

Community Newsletter

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 45 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA · WINTER 2011

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ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

I am pleased to update you on the improvements taking place throughout our community, and am glad that students within the Waianae Complex should see upgrades to school facilities and enhanced supports such as data coaches and other learning opportunities. In addition to completing repair and maintenance projects, our schools will be first in line for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Project. Our students will also benefit from early-childhood subsidies, early-learning centers, extended learning opportunities, and comprehensive supports such as health care.



The continued effort to direct resources to the Leeward Coast is especially noteworthy as I had the opportunity to participate in House Finance Committee site visits on Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii Island, Maui and Molokai. Starting on Kauai in early September and concluding on Oahu in late November, this newsletter will highlight some of the site visits, especially to the Leeward Oahu region on October 5.

In addition to these site visits, I was invited to an educational policy workshop in Coronado, California in late September, which included a visit to The Preuss School on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Although the charter school accepts only students from low-income families where no parent or guardian has graduated from a four-year college, The Preuss School has achieved national recognition for its academic successes.

While there is much more to share, the other major initiative that I participated in beginning in late August is the Hawaii Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (HICH). Speaker Say designated me to serve as alternate House Appointee and this council composed of state department directors, federal agency representatives, and community leaders will develop a unified plan on addressing homelessness.

It is my honor to continue to serve you, especially as the start of the 2012 legislative session draws near. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

MAHALO,

JO JORDAN,
DISTRICT 45 REPRESENTATIVE

Waianae Complex School Upgrades Underway

Schools in the Waianae complex area – designated as Zones of School Innovation (ZSI) under Hawaii's Race to the Top (RTTT) plan will benefit from major upgrades to campus facilities. The chart below reflects construction that has already begun or is slated to begin shortly as well as funds appropriated.

This investment is an unprecedented effort to complete all repair and maintenance projects in ZSI schools by the 2012-2013 school year. Research shows the quality of school facilities can play an important role in determining student achievement. The Department of Education (DOE) views its infrastructure as a critical component to create learning environments that will help turn around and close achievement gaps at ZSI schools, which face additional challenges because they are hard to staff, located in rural locations, and serve a large number of disadvantaged students. On top of campus-wide repair and maintenance, the DOE will also integrate network, program bell, public address and fire alarms into a single conduit system, instead of installing and maintaining each item separately—an approach expected to lead to hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

Contracts Awarded for Miscellaneous Repair & Maintenance for RTTT ZSI

School	Contractor	Amount
Kamaile Academy	MEI Corporation	\$364,115
Makaha Elementary	BCP Construction of Hawaii, Inc.	\$292,203
Waianae Elementary	Bauske Environmental, Inc. dba BENDCO	\$284,747
Waianae Intermediate	C C Engineering & Construction, Inc.	\$816,500
Leihoku Elementary*	CMK Builders, Inc.	\$74,104

*This appropriation for Leihoku Elementary follows a contract awarded to Brian's Contracting, Inc. earlier this year for \$3,950,000.00 to complete whole school renovations at Leihoku and Nanakuli Elementary Schools.

Funding Appropriated for Miscellaneous Repair & Maintenance for RTTT ZSI

School	Amount
Waianae High	\$635,000

Go Paperless!

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Thanks for doing your part to save the trees.

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE SITE VISITS

MA'O Organic Farms Visit

Several members of the House Finance Committee participated in a visit to MA'O Organic Farms, which included a tour of the facility led by Kamuela Enos, Education Resource Specialist and youth leaders and also provided an opportunity to hear from community partners including Ka'ala Farm, Inc. and Searider Productions. This provided a great opportunity to showcase some of the resources in our community as the legislature prepares for the 2012 session. MA'O Organic Farms received recent media attention when Michelle Obama visited on November 12 to learn about organic farming and food sustainability.

Prior to the House Finance Committee's visit to MA'O Organic Farms, the Committee started its site visits on September 7-8 on Kauai followed by several visits on Oahu, including a tour of the Honolulu International Airport and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility on September 21 and a tour of the Kamamalu Building and Waimano Ridge on September 22. Although I wasn't able to attend the site visit to Central Oahu and the North Shore region on September 27, the Leeward Oahu site visit on October 5 included the visit to MA'O Organic Farms as well as a tour of the Salvation Army Kroc Community Center, UH West Oahu, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Community Center in Kapolei.

The next day, the House Finance Committee conducted site visits in Windward Oahu including tours of the H3 Traffic Operations Center (Halawa Tunnel Entrance), Windward Community College, and He'eia Fishpond.

The House Finance Committee then conducted site visits on Hawaii Island from October 25-27 and Maui from November 1-3. The remaining site visits are scheduled for Oahu and should be completed by the end of November. I would be remiss if I didn't give a big mahalo to House Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro and the House Finance staff who coordinated these site visits.

PHOTOS FROM SITE TOURS



HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE SITE VISITS

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Visit

As part of the Leeward Oahu site visit on October 5, the House Finance Committee visited the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Community Center in Kapolei. The Committee had the opportunity to meet with Alapaki Nahale'a, Hawaiian Homes Commission Chairman, Michelle Kauhane, Deputy Chair, and several staff members. Chair Nahale'a shared about Hawaiian Home Lands East Kapolei projects. Following the site visit, the Hawaiian Homes Commission approved new Strategic Goals and Objectives. The Hawaiian Homes Commission is also slated to conduct their community meeting on the Leeward Coast in December. For more information, visit the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands website at <http://www.hawaiianhomelands.org>.



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS | OCTOBER 5



Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Speaker Say has designated me to serve as an alternate House appointee to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), which Governor Abercrombie established by executive order. The 24-member council—composed of state department directors, federal agency representatives, and community leaders—will develop a unified plan on addressing homelessness. The Council will align its efforts with the US Interagency Council on Homeless (USICH) established by President Obama in 2009. Key mandates for the Council include: increasing transitional and permanent

housing options; acquiring increased federal funding to support homeless efforts; replicating successful initiatives implemented in other states; and increasing the integration of social, health, training, and housing services to reduce duplication among homeless assistance programs.

I attended the first meeting held on August 25 which began with a welcome and introductions of all participants. Marc Alexander, Vice Chair of HICH shared lessons learned from the 90-Day Plan to End Homelessness in Hawaii. A presentation on the 100,000 Homes Campaign was also made at this meeting and a video on this initiative can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/13288704>. At the second

HICH meeting held on October 12, the HICH agreed that Hawaii should participate in the 100,000 Homes Campaign. The HICH also agreed to establish 4 Investigative Committees as follows: 1) Investigative Committee on Stable and Affordable Housing, 2) Investigative Committee on Economic Security, 3) Investigative Committee on Health and Stability, and 4) Investigative Committee on a Homeless Crisis Response System. I will serve as an alternate on the Investigative Committee on Economic Security and the Investigative Committee on Health and Stability. The Investigative Committees conducted their first meetings in the beginning of November. The next meetings will be scheduled in mid-December.

COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Newly Elected Legislators Schooled on Education Issues

The Council of State Governments (CSG) invited me to join a select group of leading policymakers to attend the Policy Academy for Newly Elected Legislators (PANEL)—an educational policy workshop for select first-term state legislators from CSG's western region. Improving America's economy and creating an environment of global competitiveness requires more rigorous academic standards that prepare students for a future that will depend increasingly on enrolling in a college or university. State legislators are called upon to make funding decisions on a wide array of complex issues designed to ensure students graduate from high school college- and career-ready.

The 2010 vote marked a watershed election in state legislative chambers around the country. More than 1,500 lawmakers

were elected to their first term last year—more than 20 percent of all state legislators in the country. In order to provide first-term legislators like myself with sound and objective education policy, CSG assembled 23 legislators for PANEL. This invitation-only event was held in Coronado, California on September 27-28, and was jointly funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and CSG's 21st Century Foundation. During the two-day academy, we were introduced to common core state standards, which have been adopted by 44 states and the District of Columbia; new assessments being designed that will align with the academic standards; and educational accountability issues. We also heard voices of support for the new standards from representatives of the business community, as well as from teacher and parent organizations.

One highlight of the academy was a visit

to the renowned Preuss School on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Although the charter school accepts only students from low-income families where no parent or guardian has graduated from a four-year college, The Preuss School has achieved national recognition for its academic successes, including being named the country's 34th best high school by *Newsweek* in 2011. *Newsweek* also named The Preuss School the nation's top Transformative High School in 2011. In the most recent graduating class, 95 percent of the graduates have been accepted to a four-year college or university and have received a total of \$2 million in private scholarships and grants. We toured the facility and had the opportunity to meet with students, staff, parents and community partners. With the information and ideas, both from the meetings and firsthand observations at The Preuss School, my goal is to improve education in Hawaii.



THE PREUSS SCHOOL | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



PANEL | CORONADO, CALIFORNIA

