



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · MARCH 2014

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## ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

The 2014 Legislative Session is past its midway point and scheduled to adjourn on May 1. The Legislature is continuing to review bills and resolutions and I have highlighted inside this newsletter a few bills still under consideration on



issues ranging from education, housing, health, human services, Hawaiian affairs, and economic development & business.

I'm also grateful for the opportunity to share about the release of funds for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) and the recent recognition of WCCHC by the State House. In addition to the release of \$2 million to WCCHC, construction totaling nearly \$450,000 at Makaha Elementary School for ADA Transition Plan will be initiated shortly.

I enjoyed spending time with the students from Kamaile Academy, as pictured on the last page, who recently visited the State Capitol and Judiciary. From the photos I've seen, it looked like the visit was fun, informative, and inspiring with students serving as judge, jury, and witnesses at the State Judiciary.

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

**MAHALO,**

**JO JORDAN,  
DISTRICT 44 REPRESENTATIVE**

## Funding and Recognition for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Capital Improvement Funds totaling \$2 million for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) to rebuild the emergency services department is being released. The legislature appropriated these funds in the 2012 budget. The State House also recently honored and commended WCCHC for its commitment to the health and well-being of the people of the State of Hawaii and recognized WCCHC for fulfilling vital healthcare and emergency services for the underserved and isolated residents of the Waianae Coast. In keeping with its founding vision, the State House noted that WCCHC seeks to address health disparities, improve population health, and reduce health inequalities despite financial and cultural barriers. It has also provided accessible, quality, affordable, and comprehensive health care while preserving native Hawaiian culture and traditions.



**ABOVE:** House Representatives with board members, professionals, and supporters of the WCCHC.

# 2014 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

I have included a few of the bills that passed out of the Hawaii House of Representatives up to First Crossover, or the midpoint of the 2014 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.

## Supporting Working Families and Seniors

**INCOME TAX SUPPORT (HB2429 HD1):** Increases the standard deduction and allowable personal exemption amounts to help Hawaii's working families and increases the number of exemptions that may be claimed by taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older and meet certain income requirements.

**LOW-INCOME TAX CREDIT (HB1719 HD1):** Provides tax relief for state low-income taxpayers by establishing a tax credit that eliminates the state tax liability for individuals whose federal adjusted gross income falls below federal poverty guidelines and reduces the state tax liability by 50% for individuals whose federal adjusted gross income falls between 100-125% of federal poverty guidelines.

**SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (HB2430 HD1):** Appropriates moneys to the senior farmers' market nutrition program.

**ELDERLY ASSISTANCE (HB2056 HD1):** Protects and assists the elderly by appropriating funds for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Services Coordinator position, various senior centers, Elder Justice Coordinator position, and services and programs to prevent elder financial exploitation.

## Education

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (HB2276 HD1):** Provides early childhood education by establishing within the early

**BELOW:** The House Finance Committee reviews hundreds of measures affecting the State of Hawaii.



**ABOVE:** State House Honors the Nanakuli High & Intermediate School Lady Hawks.

learning system an Early Childhood Education Program, to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning, upon the ratification by the voters of Hawaii of a constitutional amendment authorizing the use of public funds to provide early childhood education through private providers.

**STUDENT SUCCESS (HB2410 HD1).** Requires the BOE to develop and the DOE to implement a pilot program to assist students in achieving annual goals under the Common Core State Standards and requires the BOE to provide web-based data and information aimed at improving student outcomes.

**TEACHER INCENTIVES (HB2597 HD2).** Authorizes under the Teacher National Board Certification Incentive Program an additional per year bonus for teachers who maintain current national board certification and teach at a school in a focus, priority, or superintendent's zone in order to help ensure that students in all schools are taught by highly motivated, highly qualified teachers.

**EMERGENCY SHELTERS; SCHOOL BUILDINGS (HB1868).** Augments the State's disaster preparedness by authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to finance retrofitting of public school facilities so that they may be used as emergency shelters.

## Housing & Homelessness

**HULA MAE MULTIFAMILY REVENUE BOND PROGRAM (HB2251 HD1):** Increases the availability of affordable housing in the State by allowing the HHFDC to issue an additional \$250 million in revenue bonds through the Hula Mae Multifamily Revenue Bond Program for the development of new

# 2014 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**ABOVE:** State House Honors Hanalei Hopfe, a maoli artist best known for his stone carvings and his tireless efforts to improve conditions along the Leeward Coast.

affordable rental projects and for acquisition or rehabilitation of existing affordable rental units for low-income families.

## **FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TARGETED AT ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

**(HB1886 HD1):** Addresses the State's critical lack of housing for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless by funding the Housing First Initiative, which places chronically homeless individuals into permanent housing with comprehensive support services; providing matching funds for HUD's Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing Program, which provides housing subsidies for homeless individuals with disabilities; and funding the Shallow Subsidy Program that assists homeless working households in moving from transitional housing into more permanent, market rate units by providing small subsidies for rent payments.

## **FINANCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE (HB2448**

**HD2):** Assists eligible developers in satisfying State- or county-imposed affordable housing requirements by authorizing the HHFDC to issue up to \$125,000,000 in revenue bonds to finance infrastructure improvements on lands owned by the developer.

## **Health**

**CLEAN AND SOBER HOMES (HB2224 HD2):** Establishes a registry for clean and sober homes within DOH and amends the county zoning statute to better align functions of state and county jurisdictions to comply with federal law.

**CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM (HB2039 HD1):** Appropriates funds to DOH for the Comprehensive Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

## **Human Services**

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (HB1756 HD1):** Establishes and funds the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) Program, which provides quality after-school programs for academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics in public middle and intermediate schools to keep Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during after-school hours.

**SAFE PLACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM (HB1697 HD1):** Creates and funds a network of safe places where all youth can access guidance, programs, and services free from the fear of being harassed, bullied, or pressured by other youth or adults. Also allows at-risk youth to escape abusive environments and receive services without risk of being judged, detained, or criminalized as a runaway.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE (HB2659 HD1):** Appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

**ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES (HB2034 HD2):** Enhances public safety and holds more perpetrators of sexual assault accountable by providing survivors of sexual assault with additional time to engage with the legal system through removing the statute of limitations for criminal and civil actions arising from sexual assault in the first and second degrees and continuous sexual assault of a minor under the age of 14, thereby allowing criminal prosecution of perpetrators or civil actions for recovery for damages by survivors to be brought any time after the assault occurred.

## **Hawaiian Affairs**

**BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMPOSITION (HB1618 HD1):** Requires that at least one member of the BLNR, other than the member appointed for having a background in conservation and natural resources, have demonstrated experience in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS (HB2286 HD3):** Extends sunset date of requirement that counties issue affordable housing credits for each residential unit developed

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

by DHHL and allows credits to satisfy affordable housing obligations imposed by the county.

## **STATE PLANNING ACT; SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (HB1616**

**HD1):** Accounts for the influence of socio-economic factors on individual and public health by updating the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives to include identifying and addressing social determinants of health to eliminate health disparities for Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and Filipino populations.

## **Economic Development & Business**

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUPS (HB2217 HD2):**

Promotes the creation of the highly-skilled labor workforce necessary to attract investment in innovative, high-growth, and high-wage industries by authorizing and funding working groups of industry leaders to assist the DLIR in identifying high growth industries and workforce needs and developing appropriate training programs.

### **HAWAII FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

**(HB2253 HD1):** Strengthens the film industry in Hawaii and enhances creative sector growth by broadening the sources of revenue used for running and maintaining the Hawaii Film Studio, operating the Hawaii Film Office, providing programs to develop Hawaii's digital media industry, and making available internships and training programs for Hawaii's workforce. Added revenue sources include revenues, fees, and charges from rental and operation of the Hawaii film studio, the processing of film permits, and the processing of the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

## **Kamaile Academy Students**

### **Visit the State Capitol**

Thirty 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders and three chaperones from Kamaile Academy 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. One of the questions asked was how a bill becomes law and I provided a general overview of the legislative process. I was grateful for the opportunity I had to share a little about myself in encouraging each student to reach their maximum potential.

**BELOW:** Students from Kamaile Academy toured the Legislature.



## **Connect with Rep. Jordan**



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