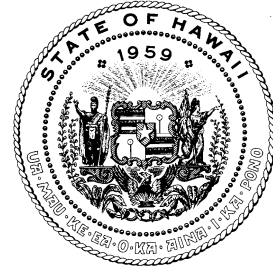


**Senator Ronald D. Kouchi**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 21, 2012

### SENATE PASSES S.B. 2012 UNANIMOUS FLOOR VOTE

OAHU – The Senate today unanimously voted to pass Senate Bill 2012 (S.B. 2012), also known as "The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012". Senate Bill 2012 now goes on to the House of Representatives for its consideration.

In voting to pass the bill, Senate Majority Caucus Leader Senator Ronald D. Kouchi stated, "We have a harmonic convergence of events that greatly favor utilization of 'The Invest in Hawaii Act.' Not only will half a billion dollars for repairs and maintenance get our citizens back to work and stimulate the economy, we have the opportunity to utilize historically low interest rates, low materials cost, and a strong competitive bidding environment that will allow us to greatly extend the useful life of our State buildings and infrastructure. This will prevent the need to build or rebuild replacement structures and will allow more efficient use of existing structures. For example on Kauai, renovations to the vacant Lihue Courthouse will allow state agencies to move into state owned buildings, resulting in rental savings that will more than pay for the renovations."

Senator Kouchi continued, "We have an obligation to future generations in Hawaii. We have direct control over energy costs and the repair and maintenance projects scheduled will utilize energy efficient materials, and sustainable and renewable energy strategies, reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. Furthermore, repairs and maintenance for schools will result in a better learning environment for our children."

Departments scheduled to receive appropriations include the Department of Education, (\$153,000,000) the University of Hawaii (\$127,000,000), the Department of Accounting and General Services (\$60,000,000), the Department of Agriculture (\$5,000,000), the Department of Defense (\$5,000,000), the Department of Health (\$70,000,000), the Department of Human Services (\$40,000,000), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (\$20,000,000), the Department of Public Safety (\$15,000,000) and the Judiciary (\$5,000,000).

(Photo Courtesy: Office of Senator Ronald D. Kouchi)

(Photo Caption: Senator Ronald D. Kouchi with Ways and Means Committee Chairman David Ige and Senator Donna Mercado Kim.)

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