

# SENATOR POHAI RYAN

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*Serving Senate District 25:  
Hawaii Kai, Waimanalo, Keolu Hills, Lanikai & Kailua*

*Vice Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Member; Public Safety & Military Affairs & Government Operations, Ways & Means Committee, Water Land & Housing*

**MARCH  
2011**

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## Elementary School Grows Through Accreditation

Senator Ryan visited Enchanted Lake Elementary School on March 2, 2011. Nestled in Enchanted Lake on seven acres off Keolu Drive, the school has 422 students (09-10 data) and a reputation as a nurturing, learning community. The school reflects the community's expectations for a strong academic program.

The school takes pride in that it:

- Offers several enrichment programs: Junior Kindergarten program, a special needs pre-school, Academic Gifted and Talented Program, Primary School Adjustment Project, Music Ensemble, and the Kolea Klubs (after-school programs funded by the Parent Teacher's Assoc.).
- Received a "Good Ideas" grant for the Academically Gifted and Talented 3<sup>rd</sup> grade



class for "Cool to Go Green" in 2009-10.

-Recently was re-accredited by the Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges for six more years.

-Coordinates the Professional Learning Community for teachers. These staff enrichment and development initiatives are strongly supported by Principal Pua McElhane.

-Has parents who support the success of the school. The Parent Teacher's Assoc. has raised funds to support the after-school programs, acquire furniture, install air conditioning, and update electrical wiring.

Sen. Ryan learned two surprising facts. One, 40% of the students are Hawaiian/part Hawaiian. Two, many students are children of alumni. Sen. Ryan said "this reflects the desire for families to remain and grow with the community."

## Renewable Energy Meeting at Keolu Elementary School

Senator Pohai Ryan hosted a District 25 meeting at Keolu Elementary on February 23, 2011. The meeting allowed the public to meet and talk with Senator Ryan and Representative Chris Lee. The meeting, which was open to the public, had an informational briefing from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii and featured information on preservation tactics, new forms of energy and other new approaches for alternative fuel.

Despite unusually vicious weather, rolling thunder and lightning, community members gathered to gain perspective on the efforts that the U.S. Military is making to interject programs that are beneficial to base communities and the land they occupy. Care for shoreline and natural resources is top priority for their environmental planning program.

Many of the programs are beneficial to the greater community; a focus on different approaches to energy sets their efforts apart. Senator Ryan commended Marine Corp Base Hawaii-Kaneohe with a certificate of achievement from the Hawaii State Senate.



*Pictured: Major Crouch and Senator Ryan  
The Senate commended Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Kaneohe with a certificate of achievement during the Feb. 23rd Community Meeting at Keolu Hills Elementary.*

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**What is a watershed?**

by City & County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply

A watershed is an area of land enclosed by mountain ridges that catches and collects rainwater to continually replenish ground water supplies. Here on Oahu, water from the ocean is heated by the sun and is blown in-land by trade winds. As the moisture-laden air approaches the high mountain ranges, it rises, cools and condenses, which causes rain on the island. Oahu's watershed can also be described as a Hawaiian rain forest, which captures and saves large amounts of water. Tall trees shade other trees and plant life from the sun and slows the rain as it falls toward the ground. Although the trees themselves are nurtured by water, the trees help to reduce the amount of rainfall lost through evaporation and transpiration in the forest. Shrubs and dense vegetation block the wind, which draws moisture from the ground, and stabilize the soil, allowing the water to seep into the earth to recharge the underground aquifer or to flow in streams to the ocean. The Board of Water supply pumps water from the underground aquifer to meet the daily demands for water by Oahu residents.

# Ko'olau Poko Watershed Plan

The Board of Water Supply's Koolau Poko Watershed project is a 20-year plan for preservation, restoration, and balanced management of ground water, surface water, and related watershed resources in the Koolau Poko District. After having taken notes from different community gatherings, including Neighborhood Board Meetings from Kaneohe to Waimanalo, the BWS assembled a thorough plan.

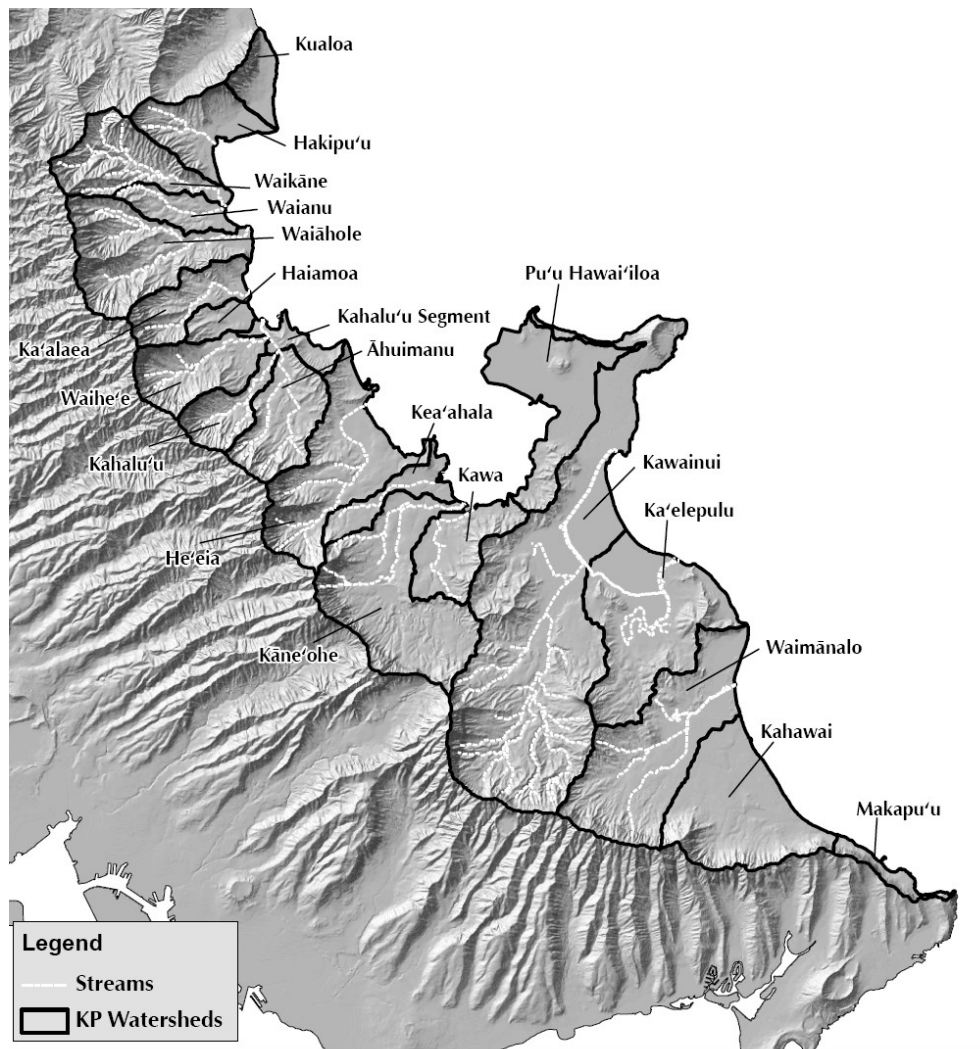
The Ko'olau Poko Watershed Project is the third Watershed project that BWS has undertaken, having finished Waianae and Ko'olau Loa in about six years each. "We're doing the rural districts first because they have more natural resource issues with watersheds and it sets the policies for water use and development policies in the future – supply and demand policies," said George Kuo, a project manager for Board of Water Supply.

Some of the projects the BWS is working on includes Ahupua'a Boundary Markers, a Hawaii Coral Reef Assessment Program, and a Water Conservation Program.

In the BWS's Executive Summary, the "catalyst project" for Waimanalo is to "increase water supplies for Waimanalo farmers." There are many small projects for District 25, including Management and Stewardship of Kaelepulu Watershed as well as Hamakua Marsh Restoration Program. There are about 40 projects and strategies that are specific to the area – some have already been done or worked on, others have yet to begin.

"There are already champions in the district, people in place that are working on these projects," said Kuo. "People in this area care deeply about water, it is very clear."

The plans can be viewed in full at <http://www.hbws.org/cssweb/display.cfm?sid=2124>.



Source: State DBEDT GIS Program. Watershed boundaries based on USGS DEM data.

## RAMSAR Wetland Day

hosted by supporters of Kawainui Marsh on February 5, 2011 at the Windward YMCA (coordinator of the event Shannon Wood)



Left: Senator Ryan and her husband, Keo, looking at Native Hawaiian plants from Hui Ku Maoli Ola, a native plant nursery on Haiku Road in Kaneohe. Right: One of many community-based organizations gives Senator Ryan information about a new experiment that explores the waters of Hawaii while collecting information.

# Kupuna Terrace, Waimanalo's Newest Park?

After community members Andrew Jamila, Jr. and Richard "Bolo" Kaahawai took action to organize the Kupuna Terrace, a park just along the roadside on Kalaniana'ole Highway at what is referred to as Kaupo Beach Park, they were issued a Notice of Violation by the city's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) on January 31, 2011.

Jamila, who is on the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, said at the February Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, that his team is thankful for the community support and that he is happy to see that people are enjoying the space now.

Although the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) had given Jamila and Kaahawai permission to clear the land, which extends about two miles along the coast, they were not permitted to build any structures.

Despite their lack of approval, Jamila and Kaahawai went ahead with their plans to refurbish the area; after bringing in Oahu Community Correction Center inmates to clear the park of tall grass and shrubs (since Kaahawai is a work line supervisor at that facility), the two men built a rock wall terrace, installed eleven concrete picnic tables with seats and landscaped \$30,000 worth of donated sod. Jamila estimates that the community, including local businesses, has donated more than \$50,000 to the park, at no cost to taxpayers.

The Notice of Violation that was delivered to Jamila and Kaahawai stipulates that all work at Kupuna Terrace must stop and the land returned to its prior state by March 2, 2011. Part of the notice indicates that the men need to level the area, since 365 cubic yards were graded without permit. Director Gary Cabato told Andrew Pereira of KHON2 that the illegal grading could cause erosion, leading to a violation of the Clean Water Act. What he issued to them was a cease and desist notice.

Officials at DHHL as well as DPP have concerns about the safety of the park, citing the sloped landscape as well as the park's proximity to Kalaniana'ole Highway, but Jamila and Kaahawai have no intention of erasing their efforts.

"This is a great project that the community worked together to provide for kupuna, but liability issues need to be resolved before the community can officially enjoy this park. Hopefully we can find a win-win solution!" said Senator Ryan.



Above: Community members enjoy the shade at the new park, which looks out at Rabbit Island off the coast of Oahu near Makapuu.

Below: An image of the park having been closed down, since the citation issued by Department of Planning and Permitting.

Images by Andrew Pereira



## Aunty Nickie Honored by Senate



For the Hawaiian Caucus Event on March 14, 2011, “Holomua me ka Lokahi,” District 25 (Kailua, Lanikai, Keolu Hills, Waimanalo and Hawaii Kai) will be honoring a Waimanalo resident, Aunty Nickie Hines, as she is known to most.

Elaine Nickie Ahuna Hines, who was born and raised in Hilo, has been a longtime Waimanalo resident, showing her citizenship through lobbying at the Hawaii State Capitol from 1983-1984 on behalf of farmers from Waimanalo. After passing Act 327, she went on to work in different positions at the capitol, under House Representative Andy Levin as well as Governor John D. Waihe’e III.

Aunty Nickie’s many friendships within her community stem from both her time at the capitol and her project management with Food Bank Hawaii at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Waimanalo.

After looking into qualifying attributes to start a Food Bank in Waimanalo, she realized that her church held the 501(c)(3) status that would allow her to feed the members of her community that were in need.

Aunty Nickie’s experience in both government and community volunteer work has made her into a great kupuna resource – she, at age 83, still goes to different Ulupono sites to share her knowledge and experience with children ages 3-5. Having been a paid musician since age 13, her insight is supplemented by a history of Hawaiian music that she continues to practice to this day.

“If you cannot go through the door, climb over it,” said Aunty Nickie. “I do not accept no as an answer, I will find a way.”

# Senate Bill 2 Summary

SB2, Re: Public Lands; Information System; DLNR; Appropriation

Future decisions about the State’s use of lands will require a solid database of what lands the state owns and where. SB2 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish a public land trust information system by December 31, 2012. Recent amendments in SDI specified that the focus will be on lands which the state holds title to, including ceded lands. DLNR already maintains an inventory, State Inventory Land Management System (SLIMS), so the task seems feasible. The bill is proceeding and will be crossing over to the House for discussion.



## Senate Bill 1: a quick summary

**Senate Bill 1 - RELATING TO STATE RECOGNITION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE, THEIR LANDS, ENTITLEMENTS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, WELFARE, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE**

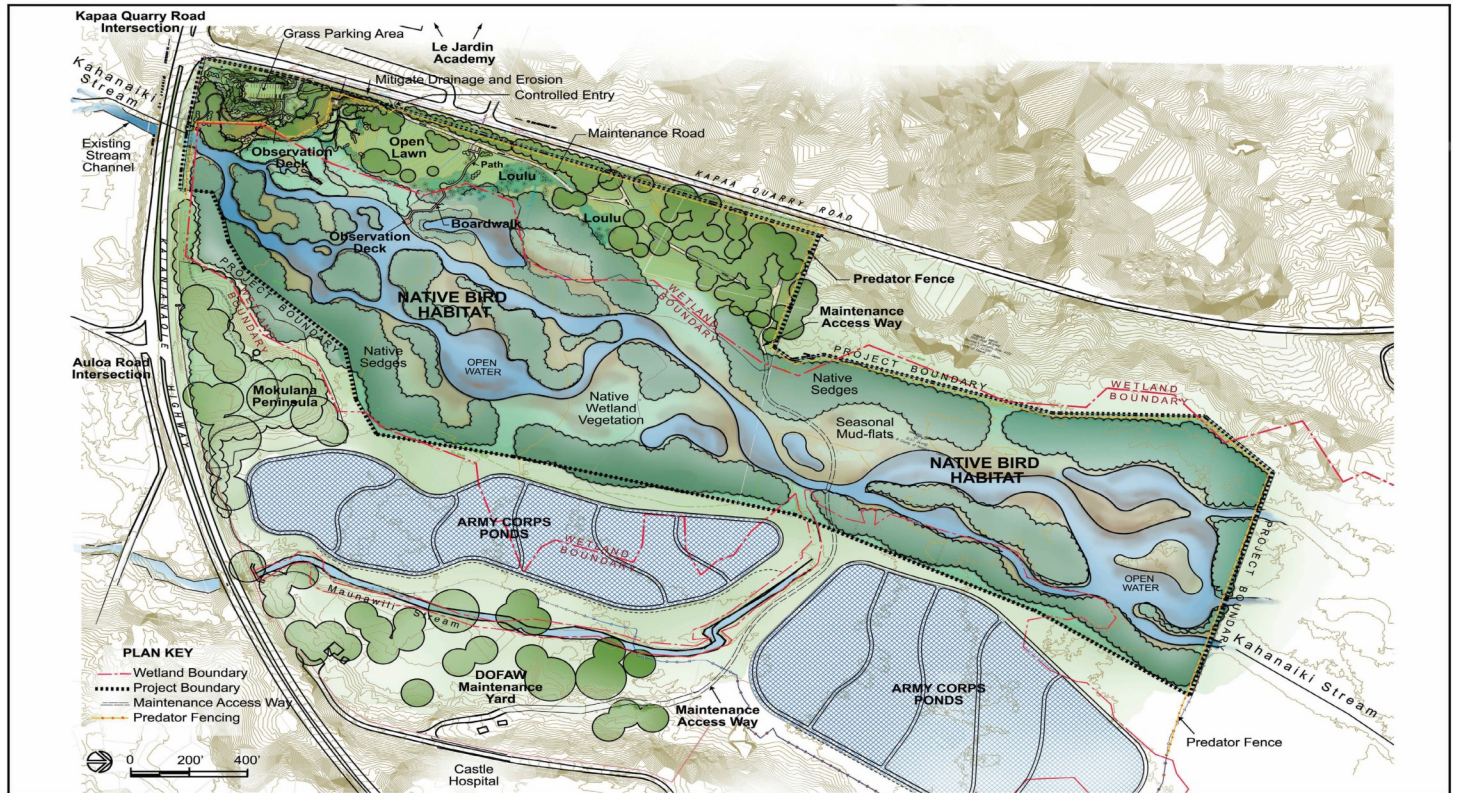
The purpose and intent of SBI is to provide for recognition of the native Hawaiian people by the State of Hawaii as the only indigenous, aboriginal, “maoli” Hawaiian population. It also affirms the State’s desire to recognize a soon to be reorganized Native Hawaiian Governing Entity and to promote the ultimate federal recognition of Native Hawaiians. This measure will facilitate self governance, including the establishment of or the amendment to programs, entities, and other matters pursuant to law that relate to or affect ownership, possession, or use of lands by the Native Hawaiian people, and by further promoting their entitlements, health, education, welfare, heritage and culture. Senator Ryan wants to make clear that “The legislature is not creating a body of government for the Hawaiian people. That ominous task must be left to the people through a convention or a similar mechanism”.

SBI establishes a nine-member Native Hawaiian Roll Commission to prepare and maintain a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians and certify that the individuals on the roll are qualified Native Hawaiians. SBI requires the Commission, after the publication of the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians, to appoint an Interim Council of nine members from the roll of Native Hawaiians, established for the purpose of organizing themselves.

SBI will allow for amendment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, subject to approval by the US Congress if necessary, to accomplish the purposes of implementing State recognition and will appropriate unspecified funds to OHA for implementation. Senator Ryan serves as the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Senator Brickwood Galuteria (SD12) serves as Chair.

# Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project

(Conceptual Master Plan, February 2011)



Prepared by: Helber Hastert & Fee Planners, Inc Prepared For State of Hawaii, DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

## DLNR OPPOSED TO LANDFILL SITE IN WAIMANALO

The newly confirmed Chairman of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Mr. William Aila, Jr., has advised the City and County of Honolulu that the location in Waimanalo being considered as a possible landfill site is not appropriate. Mr. Aila states that the parcel in question is “zoned primarily as a conservation district and an important addition to the Waimanalo Forest Reserve because of its watershed, aesthetic and recreational values.” The State and the community seem to be of the same mind here, Waimanalo is not an appropriate location for a landfill. Senator Ryan will continue to be outspoken on this subject.

## Dr. Gandhi visits Hawaii State Capitol

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, came to visit Hawaii and share a series of lectures from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>. Throughout his life Dr. Gandhi has lead many successful economic and social reforms. Dr. Gandhi and his wife founded the M.K. Institute for Nonviolence which helps individuals and communities achieve a nonviolent, sustainable and just world. On Friday, March 4 Dr. Gandhi spoke at the State Capitol and shared his message titled, *The Power of Peace to Create a Culture of Human Rights in Hawaii and the World*. After his speech Dr. Gandhi and Dr. Raj Kumar, founder of the Gandhi International Institute for Peace, stopped by Senator Ryan’s office to talk with Senator Ryan and Senator Galuteria. It is their hope that Hawaii will become the “PEACE Center of the World”.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hawaiian Caucus Event at the Capitol

On March 14, 2011 The Legislative Hawaiian Caucus will be hosting, "Holomua me ka Lokahi: Moving Forward in Unity", at the State Capitol from 10:00am – 2:00 pm. Over 60 Hawaiian organizations will have informational displays and cultural demonstrations, such as poi pounding. The purpose of the event is to inform legislators and the public about Hawaiian organizations, their activities, and concerns. A highlight of the day will be the presentation of certificates to individuals, state-wide, from the Hawaiian community to honor their role and contributions. The public is encouraged to carpool or ride the bus.

Sen. Ryan says, "This is an excellent opportunity for legislators to learn about the many Hawaiian programs in our community."

## Kaelepulu Stream Bridge Reconstruction

### volunteer opportunity

Representative Chris Lee (District 51) will be spearheading a project to paint Kaelepulu Stream Bridge, which connects Kailua Road to the Lanikai area. Representative Lee, Councilman Anderson and Senator Ryan will coordinate volunteers to help paint the bridge due to the fact that painting was not included in the City and County of Honolulu contract budget. A date will be proposed once we hear from constituents regarding their willingness to volunteer. You may call our office for more information at 587-8388.



## 101 Job Postings for the State of Hawaii

You can apply for Hawaii State jobs online! Availability is subject to change at any time, since some jobs are filled on a rolling schedule. Applicants can get started by checking out the following website:  
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/hawaii/default.cfm>.

## Free Tax Filing for the Community

The IRS Free File program offers 100 million Americans a fast, free and safe way to do their federal taxes online.

Through IRS Free File, all taxpayers who made less than \$58,000 in 2010 can visit <http://www.irs.gov/efile/> and use the industry's top tax preparation software for free. Users get the step-by-step help they need to prepare, complete and file federal tax returns online - at no cost. IRS Free File is a vital service for the American taxpayer, and I encourage all eligible tax payers to take advantage of this service.

## Makapuu Roadwork Completion Delayed

The \$7.8 million road work project, which closes the pass between Ka Iwi Scenic Lookout and Makapu'u Beach Park Sunday through Friday between 9:30 pm and 5:30 am, has not yet been completed in accordance with its projection date, December 2010 and then February 25, 2011. The purpose of the project is to stop boulders from falling onto the highway by installing mesh netting and creating a retaining wall; in addition to the netting, crews have had to remove 16,000 cubic yards of soil, rock, and boulders.

The full lane closures have been a concern for the Waimanalo and Hawaii Kai Community since its beginning in February 2009. According to the DOT community affairs office, this project is not scheduled to finish near the end of March as a result of weather issues.

## Hawaiian Caucus Day at the Capitol Monday, March 14, 2011

11:30am-1:30pm 2nd and 3rd floor lanai  
Exhibitors, Music,

Poi Pounding Demonstrations, & more!

Free to the Public. On site parking not available.



# Laundry complications for Kauhale Ohana

Residents of Kauhale Ohana housing project in Waimanalo have been experiencing unacceptable inconvenience because vandals wrecked the communal laundry room over two years ago causing it to be closed and unavailable for use for this protracted length of time. Some residents, acting out of necessity, hooked up machines in their units, causing a problem because of the lack of necessary drainage for the used water. State Dept. of Health threatened fines of \$25,000 and possible eviction if the residents did not cease and desist use of the improvised

washers.

The residents have been meeting with the Dept. of Health, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and building management officials over the last few months in order to get the results they need, which is simply to reopen the communal laundry room. According to HPHA the procurement process, beginning with invitation for bids will go out in mid-March. The contract finalization and installation of new machines is estimated to be completed sometime near the end of April. In the meantime there

is no on-site laundry cleaning option. The residents have recently formed a "laundry committee" in order to formalize usage rules of the communal facility once it is back in operation.

Senator Ryan is very concerned about the response time to correct this for the residents. Most of the residents are families who find it very difficult to transport laundry and young children. Senator will be following closely to assure that the management company is diligent in their efforts to resolve this as quickly as possible. This situation has gone on far too long already.

# Water, Land, and Housing Senate Trip

Sen. Ryan participated in a one-day site visit to the island of Hawaii on February 26, 2011, as a member of the Senate Water, Land & Housing Committee. The purpose of the trip was to learn first-hand about issues relevant to the committee and to view innovative public-private partnerships.

The first stop of the day was at the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant. The legislators were hosted by members of the Kamuela Farmers Cooperative, who graciously provided a breakfast that featured locally grown produce. Sen. Ryan said that the farmers were "clear about the support they need for agricultural communities in Kamuela and Waimea." Specifically, the farmers asked for support of irrigation systems, monitoring dams, reducing inter-island shipping costs, and protecting agriculture lands from urban encroachment and

development.

The next stop was the summit of Mauna Kea. At the 9,200 ft. elevation, the legislators met with representatives of the Office of Mauna Kea Management and the University of Hawaii to learn about the Master Plan for the management of the 11,200 acres of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. Senators shared their concern about the disparity between the Visitor Center and Hale Pohaku, the facility for researchers. The legislators then drove to the summit to view the Gemini Observatory and the future site of the Thirty Meter Telescope.

A visit to the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) was next. Legislators received information on current and future projections for energy production. Sena-

tors expressed concerned about the "low percentage of the permitted use that has been tapped." The Puna parcel is currently producing 30 Megawatts, yet it has the potential (and permit) for generating 200 megawatts. Senators queried the plant managers on the inhibiting factors that have held PGV from maximizing its production potential.

The final stop of the day was a meeting with members of the Kanelehu Industrial Area Association in Hilo (KIAA). A priority of KIAA members is to obtain lease extensions from the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources.

Senator Ryan felt that the site visits were invaluable and believes that "legislators should periodically make site visits to projects that have been impacted and/or funded by the state."



In this photo: Senators Pohai Ryan, Gil Kahele, Donovan Dela Cruz with Kamuela Farmers Cooperative and other neighboring farmers.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Ulupo Heiau** and its lo'i kalo need volunteers to help. Aha-hui Malama i ka Lokahi & Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club make repairs and clean the area. What to bring: backpack, lunch, water, rain gear, mosquito repellent, gloves. Tools: Sickles, pruners, handsaws, hand cultivators. Saturday, March 12, 8:30am – 12:30pm, Meeting at the Windward YMCA parking area, contact [email@ahahui.net](mailto:email@ahahui.net), 808-263-8008

**Na Pohaku o Hauwahine** needs volunteers for wetland cleanup. What to bring: backpack, lunch, water, rain gear, mosquito repellent, gloves. Tools: Sickles, pruners, handsaws, hand cultivators.

Saturday, March 19, 8:30am – 12:30pm, meeting place located on the makai side of Kapaa Quarry Road about one mile from the Kalaniana'ole Highway stoplight, contact [email@ahahui.net](mailto:email@ahahui.net), 808-263-8008

**Heeia Water Quality Snapshot Day** is an event to promote awareness and increase volunteer water quality monitoring in various communities around the state. Volunteers will monitor the water in their local area and then compare their findings in an online database. Saturday, March 12, 9am – 11am, Heeia State Park, for more information or to become a volunteer call 381-7202 or visit [www.huihawaii.org](http://www.huihawaii.org).

**Heeia Stream Restoration Workday** needs volunteers to help restore sections of the stream banks and nearby forest with native vegetation, and install erosion control material. There will also be educational workshops about the area and methods. Work days are held the 3rd Saturday of every month from 8am-12pm, this month: March 19. Hui Ku Maoli Ola: Native Plant Nursery 46-403 Haiku Rd, Kaneohe, for more information or to become a volunteer call 381-7202 or visit [www.huihawaii.org](http://www.huihawaii.org).

**Kaha Garden Community** needs help to maintain the native plant landscape. Volunteers will be weeding invasive plants within the garden and pruning native vegetation to promote healthy growth. Please bring: drinking water, a snack and your favorite gardening tools. Long pants, shoes and a hat are recommended. Gain an understanding of native plants and ecosystems, discuss important watershed issues, and meet other active community. Saturday, March 26, 8:30am – 12:00pm, located at 750 Kaha Street in Kailua (off the intersection of Kaha & Kihapai Streets), for more information or to become a volunteer call 381-7202 or visit [www.huihawaii.org](http://www.huihawaii.org).

## Community Events

**Mad Hatter Garden Party** is the First Annual Benefit fundraiser event for Alae'ula & Hawaii Kai Wetland Habitat. There will be live music from Jive Nene and live speaker who are experts concerning the environment. Everyone will receive two complimentary beverages (Wine, Beer, Soda). Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 to 6:30pm, @ the Oahu Club. \$20 per person.

**Job Fair with the Marine Corps Base Hawaii** invites the community to look at employment opportunities across the Marine Corps. Additional career opportunities at MCBH can be found at [mccshawaii.com](http://mccshawaii.com). Friday, March 18, 11am – 12:30pm, Enlisted Club, call 808-254-7660 with any questions.

## Participate!

Contacting your District Senator is not the only way to get involved in the Legislative Process; you can also participate by contacting the **Hawaii Legislature Public Access Room.**

Contact Information:

Website: <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/>  
Email: [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Phone:  
(808) 587-0478 phone  
(808) 587-0749 TTY  
phone  
(808) 587-0793 fax

Testimony can also be submitted by clicking on a hearing notice via <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Hours: Session: M-F 8am - 6pm Sat 8am - 2pm

## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

If you know someone in our community that has achieved something notable, let us know! We are looking for people to recognize through State Senate Certificates for their outstanding efforts in the community. These people can be sports league winners, boy or girl scout troops or admirable businesses — these are just some examples. There are no limits to the parameters and we would love to hear from you. Please call our office at 587-8388.

### Senator Pohai Ryan's Staff:

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**Fat Tuesday**  
**March 8, 2011**  
**Remember your**  
**Malasadas!**



**Enjoy your**  
**celebrations, but**  
**please drive safely!**  
**Malama Ohana!**