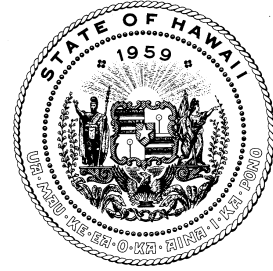


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PRESS RELEASE

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KAUAI STUDENT VISITS SENATOR RONALD D. KOUCHI

OAHU - Kaua'i Senator Ronald D. Kouchi met with Dillon Ancheta, a Kaua'i High School student and member of the Hawaii Secondary Student Conference (SSC), on Wednesday, January 17, 2012. While meeting with Senator Kouchi, Dillon, along with some of his fellow SSC members, discussed issues as well as expressed their support for resolutions formulated during their Conference held in December 2011.

Dillon was among dozens of middle and high school students from across the state who visited the State Capitol to meet with legislators to discuss issues addressed by the SSC student members. The issues include: Board of Education Student Representative voting rights, child pornography charges for minors, and supplying locally grown produce for use in school cafeterias.

The (SSC) is an annual conference established to provide middle and high school students the opportunity to identify and discuss solutions to major youth problems. During the 2010 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference, Dillon proposed a resolution for public schools to receive the opportunity for installation of photovoltaic panels to reduce electricity costs for the schools. Dillon's resolution was adopted by the SSC and as a result parts of the resolution were included in House Bill 10 in the 2011 legislative session. Although the bill did not move through the legislative session, it is evident that the SSC and the State were both looking at the same statewide goals of having a more sustainable future. Governor Neil Abercrombie and Hawai'i State Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi announced in December 2011 that the State Department of Education awarded a Power Purchase Agreement to install photovoltaic systems at 15 Kaua'i schools.

"It is inspiring to see the development of young leaders such as Dillon Ancheta," said Senator Ronald D. Kouchi. "Seeing the commitment they demonstrate toward working to improve our society is very rewarding. It reminds me that the choices we make as leaders are a reflection of

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our values and priorities, and motivates me to continue to demonstrate a commitment to our students and education."

(Photo Courtesy: Office of Ronald D. Kouchi)

(Photo Caption: Senator Kouchi with some members of the 2011 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference. From left to right: Rachel Capinpin (James Campbell High School), Nicholas Alcover (James Campbell High School), Layla Fidel (Pearl City High School), Dillon Ancheta (Kauai High School), Kauai Senator Ronald Kouchi, Brianna Ramos (James Campbell High School) and Lorisha Timbresa-Richardson (James Campbell High School).)

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