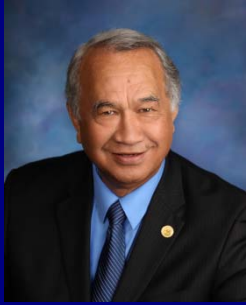


HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU!

January 2014

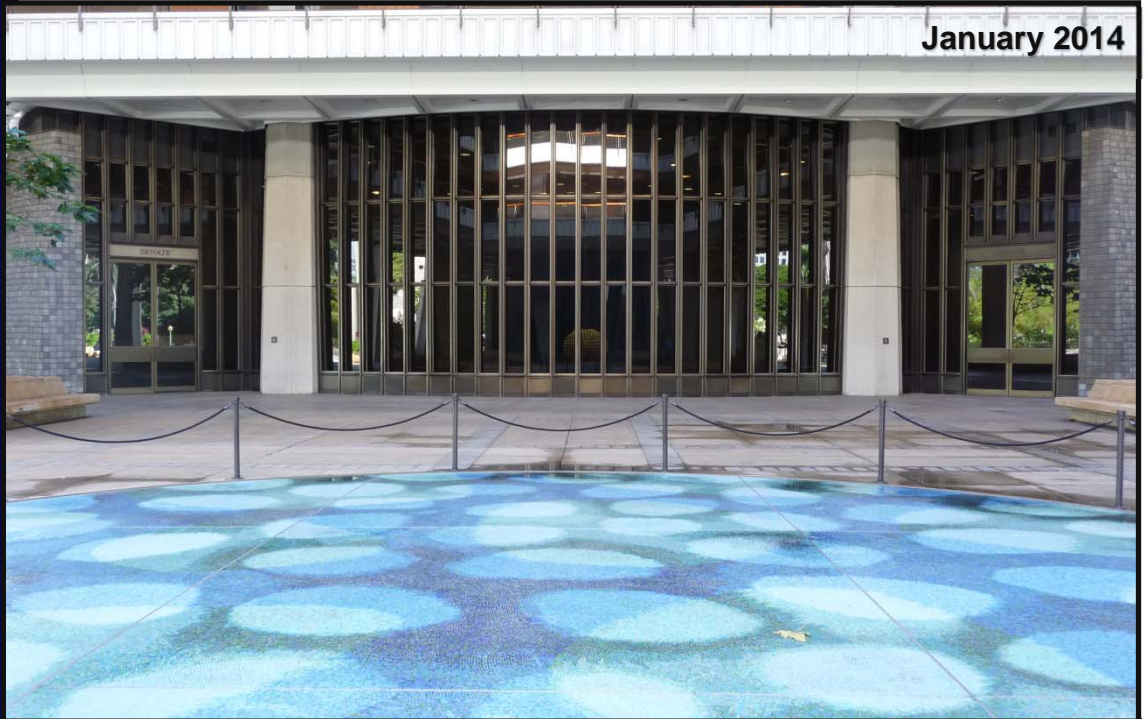


Gilbert Kahele

Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chair,
Committee on Tourism



A Message From Senator Kahele

Aloha!

First and foremost, I would like to wish you and your families much happiness and good health in the new year. I hope your holiday season was spent with great company, enjoying good food and conversations.

The 2014 legislative session will open on January 15th, and although it is extremely fast paced with high intensity, I encourage each and every one of you to participate in the legislative process. When citizen engagement is high, public policy is shaped by many diverse voices rather than a few well-resourced individuals.

This session brings about new challenges as I was tasked with the responsibility of chairing the new Senate Committee on Tourism. Hawai'i's tourism industry remains to be the top economic driver for our state. I plan to work closely with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority as well as other stakeholders on how we can build upon the obstacles and hurdles that we have faced over the last several years as well as sustaining the growth we have recently experienced in 2012. We must also be particularly mindful of our residents, our host culture, and our natural resources.

I look forward to our conversations, welcome your ideas, and once again encourage you to be a part of the legislative process. Together we can make Hilo and our great state a better place to live, work and raise our families.

Hau'oli ka mana'o

Gilbert Kahele

Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui's REACH Initiative

On December 4, 2013 Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui attended a Waiakea Intermediate School Assembly with the announcement that Waiakea Intermediate was selected to participate in a pilot program for his statewide after-school initiative, Reaching for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH).

The \$45,000.00 check presented to Waiakea Intermediate will go towards enhancing the schools current after-school program.



Senator Kahele and Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui presents a check to Waiakea Intermediate School Principal Lisa Souza. Also in attendance are students as well as faculty and staff.

Senate and House Committees on Higher Education Informational Hearing

The Senate and House Committees on Higher Education held a joint informational briefing on December 20, 2013 to discuss the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 University of Hawai'i System Supplemental Budget which was approved by the Board of Regents on October 17, 2013.

In order for the committees to fully understand the University of Hawai'i's fiscal plans, each division of the University was invited to present and discuss their priorities, including CIP requests.



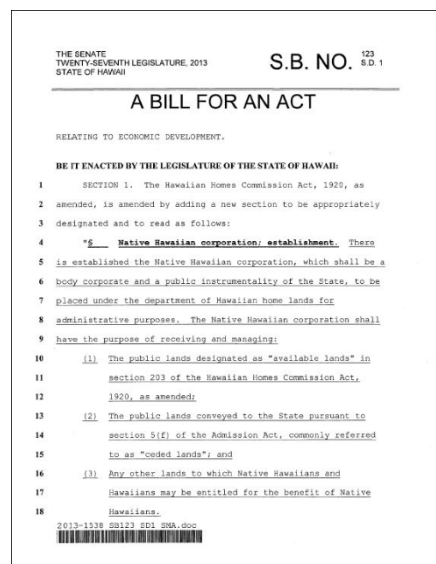
How to Check the Status of a Bill

If you would like to check the status of a particular bill, please visit the Capitol's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Enter your bill number in "Bill Status/Measure Status," the top box, in the left hand column. For example, enter "SB123."

The status sheet is an excellent source of information about a particular bill.

- Click on the bill number, at the top of the page, to view the most current version of the bill.
- Use the "Submit Testimony" button to the right of the bill number to submit your testimony.
- The top section provides a brief summary of the bill, followed by the progress of that particular bill.
- On the right hand column, you can view all versions of the bill, committee reports, testimonies submitted, as well as the hearing notices.



A sample of Senate Bill 123

Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance Informational Briefing



The Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance held a joint informational briefing on December 19, 2013 regarding Governor Neil Abercrombie's Financial Plan and the Council on Revenue's projections.

This was the first in a series of budget briefings to review the Executive Supplemental Budget for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Biennium.



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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's webpage
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.aspx>