

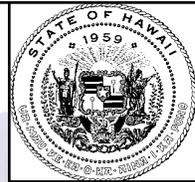


# Community Update

Representative Jo Jordan

House District 45: Waianae, Makaha, Makua

Room 324 - Phone # 586-8460



March 2011

Aloha,

We have officially reached the midpoint of the 2011 Regular Legislative Session. During the first half of the session, the House passed almost 350 bills that have now crossed over to the Senate. These bills cover a range of topics: addressing economic challenges, promoting business and economic activity, supporting the workforce, bolstering the fiscal soundness and sustainability of employee retirement benefits, protecting consumers, affirming civil and individual rights, helping students succeed, investing in higher education, keeping Hawaii healthy, addressing the needs of vulnerable communities, expanding access to housing, encouraging energy efficiency and independence, cultivating agriculture, maintaining public order and safety, enhancing traffic safety and transportation infrastructure, safeguarding Hawaiian culture and identity, and preserving cultural resources. Since the legislative session is still in progress, these bills will continue to evolve.

Mid-session also marked the deadline to introduce resolutions. I introduced eight resolutions, which gather information on education, public housing, agriculture, and the state budget. You can find specific information about my resolutions below. Also enclosed in this newsletter, you will find House budget information, education highlights, and my community survey results.

I value this opportunity to share information on important issues that impact our community, and I again encourage you to communicate any of your thoughts and concerns with me. You may contact me either by phone at 586-8460, email at [repjordan@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repjordan@capitol.hawaii.gov), or in person at room 324 at the State Capitol. I also encourage you to follow me on my website at <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/members/house/memberpage.aspx?member=jordan>.

Mahalo,

Representative Jo Jordan

### Resolutions Introduced:

Resolutions	Title
<u>HCR166</u>	REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF NON-GENERAL FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND.
<u>HR145 &amp; HCR167</u>	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FEDERAL 2008 FARM BILL AMENDMENT TO THE RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.
<u>HCR168</u>	REQUESTING A MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY.
<u>HR146 &amp; HCR169</u>	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
<u>HR226 &amp; HCR264</u>	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF PRIVATE BOATING FACILITIES STATEWIDE AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUES FROM COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OCCURRING AT OR FROM THESE FACILITIES.

The House passed the State Budget as reflected in House Bill 200, House Draft 1. The Fiscal Year 2012 proposed budget passed by the House reflects a 7.1% increase over Fiscal Year 2011. Much of the increase is due to the cost of ending furloughs for state workers which under present collective bargaining agreements is set to end on June 30, 2011. Despite this increase, the budget from the House is still less than the budget prepared by the previous Administration, which increased expenditures by 13%, but provided no details on how to pay for them and the new Administration that anticipated growth of 2% and relied on controversial revenue enhancement and expenditure reduction proposals that were not adopted by the Legislature. A comparison of the budgets proposed is reflected in the accompanying chart.

Without additional revenues proposed by the new Administration to pay for the restoration of critical services, establishing a new normal must be explored with three goals in mind: 1) controlling the growth of overall expenditures, 2) providing the new Administration with the flexibility to retool and reprioritize to achieve a new normal, and 3) requiring higher levels of accountability. The legislature must also address a budget deficit

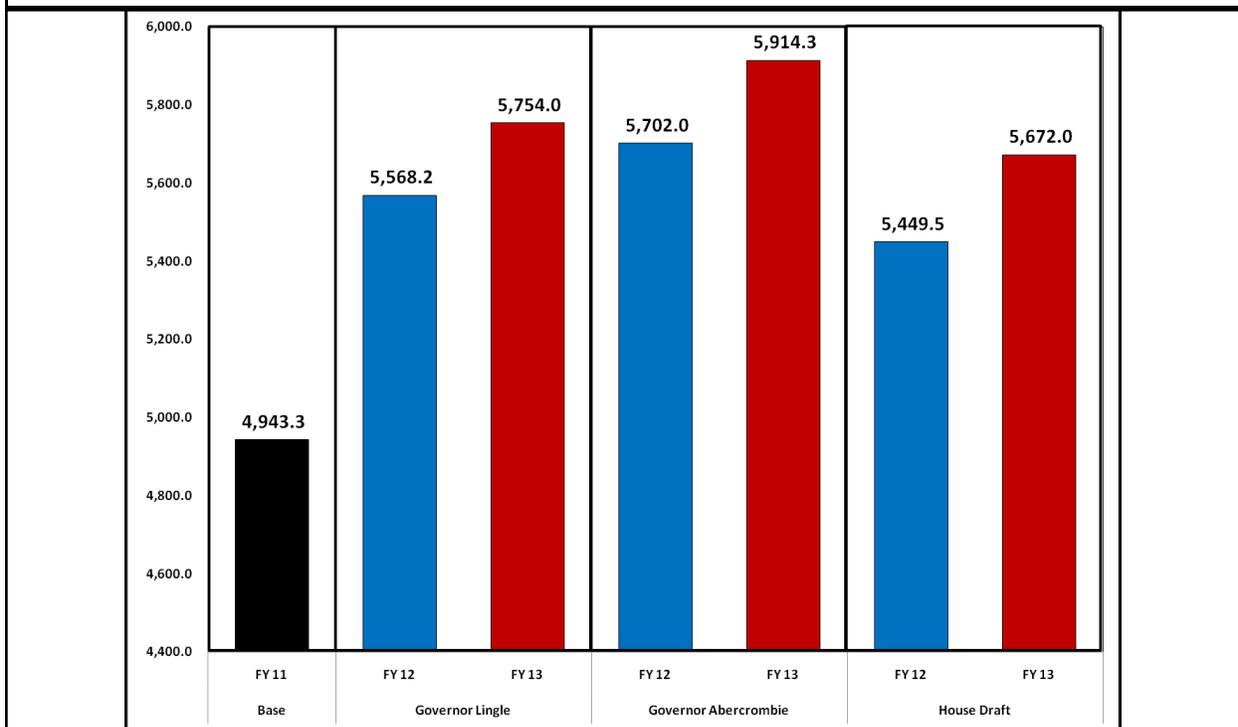
of nearly \$1 billion over the next two years in accordance with the March 10, 2011 Council on Revenues projection. Therefore, the legislature's priority and great challenge will be to preserve essential services for the public while balancing the state budget, as required by law.

Responses to my Community Survey distributed last month reflect support for raising taxes to fund government programs and secondly to cutting services and raising taxes (see page 4). The House passed a number of revenue generation bills, while still being mindful of the need to protect low to middle income residents who can least afford higher expenses. The House also proposes to cut about \$120 million per year over the next two years, keeping in mind that the legislature already closed a \$2.1 billion deficit in 2009 and a \$1.2 billion deficit in 2010. Considering that the state's total general fund budget is about \$5 billion, the \$3.3 billion in budget cuts over the past two years is a very large percentage of the state budget.

The State Budget passed by the House represents one step in the legislative process. It is incumbent upon all of Hawaii's people to work together to emerge from the State's economic challenges. This budget represents the next step in the ongoing evolution to a new normal.

**HB200—Executive Biennium Budget**

Fiscal Biennium 2011-2013 (in billions of dollars)



## Makaha Elementary, Waianae Intermediate, and Waianae High Schools Awarded Grants from Hawaii 3R's

Hawaii 3R's is a non-profit organization with a mission to tackle the backlog of repair and maintenance projects in Hawaii's public school facilities by leveraging available funds with volunteer labor and business support. The following schools have been awarded grants from Hawaii 3R's:

Makaha Elementary—\$71,800  
To renovate computer lab

Waianae Intermediate—\$54,400  
To renovate computer lab

Waianae High—\$104,300  
To renovate portables for new technology network

If you are interested in volunteering with these projects, you can contact the school directly. Typically, volunteer days start in the morning and work lasts for a few hours, ending with lunch and a short mahalo presentation. The success of Hawaii 3R's stems from strong community support, volunteers and in-kind donations of goods and labor.

## Leihoku & Nanakuli Elementary Schools 2007 Whole School Renovation

Renovations to Leihoku & Nanakuli Elementary Schools totaling \$3,950,000.00 will be initiated shortly. The contract to complete the renovations has been awarded to Brian's Contracting, Inc. A pre-construction conference to discuss scheduling and construction start date will be held between the contractor and the school in order to minimize disruption and disturbance during the construction work.

## Waianae Schools Broadcasts News

Students from Waianae Intermediate and Waianae High School are participating in Hiki Nō, the nation's first statewide student-run television network, running on PBS Hawaii on Mondays at 5 PM. The Half-hour broadcasts are aired both online and on-air, without commercial interruption, and showcase student-produced videos and displays. Tune in on April 4 and April 25 to support Waianae Intermediate and Waianae High Schools, respectively.

## District 45 Teachers Honored

The Hawaii State Legislature honored and recognized Dawn Homont, a seventh-grade physical education teacher at Waianae Intermediate School and recipient of the 2010 Milken Teacher of Promise Award. The Milken Teacher of Promise Award was established to recognize outstanding public school teachers in Hawaii during their first four semesters of teaching. Demonstrating the highest qualities of a professional educator, Dawn Homont, has been described by her nominator as "having stringent expectations for her students" out of a belief that "strong bodies enhance strong minds." An enthusiastic and motivated teacher, Dawn Homont has selflessly given of herself to her students, school, and community. My congratulations go out both to Dawn Homont and the fortunate students of Waianae Intermediate School.



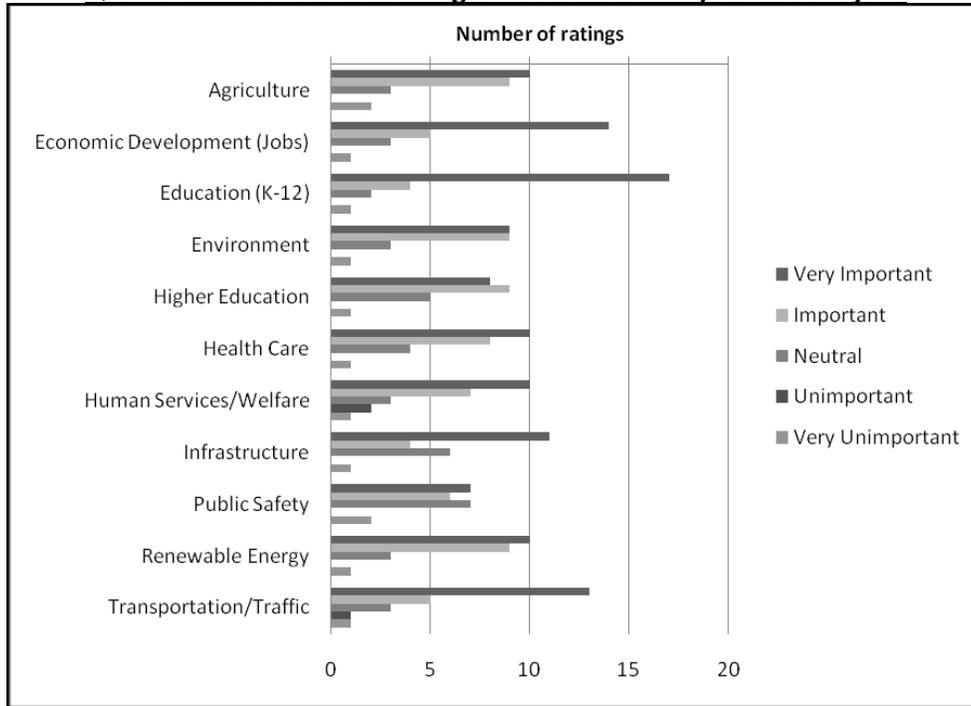
Representative Jordan and teacher Dawn Homont.

In addition, six District 45 educators earned National Board Certification and were also recognized during the Hawaii State Legislature Education Week 2011. Winona Calbero, Shanna Laa, and Scott Oberg of Makaha Elementary School, Kathryn Ambrass and Wendi-Ann Nagata of Waianae Intermediate School, and Wendy Fujitani of Waianae High School all earned National Board Certification in 2010. To earn certification, these teachers went through a year of intense performance evaluation. They had to prove their knowledge of the subject matter they teach, provide evidence that they know how to teach students effectively, and show their ability to manage and measure student learning. These teachers join an elite group of educators state-wide who have this certification. We are proud to have all of these exceptional educators working with the youth of District 45.

# Community Survey 2011 Results

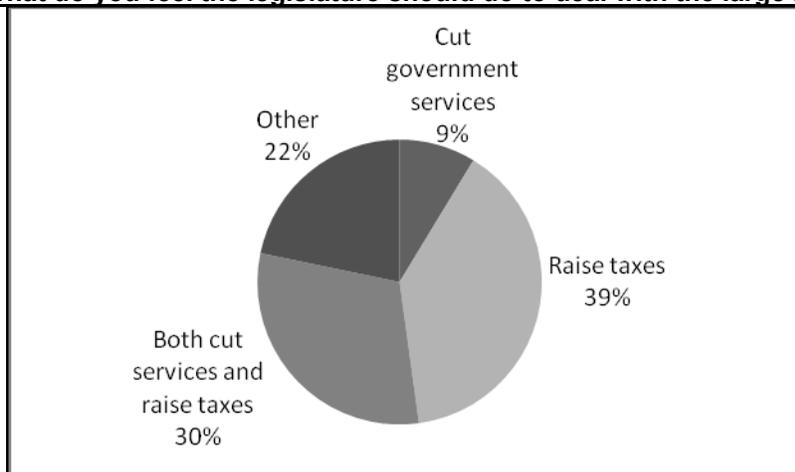
Thank you to those of you who filled out my 2011 Community Survey to give me your feedback on important issues. Twenty-five of you responded either through my February Community Update Newsletter or my online survey. Here is a summary of the survey results. Also, many of you brought other concerns to my attention. I will be following up with you individually to address these topics.

## Question 1: Rate the following issues on their importance to you.



In the figure above, you'll find that the majority of respondents felt that education (K-12) was the most important issue this year. Other top priorities were economic development (jobs), transportation/traffic, and infrastructure. The issues of least importance were public safety and higher education.

## Question 2: What do you feel the legislature should do to deal with the large budget short-fall?



The majority of respondents (39% of 23 respondents) wanted to raise taxes to fund government programs. However, both cutting services and raising taxes was desired by a close 30% of the 23 respondents. There were also many "other" suggestions given. A few of them were: raise the General Excise Tax by 1%, raise user fees and apply them in the areas they are collected, tax cigarettes and liquor, cut government jobs, change government work schedules to be five 6-hour days, consolidate offices in government services, raise parking fees for luxury airlines at the airport. Only 9% of the 23 respondents wanted to cut government services. (2 people did not respond.)