study, HB2684 HD2

Requires DOT to conduct a feasibility study on the extension of the zipper lane westward from Waipahu toward Kapolei, west of the Kunia on-ramp.

Makaha Valley Flood Study, HB2883 HD2

Requires DLNR to conduct a flood study on Makaha Valley.

Economic Development/Jobs

Employment Security, HB2024 HD1

Establishes a temporary Self-employment Assistance Program in DLIR.

Economic Development, HB2145 HD2

Expresses as state policy the delineation of the key economic sectors of importance for economic diversification in Hawaii and identification of key projects within those sectors that are important to the long-term growth and success of those industries.

Creative Media, HB2338 HD2

Authorizes DLNR to lease public lands for purposes of developing creative media production and post-production facilities by negotiation, without public auction.

Workforce Investment Act, HB2655 HD2

Directs DLIR to establish a state-funded training program to expand the workforce investment activities administered by DLIR under the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Film Tax Credit, HB2869 HD2

Extends the motion picture, digital media, and film production tax credit and provides different credit amounts on wages and salaries of cast, crew, and musicians who are state residents.

Education

Adult and Community Education Program Funding, HB2046

Clarifies that funding for the adult and community education program shall be from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by student fees.

Concussions, HB2273

Requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

Early Learning, HB2519 HD2

Appropriates funds to the DOE to support early childhood education.

Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, HB2875

Requires assessments administered to students in grades three through six of the DOE's Hawaiian language immersion program to be developed originally in the Hawaiian language.

Health & Human Services

Bone Marrow Transplants, HB1952 HD2

Appropriates funds, subject to a dollar-for-dollar match in private funds, for Hawaii Pacific Health to establish a bone marrow transplant center in Hawaii.

Cancer Treatment, HB1964 HD2

Limits out-of-pocket costs for cancer treatment under health insurance plans.

Workers Compensation, HB2152 HD2

Requires the Office of the Auditor to conduct a study that analyzes the concerns within the healthcare community about the difficulty in providing healthcare in workers' compensation cases due to their low reimbursement rates.

Health, HB2232 HD2

Addresses the circumstances under which pelvic examinations may be performed by certain health care providers and medical students on anesthetized or unconscious female patients.

Public Assistance Programs, HB2685 HD2

Raises the asset limit for public assistance for households with minor dependents from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in order to allow families to move off of public assistance programs.

2012 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Traffic Safety

Statewide Traffic Code, HB2030 HD2

Requires motorists when passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle with its visual signals activated on a highway to vacate the lane directly next to the stationary authorized emergency vehicle or reduce driving speed until clear by a specified distance of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle.

Safe Routes to School, HB2626 HD2

Permanently establishes the Safe Routes to School Program within the DOT.

Commercial Driver's License, HB2609 HD2

Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession and prohibits the use of mobile electronic devices, in addition to texting, while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

Public Safety

Temporary Restraining Order, HB238 HD2 SD1

Adds a mandatory prison term of fifteen days and a fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$600 for a person with certain prior convictions who is convicted for the first time for violation of a temporary restraining order.

Communication Service Providers, HB1776 HD1

Allows electronic communication service providers to disclose electronic communications to a governmental agency where an emergency involving danger of death or serious physical injury to any person requires such disclosure without delay.

Automated Victim Notification System, HB2226 HD2

Establishes an automated victim notification system to notify victims or members of the community of certain status updates of an offender.

Cyberbullying, HB2295 HD1

Establishes the offense of harassment by cyberbullying.

Prohibition of Promotion of Controlled Substances, HB2736 HD1

Extends prohibition of promoting a controlled substance in, on, or near schools, school vehicles, or public parks to include federal or state public housing projects and complexes.

Weed and Seed Program, HB2773 HD3

Establishes the Weed and Seed program under the DLIR.

Consumer Protection

Mortgage Foreclosures, HB1875 HD2

Implements the 2011 recommendations of the mortgage foreclosure task force to address various issues relating to the mortgage foreclosures law and related issues affecting homeowner association liens and the collection of unpaid assessments.

Deficiency Judgments, HB2019 HD1

Prohibits deficiency judgments to recover the remaining balance on mortgage loans for certain residential property sold in a foreclosure action or short sale.

Information Protection, HB2047 HD1

By 1/1/2014, requires businesses to implement a comprehensive written policy and procedure to prevent identity theft, and to designate an employee to be responsible for protecting personal information. Requires businesses to train all employees in the implementation of the policy and procedure.

Collection Agencies, HB2508 HD1

Clarifies and strengthens enforcement provisions for exempt out-of-state collection agencies and increases fines for collection agencies.

Energy & Environmental Protection

Fuel Prices, HB1454 HD1

Requires motor vehicle fuel wholesalers and similar entities that offer volume discounts to any retail service station to offer the same volume discounts to all retail service stations in order to ensure that Hawaii's high fuel prices remain competitive and are not artificially inflated from a lack of competition.

Ocean Resources, HB2682 HD1

Authorizes DLNR to regulate the commercial use of state waters and marine resources.

Greenways, HB2881 HD2

Directs the Office of Planning to contract with a consultant to develop a plan for the establishment and implementation of a statewide greenways plan.

Agriculture

Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund, HB283 HD1

Authorizes the transfer during FY 2012-13 of \$140,000 from the Agricultural Loan Revolving Fund to the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund to control and eradicate the coffee borer

2012 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

beetle. *I voted in opposition to this bill because monies for agricultural loans are vital to the agricultural industry.*

Agricultural Theft, HB1524 HD2 SD1

Requires those sentenced for agricultural theft to provide restitution to the victim.

Invasive Species, HB1943 HD2

Makes an appropriation to the DOA to fund the plant quarantine detector-dog program.

Agricultural Lands, HB2150 HD2

Authorizes the use of photovoltaic systems, biogas, and other small-scale renewable energy systems producing energy solely for use in the agricultural activities of the fee or leasehold owner of property in agricultural districts.

Food Sustainability, HB2703 HD2

Requires the DOA to develop a food sustainability standard to promote local food production to help diversify the local economy.

Bills Signed into Law

The Legislature passed and Governor Abercrombie signed six bills into law, three of which provide for health and human services including funding for kidney and liver transplants and to maintain the chronic kidney disease management program, extending the appropriation for annual operating expenses of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and authorizing a state agency to require a provider to participate in health and human services delivery planning as a condition of the provider's contract. On March 9, House Bill 2096, a bill I co-sponsored was enacted. House Bill 2096 extends the mitigation of the unemployment insurance tax increase, thus maintaining the unemployment insurance rate that employers will pay

for calendar year 2012. Without this measure, a business would have had to pay an additional \$550 per year for each employee. This measure will help avoid an increase in costs for every business in the state. The bill also maintains the Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount at 75% of the Average Weekly Wage, rather than the normal 70% for calendar year 2012. This bill is an example of how we are working to help business owners and those looking for employment. The Legislature is still considering many more bills this session, which I also highlighted in this newsletter.

Makaha Elementary School Students Visit the State Capitol

Sixty-three 5th graders and seven chaperones from Makaha Elementary School toured the State Capitol and Judiciary in a field trip to learn about the branches of state government. Students visited with me in the House gallery, where they had an opportunity to ask questions. They also shared their future goals of going to college and being astronauts, scientists, and many other exciting professions. It was an informative and inspiring visit.



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