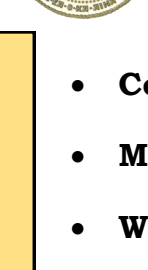




SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5



A Message From Gil

Aloha Kākou,

The 2014 Regular Session is well underway. Over 1,100 bills were introduced in the Senate and the House this year alone. A number of measures have carried over from last year as well. Committee chairs on each side of the Capitol have already made careful choices in hearing and advancing those measures that reflect their priorities, based on input they received from constituents, private-sector stakeholders, and government agencies.

Many visitors to the Capitol are surprised that, on some days, floor session seems to take so little time from the gavel in to the gavel out. This is due to the fact that the subject matter committees have already reviewed all relevant measures, held extensive public hearings, and made their recommendations clear to all Senate members before a full floor vote. All committee reports and bill revisions are available online for public review. Please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov

At the end of this month, several hundred Senate bills that have cleared all their assigned committees will cross over to the House, and many House bills will likewise arrive in the Senate. And then the process will be repeated by each chamber.

My work this year on the Committee on Tourism has allowed me to review closely how the mission and management of the Hawaii Tourism Authority can be further improved. Additionally, I serve as a member of the Committee on Higher Education and the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs. Finally, of course, there is the budget process, and I am privileged to have a first look at all bills with fiscal impact on our State as a member of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. It is a daunting task and involves some tough decisions, but keeping Hawai'i on a sound fiscal course is one of my personal priorities.

As always, I look forward to your ideas and insights about how our work at the Capitol affects your life on the Valley Isle.

Aloha,

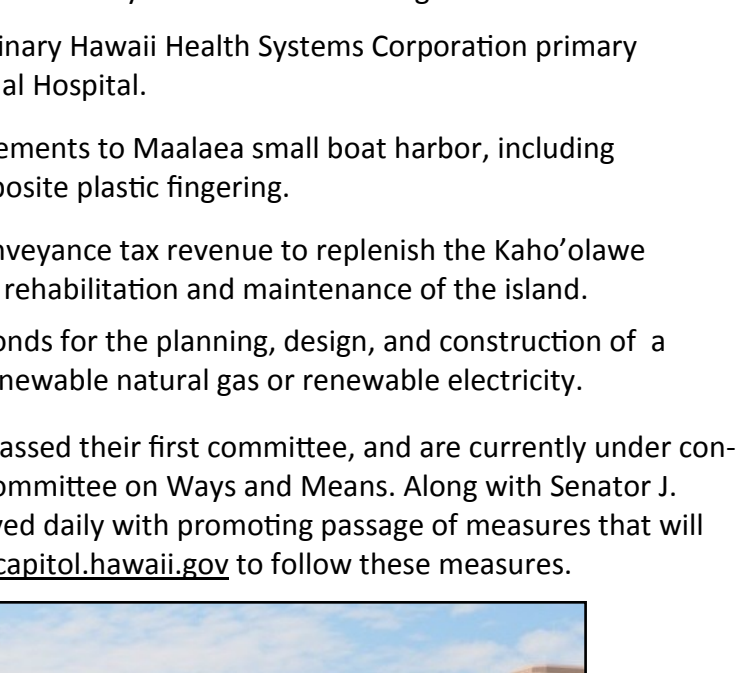
- Committees at Work
- Maui Measures Move
- Wailuku's Shane Victorino Honored
- Visitors to the Capitol
- Update on Important Bills



As Vice-Chair of the Committee on Tourism, I have an up-close look at measures affecting the Hawaii Tourism Authority as well as other means by which government may encourage growth of our state's largest industry.



I am always happy to see University of Hawaii Maui College attend events at the Capitol. Senator English and I greeted this group representing the Maui Language Institute.



As a former Maui senator himself, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui deeply understands the legislative process and the Maui issues facing Senator Baker and myself.

MAUI MEASURES MOVE

- SB 2077** Authorizes funding by general obligation bonds for completion of the Maui Food Innovation Center capital improvement project at University of Hawaii Maui College.
- SB 2237** Appropriates funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation primary care training program at Maui Memorial Hospital.
- SB 3077** Delivers funding for necessary improvements to Maalaea small boat harbor, including new aluminum framed piers and composite plastic fingering.
- SB 2743** Allows for use of a portion of state conveyance tax revenue to replenish the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund for long-term rehabilitation and maintenance of the island.
- SB 3008** Authorizes special purpose revenue bonds for the planning, design, and construction of a facility to convert energy crops into renewable natural gas or renewable electricity.

The measures above, all introduced this year, have passed their first committee, and are currently under consideration or have also been passed by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Along with Senator J. Kalani English and Senator Rosalyn Baker, I am involved daily with promoting passage of measures that will be of particular benefit to the Valley Isle. Use www.capitol.hawaii.gov to follow these measures.



SHANE VICTORINO HONORED BY SENATE

It was a great pleasure to introduce Shane Victorino for special recognition on the floor of the Senate on January 28. Growing up on Maui, Shane excelled in both athletics and civic participation. He was both a statewide high school track champion for St. Anthony as well as an Eagle Scout. Drafted by a southern California-based Major League Baseball club straight out of high school in 1999, Shane persevered in the minor leagues for several years before becoming a key starter with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2006. He is one of very few players to have played on two World Series champions teams, with the Phillies in 2008 and with the Boston Red Sox, his current team, in 2013. Not only a two-time Major League All-Star and four-time Golden Glove winner, Shane also received the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award for character and integrity in 2008 and the Branch Rickey Award for exceptional community service in 2011.

In 2010, Shane and his wife Melissa founded the Shane Victorino Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting educational, recreational, and wellness programs for underserved youth here in Hawaii as well as in Philadelphia and Las Vegas. Shane and Melissa underwrite all the operating expenses of the Foundation, allowing donations to directly benefit participants in the programs it supports.

Shane's family is also well known on Maui: his father is Maui County Councilman Mike Victorino and his mother Joycelyn is known for her work as a division clerk with ILWU Local 142 Maui Division.



"While Shane's accomplishments on the diamond have been abundant, they have been equally matched by his generosity and aloha."

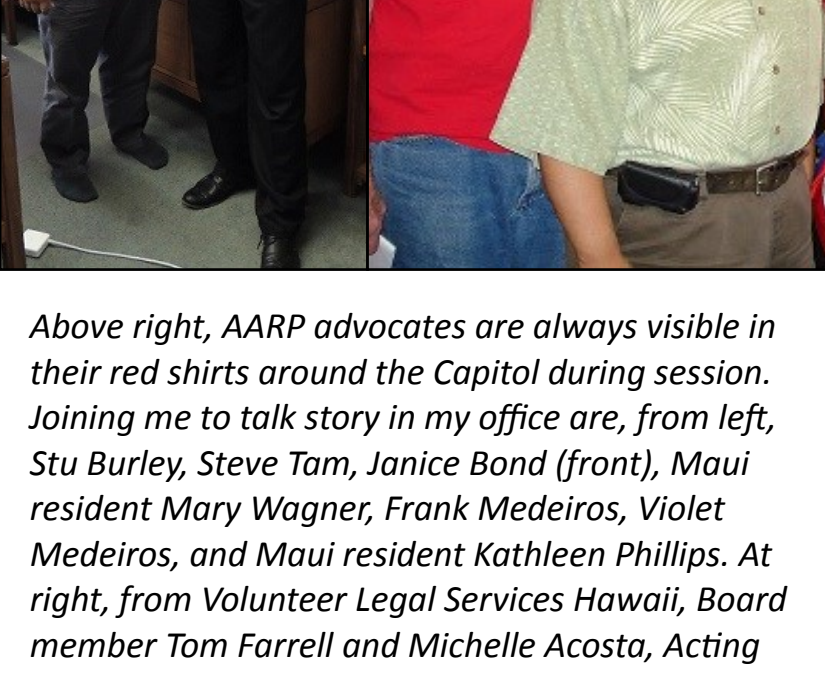
Shane spoke to the Senate about his upbringing on Maui and the importance of his family and community service. He was presented with a special certificate in recognition of his efforts. Below, Shane and his parents Mike (far left) and Joycelyn (far right) are greeted by Senators English, Baker and myself. It was a proud day for Maui on the Senate floor.



VISITORS AT THE CAPITOL



At left, representatives from the Maui, Lana'i, and Moloka'i chapters of the Hawaii State Teachers Association visited the Capitol early this session. From left: Ed Garcia from Maui, Romeo Eleno from Lana'i, myself, Laura Buller from Moloka'i, Justin Hughey from Maui, Lokelani Han from Moloka'i, and Ann Anusiewicz from Maui. At lower left, I was happy to see that Mike Morris, President and CEO of the Maui Family YMCA, took the time to come over to Honolulu to discuss his organization's very worthy goals and efforts.



Above right, AARP advocates are always visible in their red shirts around the Capitol during session. Joining me to talk story in my office are, from left, Stu Burley, Steve Tam, Janice Bond (front), Maui resident Mary Wagner, Frank Medeiros, Violet Medeiros, and Maui resident Kathleen Phillips. At right, from Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, Board member Tom Farrell and Michelle Acosta, Acting Executive Director. VLSH accepts cases in family law, estate planning, employment, landlord-tenant and other areas. For eligibility and clinic intake on Maui, call 727-8210. Below, from the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program on Maui, eleven young professionals from various industries visited the Capitol to learn more about the legislative process. We were all warmly greeted by Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui.



UPDATE ON OTHER IMPORTANT 2014 MEASURES

- SB 2343** Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning. → Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House.
- SB 2344** Addresses climate change adaptation by tasking the sustainability coordinator to create initial reports identifying expected climate impacts. → Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House.
- SB 2346** Appropriates general funds to provide ongoing financial support to healthy aging programs and services. → Currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.
- SB 2430** Allocates \$12,000,000 of the transient accommodations tax revenues to the special land and development fund for protection and improvement of natural resources and facilities associated with the visitor experience. → Currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.
- SB 2768** Requires department of education and executive office on early learning to develop a statewide kindergarten readiness program. → Passed all Senate committees, scheduled to cross to the House.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The state legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov is the place to start. You can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. If you register an account using your e-mail address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing, and you can electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at <http://lrhawaii.org/par/> or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400, ext. 7-0478. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!



Contact Us:
 Office of Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
 Hawai'i State Capitol Room 203
 Phone: (808) 586-7344
 Fax: (808) 586-7348
 Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Web: www.capitol.hawaii.gov