

# Legislative Update 2011

A newsletter from State Representative Joey Manahan

29th District - Kalihi Kai, Kapalama, Mokauea, Sand Island



*Aloha and Happy New Year!*

*Best wishes to our families in the 29th District of the House of Representatives! May everyone be blessed with health, friendship, goodwill, and a prosperous 2011. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives, I am grateful for your support and will continue to serve you with strength and honor.*

Joey Manahan  
District 29  
Kalihi Kai, Kapalama,  
Mokauea, Sand Island

## Save Our Schools!

Last month, Representative Manahan testified against the closure of Puuhale and Kalihi Elementary Schools at a community hearing to gather testimony on the issue held by the Department of Education. Parents, teachers, students, and concerned individuals showed up in force at the Kalakaua Middle School Cafeteria to testify against the closure of both schools. The consolidation of these elementary schools into adjacent area schools is a cost-cutting measure currently being considered by the Board of Education (BOE). The issue will be decided by the BOE in late February or early March.

For updates or more information, please call our office.



Supporting the students of Puuhale and Kalihi Elementary with Senator Chun Oakland.



**This year the Legislature is carrying-on its annual tradition and celebrating Opening Day with the usual "open-house". This custom is a unique island tradition that is practiced only in the State of Hawaii.**

# Tourism Culture and International Affairs

The following are the accomplishments of the House Committee on Tourism Culture and International Affairs during my tenure as Chair from 2008 to the present:

Supported the successful bid for the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference or **APEC to be held in Hawaii**. For the first time, Hawaii will be the host of this top-level economic summit, a golden opportunity for us to showcase our ALOHA to the Asia-Pacific region.

**Increased visitor arrivals and expenditures**, which the Committee did through legislation that made structural changes to the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). These changes have resulted in more effective marketing campaigns measured by a steady increase in visitor arrivals, the highest we have seen in two years.

**Generated more revenue for the State** by raising the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT). Also known as the hotel room tax, the TAT is a major source of revenue for the State. A minimal increase of two percent in the rate of the TAT resulted in the Legislature being able to balance the 2010-2012 biennium budget without raising the General Excise Tax (GET), a tax imposed on all consumers—local residents and visitors alike.



*Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Mercedes Tuason.*



*Former Mayor Hannemann testifies before the Committee on Tourism to keep the Pro-Bowl in Hawaii.*



*Joey and Senator Kim with the Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia on his most recent visit to Hawaii.*



*Former President and Philippine military leader Fidel V. Ramos.*

This year, the **NFL Pro Bowl returns to Hawaii!** The Committee supported HTA funding of events such as the NFL Pro-Bowl and Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tournaments, such as the SONY Open, which generate revenue for our local economy.

Introduced and supported legislation to **maintain the counties' portion of the TAT** and ensure that county governments are accountable when spending their allocation of the room tax.

Supported **sustainable tourism** by working with the visitor industry, local chefs, and local farmers in order to create legislation that pilots a food security program, so local farmers can provide fresh produce to hotel kitchens as opposed to the hotels importing these goods.





Collecting relief goods for flood victims of the Philippines with Philippine Consul Generals Jun Cardenas and Lourdes Tabamo.



Kalakaua Middle After-School All-Stars.



Mahalo to the U.S Coast Guard for sponsoring Read Across America at Kalihi-Waena Elementary.



Representative Manahan reads to the students at Kalihi-Waena.

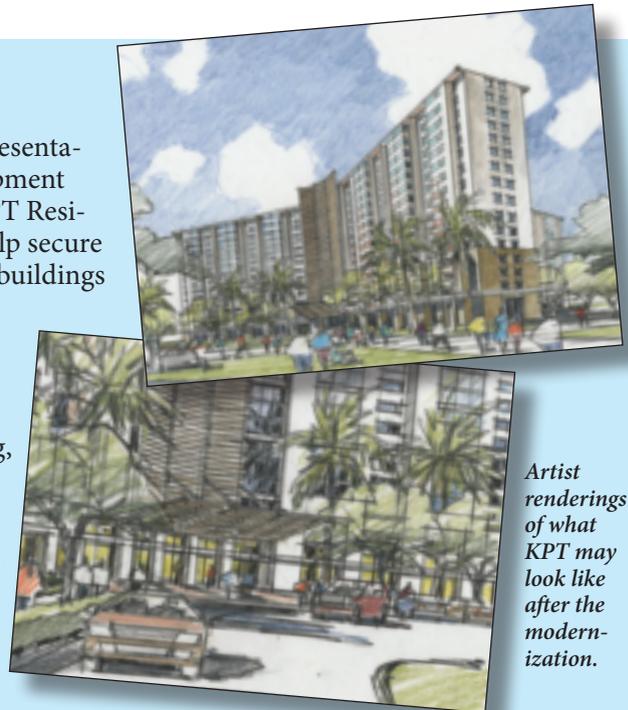
## KPT Re-modernization

Earlier this month, Representative Manahan met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), the KPT Residents' Association, and Michaels Development Company to help secure funding for major renovations and repairs to building units in buildings A and B of Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT).

These major repairs and renovations would be in addition to the already operational new elevators and fire alarms, which we have realized over the years by working together as a community. The issue of the trash chutes, however are ongoing, but will be addressed during the modernization of the units and structures along with any other pending issues.

The partnership between Michaels Development Company, the State, and the Federal government will give us the opportunity to fully modernize KPT and give the residents new opportunities, not to mention, newly remodeled homes.

For updates or more information, please call our office.



Artist renderings of what KPT may look like after the modernization.

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*A Taste of Kalihi.*



*President Obama.*



*SONY Open star Tadd Fujikawa.*



*Representatives  
Manahan and  
Yamane rally at the  
State Capitol to save  
the Meals on Wheels  
program for our  
kupuna.*



*Hawaiian Caucus.*

**Please take a few moments to respond to the following survey:**

Although forecasts call for full economic recovery, the local economy is still fragile and may remain flat for the moment. This session, the Legislature is faced with the pressing challenge of balancing the budget with another \$700 million shortfall for the next fiscal biennium. How should the Legislature balance the new biennium budget, and how can we generate more income for the State? Which of the following proposals should the Legislature consider?

- Raising the general excise tax
- Legalizing gambling
- Cutting more government services
- Raiding the counties' portion of the TAT
- Raiding special funds such as the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your responses to the following address—or for any questions or more information on any of the issues, please feel free to contact us at the following:

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