

February 2014

## Protecting the Voice of the People

As we celebrate the Year of the Horse, which predicts great energy and power as we work towards our goals, a big "Mahalo" on behalf of all Hawai'i Island residents to both the U.S. Supreme Court and the legal team working this case. Their clear thinking and hard work protected Hawai'i Islanders' right to equal representation as guaranteed by both the U.S. and State Constitutions! This decision on Jan. 21, 2014 concludes two years of intense litigation that I, along with several other Hawai'i Island residents, initiated to challenge the 2011 State Reapportionment Commission's initial plan that completely disregarded the 25% population growth our island had experienced, based on the 2010 Census. This victory gave our Island another Senator and another vote to advance our Island's and community's goals. This has huge implication for every man, woman and child, both now and in the future.



Sen. Malama Solomon and daughter, Leiomalama

The State ended the fiscal year with a general fund surplus of \$844 million. This surplus is largely due to tremendous growth in visitor arrivals, visitor spending and administrative oversight. This economic recovery benefits everyone in our district with employment, infrastructure improvements and public services. I have listed several funding highlights we secured which the Governor is releasing.

I take your trust in me very seriously when it comes to bringing home funding, programs and services and doing what's right for our district. I value your input and respect your concerns.

**E Komo Mai**, Please come to one of our community meetings later this month, and feel free to call or email questions or concerns.

**Mahalo!**

### District Funding Secured & Being Released By The Governor:

- \$2.5 million Waimea District/Regional Park (matched 1:1 by the County)
- \$2.2 million Kohala Hospital (emergency room renovations)
- \$5 million Waimea Middle School 9-Classroom Science-Technology Building
- \$1.5 million Kahilu Theatre (roof repairs)
- \$1.34 million for Kawaihae Harbor
- \$1 million Honoka'a High & Intermediate School
- \$150,000 Kohala High School
- \$75,000 Hale Ho'ola Hamakua
- \$24,000 Pa'auilo Elementary & Intermediate School
- \$113 million Kona International Airport at Keahole; renovation, new construction
- \$2.4 million Palamanui; West Hawai'i Community College, infrastructure
- \$8.5 million "Rain Follows the Forest" Watershed Initiative on Hawai'i Island
- \$750,000 Expanded hunting game program (to match federal funds)
- \$1 million Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant Repairs
- \$1 million Invasive Species Control (restoring program funding)



*Above: Members of Hawai'i Island ILWU were among many who stopped by Sen. Solomon's office on Opening Day. Their mission was to discuss the need for fair wages and an increase in the state's minimum wage to benefit both local families and the entire state.*



*Above: Also among Senator's Opening Day visitors were (L-R) Gerald DeMello and UH-Hilo Chancellor Dr. Donald Straney, who were at the capitol to celebrate Senator's support for expansion of Hawaiian Language programs, as evidenced by completion of UH-Hilo's Hawaiian Studies Hale 'Olelo. The threesome are also working to secure funds this session for the UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy and for the Palamanui Campus in West Hawai'i.*

## Honoring Waimea's Elder Statesman Judge Nelson Doi, Fumi Bonk and Emi Wakayama During Waimea's 2014 Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

Sen. Malama Solomon and Sen. Gil Kahele joined Mayor Billy Kenoi and Gov. Neil Abercrombie in saluting several revered Waimea kupuna during the 21st Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival, including respected elder statesman Judge Nelson Doi, and also Mrs. Fumi Bonk and Mrs. Emi Wakayama. Shown here while planting a cherry tree on the lawn fronting Historic Spencer House, is Judge Doi, now 91, who is one of the few in the entire US who has served with distinction in all three branches of government – Legislative (as a Hawai'i State Senator and Senate President), Executive (as Lt. Governor) and Judiciary (on the Third Circuit and for the Marshall Islands). With Judge Doi is his daughter-in-law Dr. Aimee Love.



*Sen. Solomon joins Gov. Abercrombie in planting a flowering cherry tree during the 2014 Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival to honor the 3 generations of families in the Lalamilo Farmlots who converted this arid, rocky region into the highly productive "vegetable basket" of our state!*

# For The Betterment Of Our Beloved Hawai'i...

In the early 70's, I was teaching Hawaiian Studies at UH-Hilo and the Community College when, with Sen. Daniel Akaka's encouragement and sponsorship, I was given the opportunity to apply for a Ford Fellowship scholarship. Thanks to the Senator, I was the first Native Hawaiian woman to be considered for a Doctorate Degree and winning the award afforded me a full scholarship to any university. I attended Oregon State in Corvallis and graduated with honors as the first Ford Fellow with a Ph.D in Education Foundations and minors in Community Education and Cultural Anthropology.

When I returned home, Sen. Daniel Akaka, Sen. Dan Inouye and Gov. George Ariyoshi helped launch my political career. With their help, and that of family and friends, I was honored to serve as the first and youngest Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee, followed by 16 years in the Hawaii State Senate.

Our families were and are great friends, and the Solomon-Beamer 'ohana knows Sen. Akaka as "Uncle Danny." He and my Dad were schoolmates at Kamehameha Schools.

My favorite recollection of my many encounters with Uncle Danny was in Washington, DC when I was serving as Majority Leader in the Hawai'i State Senate and appointed to represent Hawai'i at the National Democratic Party Convention in New York. I was assigned to the Platform Committee by Gov. John Waihe'e -- an honor I will always cherish. Bill Clinton was President and a friend of Governor Waihe'e. Senator Joe Biden, now Vice President, was Platform Committee Chairman and Congressional Senate Judiciary Chairman. Hawaii had one vote, me.

My assignment was to get an amendment inserted into the National Democratic Party's Civil Rights Platform to set the stage for the United States' Apology Bill to the Hawaiian People. Politically, it was a huge team effort led by Uncle Danny, who had only five days of committee work to accomplish this monumental task.



On the lighter side, my parents accompanied me on the journey, their first trip to Washington in over 20 years. It was like a family reunion! Sen. Akaka gave Mom and Dad the red carpet treatment. He accompanied us on a tour of the Capitol, the White House, the Congressional Library and lunch in the Senate Dining Room.

We sang their generation's favorite Hawaiian songs, while Uncle Danny and Dad played the 'ukulele and Mama danced the hula in his office. We had dinner at Uncle Danny's favorite Chinese restaurant and a private tour of our Nation's Capitol at night.

All the while, I am feeling anxious... thinking, "When will we have time to discuss the political agenda?" The Platform Committee would convene the next day. We needed a plan, discussion, and HELP! I remember carrying a humongous file around all day, ready to present. Finally, after a nine-course Chinese dinner and in-depth discussion on how to freeze, cook taro and make poi, I posed the question, "Uncle Danny, what is our agenda?"

He responded with enthusiasm, "I have made arrangements for you to tour the U.S. Mint, The War Memorials and a private viewing of President George Washington's Home."

"No, I mean our amendment for committee consideration tomorrow," I said, a little flabbergasted.

"Oh, do not worry," he said. "The Amendment will pass. After all, we Hawaiians had our own Postage Stamps."

I was thinking "what does this mean?" as the Senator escorted us out of the restaurant. I pulled my Dad aside and asked for an explanation.

"Only sovereign nations have their own postage stamps," said Dad.

That was the *kaona* (the inner meaning). The amendment was passed out of Committee, ratified by the Convention, introduced and passed out of both House and Senate, and signed by President Clinton. It is known today as the "Akaka Apology Resolution."

***Mahalo, Uncle Danny, Dad and Mom for those precious moments. Thank you for allowing me to witness and be part of a great friendship that represents an honorable generation, whose love and steadfastness for the betterment of conditions for our beloved Hawai'i will remain with me -- and guide me -- always.***

***Mahalo a mau loa ame me ke aloha pumehana,***

*Malama*

**Sen. Malama Solomon presented this special award on behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate, recognizing Sen. Akaka's lifelong dedication to all of the people of Hawai'i at a gathering in his honor in Hilo.**



**Senator Malama Solomon, Ph.D.**  
415 South Beretania St. - Rm. Room 210  
Honolulu, HI 96813

*Please Come To A Community Meeting  
To Discuss Your Priorities And Concerns*

**5:30-7:00 p.m.**

- Thursday, 2/20: Kalaniana'ole School Cafe, Papa'ikou
- Friday, 2/21: Laupahoehoe School Cafe
- Monday, 2/24: Kohala Senior Center
- Tuesday, 2/25: NHERC- Honoka'a
- Wednesday, 2/26: Waikoloa School Cafe

### ***Honoring Those Who Keep The Flame Alive!***

On behalf of the State Legislature, Sen. Malama Solomon presented dual honors to both filmmaker Edgy Lee (left) for her vision and heart for the real stories of Hawai'i, and also to the Paniolo Preservation Society's founders and torch carriers — represented by Dr. Billy and Pat Bergin—"who understand why this story must be told and the heritage and cattle industry perpetuated. No question, Edgy Lee is a paniolo hero and so are the members and friends of the Paniolo Preservation Society for keeping the flame alive. The gift Edgy Lee gave to our paniolo is more than a great documentary that helped carve a place for the paniolo heritage in American History books. The really 'unintended consequence' of Edgy's film was how it inspired PPS and others to pursue both preservation and perpetuation of Hawai'i's paniolo heritage!



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**Sen. Malama Solomon and Hawai'i Major League Baseball All Star Shane Victorino (second from right) with his parents, Maui Council Member Michael Victorino and wife Jocelyn.**