



Aloha –
 The 2014 Legislature has been grueling because I take representing you seriously and believe in digging in to study the facts, examine the science, history and changing world landscape, asking the hard questions and carefully listening to you. I have heard loud and clear our community's concerns

about balancing watershed protection and hunting and protecting our state lands and natural resources, and also providing safe clean parks and recreational opportunities and good paying jobs.

We also are working to ensure the Department of Conservation and Enforcement (DOCARE) has funding needed to do its job. We have finally established a clear nexus between the Transient Accommodations Tax and the costly services DLNR and DOCARE provide for the safety of visitors and residents.

Sometimes solutions take interesting turns. We are, for example, pursuing Senate Resolutions 80 and 81 (SD1 of both) to support our state and county hosting the prestigious World Conservation Conference in 2016. Yes, it will bring visitors to our island, but even more important is that this initiative is intended to empower our state to take the lead in conservation initiatives to make critical management decisions locally instead of by the federal government. This is huge and would be very good for our district.

My door is always open and I am phone and email accessible if you have suggestions or questions. I am honored to be your Senator and I am working to serve all of our district.

Mahalo to Governor Abercrombie for release of Senate District 4 Funds:

- \$7.63 Million Kohala Elementary School American with Disabilities Act Projects
- \$5 Million Waimea Middle School - 9 Classroom Science-Technology Building
- \$1.5 Million Kahilu Theatre
- \$500,000 Hāpuna Beach Recreation Area
- \$350,000 Mauna Kea Recreation Area
- \$550,000 Kohala High School Improvement Construction for architectural barrier
- \$100,000 Honoka'a High School– Science Lab upgrades

I also am working very closely with the Senate Ways And Means Committee and our District's State House of Representatives' members to secure improvement funds that our district needs and deserves.

I put emphasis on the word DESERVES.

Our Senatorial District pays well over 60% of the General Excise Tax (GET), Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) and County Real Property Tax for the entire island! You, the residents, deserve a fair share of these taxes back and it's my job to make this happen.

You deserve:

- \$4 Million Waimea District/Regional Park (matched 1:1 by the County)
- \$7 Million Waimea Middle School 9-Classroom Science-Technology Building
- \$3.5 Million Waimea Homestead Community Agriculture Park (Waimea Nui)
- \$1.3 million Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor
- \$2 Million Honoka'a High & Intermediate School
- \$2 Million Honoka'a Elementary School
- \$37 Million Kona International Airport at Keahole



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People connected to each other feel a strong sense of shared responsibility.



The Hawai'i State Senate recently honored four Waimea businesses for exemplary generosity to the community and for just being good neighbors. These individuals and their companies and employees prioritize the community in their everyday operations. They are (L-R) Domino's Pizza (Charmaine Mood); Kamuela Liquor Store (Clyde Wakayama and his 'ohana); Starbucks (Michelle Stevenson), and KTA Super Stores-Waimea (Colin Miura and the Taniguchi family).



Meetings with Principals; (L-R) Matt Horn, Waimea Middle School, Lauren O'Leary, Kalaniana'ole Elementary, Robert Dircks, Hilo High, and Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui provided an opportunity to discuss urgent public education priorities during the recent five-day legislative recess. All campuses are 50+ -years-old and need major repairs and maintenance. They also need to install Photo-voltaic to reduce cost and dollars saved put into the classroom. Waimea needs a Science-Technology building, and the entire district needs Palamanui to open its doors and quickly become more than just a community college.



Bill Signing For New Laws Honoring Our Veterans
Act 006 requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses.

Act 007 designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day," honors Mothers, who lost their loved ones during their time of Service

Hawai'i Wildlife Center Founder Linda Elliott and staff discuss Legislative priorities for the only state-of-the art response, rehabilitation, research and education organization exclusively for and about native wildlife.

(Left to Right) Cara Goodrich, Rae Okawa and Linda Elliott



As the Water and Land Committee Chairperson, with the Committee, I have been working hard this session to provide the necessary resources to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to implement its mission to protect the natural and cultural resources of the State of Hawaii. Recent Bills that have been passed out House/Senate Water and Land Committees:

- SB2874 HD1** – requiring one member shall have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices
- SB2876 SD2 HD2** – a constitutional amendment to authorize the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds to offer loans to assist dam and reservoir owners to improve their facilities to protect public safety
- HB1902 HD2 SD2** – Makes an appropriation for the hunting advisory commission within DLNR, providing that funds appropriated be matched by the County of Hawai'i.
- SB 2953 SD1 HD3**— Provides that an 100% of royalties from geothermal resources on DHHL lands shall be paid to DHHL
- HB 1714**—Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the interagency sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation committee under the DLNR to develop a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide

Learning The Deeper Meaning Of Kuleana – Taking Responsibility

During Christmas break of 1969 — at 17 — my life took a dramatic turn. Beloved Aunty Elaine Flores, President of the Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club, asked me to serve as an Alternate Delegate to the Association of Hawaiian Civic Club's State Convention Resolutions Committee. I agreed.

A few weeks later at that convention at Hale Halawai in Kailua-Kona, I learned about Hawai'i's "ceded lands" as defined in the Admission Act of 1959. I was stunned and alarmed at how little I knew about our Hawaiian civil rights as this had never been a part of my education at Kamehameha Schools. I was eager to learn more as a member of the Resolutions Committee, which was led by native Hawaiian attorney H. K. Bruss Keppeler.

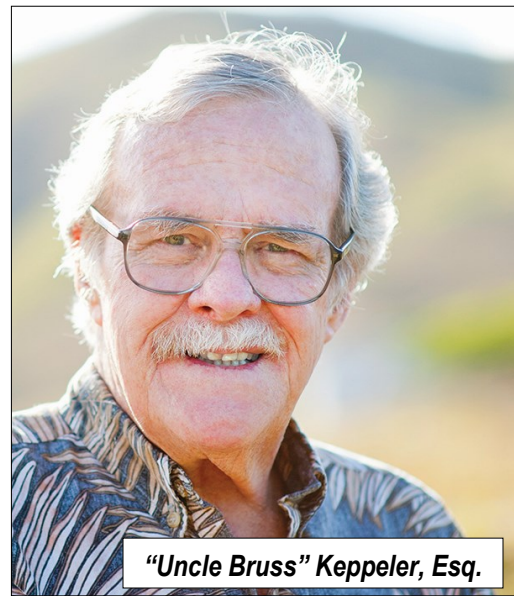
Upon returning home, I enthusiastically discussed the convention and my admiration for Bruss Keppeler with my parents only to be told that he should be addressed as "Uncle Bruss" as he was a close friend of theirs, and also of my mother's family, the Beamer's. Wow—what a small world!

When I look back today, I realize that it was my dad and "Uncle Bruss" who really taught me that a meaningful life is based on fact-finding, perseverance, and supporting equality and fairness for all.

They also convinced me that each of us have a responsibility — a **kuleana** — to do what we can, so, having completed my formal education with a Ph.D. at the age of 28, I was convinced to pursue being elected as the first Hawai'i Island Trustee for the newly created Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Then, several years later I was elected State Senator from 1982 to 1998.

While I chaired a variety of subject committees in the Senate, including lower and higher education, and also served as Majority Leader, my interest in Hawaiian rights never waned and "Uncle Bruss" and I never lost touch.

Then, when I was appointed to fill the Senate vacancy created by Dwight Takamine in December 2010 by newly elected Gov. Neil Abercrombie, it was "Uncle Bruss" who helped draft one of the very first bills I submitted -- **Senate Bill 1520** – to take a critical "next step" by officially recognizing the Native Hawaiian people by the State of Hawai'i.



"Uncle Bruss" Keppeler, Esq.

Photographer Elyse Butler

Securing passage of the bill by the 2011 State Legislature was a huge undertaking that required reaching out to both Hawaiian community leaders and many others statewide. No one could have done this in quite the same way as "Uncle Bruss" because of the respect and trust he had earned over a lifetime of dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i.

Thus, when Gov. Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 1520 into law as **Act 195 the Recognition Act on July 6, 2011**, "Uncle Bruss" said at the signing ceremony:

"For Kanaka Maoli, this measure is one more important step in a very long and arduous journey toward justice. Indeed, this journey has taken more than a span of a single life. It has taken generations. For all of the people of Hawai'i, it marks a historic and positive step in the reconciliation process, mending relations between the State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian people."

"Uncle Bruss" Ua hala 'ia (passed away) recently, and we are very compelled to honor his legacy – his life's work. I am proud to have been a part of his journey, shoulder to shoulder.

Mahalo a nui loa, "Uncle Bruss," for your aloha. You taught me the meaning of "mālama" – to care for our people, especially our kupuna and our children. You taught me "hō'ihī" – to respect the views of all. And you taught me a deeper meaning of "kuleana" – to take responsibility.

These were your core values and they were the foundation for a great friendship whose love and steadfastness for the betterment of conditions for our beloved Hawai'i will live on in our hearts and minds.

Malama



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End of Session Community Meetings 2014

Community Enterprises Inc.

(formerly "Kona Town Meeting")

Legislative Forum

Tuesday, May 13 6:00 pm

Old Kona Airport Pavilion

Hāmākua Community

Monday, May 19 6:30 pm

NHERC - Conference Room

Rural South Hilo Community Association

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 7:00pm

Pāpa'ikou Community Center

North Hawai'i Community Council

Thursday, May 22 6:30pm

Laupāhoehoe Library, Humanities room

Senior Club Meetings in May:

Pa'auilo, Hakalau, Honoka'a, Pāpa'ikou, Pepe'ekeo, Laupāhoehoe, Kohala, Waimea and Waikōloa



(L-R) Stanley Roehrig with wife Jan, new Hawai'i Island Representative for the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Scott Enright, new Director of the Department of Agriculture — both bring deep community knowledge, trust and integrity to their role as public policy

