



Sen. Tokuda worked with students at a youth work day she co-hosted at Ulupo Heiau.

Envisioning Kawainui

Since being elected to office, the preservation and restoration of Kawainui Marsh has been one of Senator Tokuda's highest priorities.

Working with Representative Pono Chong and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Senator Tokuda has made it possible for millions of dollars in state and federal funds to be invested in the restoration of Kawainui Marsh.

Following the success of a community discussion earlier this year, Senator Tokuda will be hosting the second in a series of facilitated discussions to talk about the Windward community's vision for Kawainui and the actions needed to get us there.

The meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, September 19th from 1-4:30 p.m. at Le Jardin Academy.**

Topics of discussion will include updates from key government agencies since the March meeting, establishing project priorities, the development of a cultural plan, and engaging the youth of Windward Oahu in stewardship of Kawainui.

In addition to continuing these discussions and working with community advocates, Senator Tokuda is also establishing a Facebook page to increase communication between groups.

If you would like to be informed of future meetings and updates, please contact Kamakana at 587-7215.

Senator Tokuda Seeks ACE Intern for 2010 Session

Committed to creating opportunities for Windward Oahu students, Senator Tokuda is again putting out the call for students to apply for her annual "A Capitol Experience" (ACE) Internship Program for the 2010 legislative session.

Open to all Windward Oahu high school students, the program seeks to provide an intern with a first hand opportunity to learn about government and the legislative process.

Established in 2007, the ACE Internship program offers a paid position to a motivated student that have an interest in government and will serve as an advocate for issues they care about.



Larissa Corales worked as an ACE intern in Sen. Tokuda's office during in 2009.

2009 ACE Intern Larissa Corales, currently a senior at Castle High School, monitored legislation, wrote articles about her experience for the senator's newsletter, assisted in addressing constituent concerns, and coordinated a diaper drive in conjunction with the Senate's Hawaii Food Bank Food Drive.

The ACE Internship application packet will be available at the end of this month.

If you would like to receive a packet or would like more information, please contact Kamakana at 587-7215 or via email at k.kaimuloa@capitol.hawaii.gov.

STAR Program to Showcase the Artwork of Windward Schools

Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program will display the artwork of students from 12 Windward Oahu schools at the Hawaii State Capitol throughout the 2010 legislative session.

The schools that have been invited to participate include Mokapu Elementary, Le Jardin Academy, Maunawili Elementary, Kaneohe Elementary, Kalaheo High, Castle High, Keolu Elementary, Hakipuu Learning Center, Enchanted Lake Elementary, Ke Kula o Kamakau, Windward Nazarene, and Trinity Christian.

The STAR Program was established by Senator Jill Tokuda with the goal of showcasing the artistic talents of students from Windward Oahu and providing them with the opportunity to display their works of art in public places. Since 2007, the STAR Program has showcased nearly 500 pieces of art at the State Capitol.



STAR participant and Kapunahala student Kwinn Guillermo visited Sen. Tokuda at the State Capitol to view his artwork.

You can now follow Senator Tokuda on Facebook and Twitter for updates and happenings in Windward Oahu!

 **Jill Tokuda**

@jilltokuda 

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While this past legislative session presented Hawai'i with some of our most difficult fiscal challenges since statehood, my office has continued to work hard to meet the needs and address the concerns of Windward Oahu residents.

As a result of significant decreases in tax collections and revenue projections, we as legislators found ourselves facing a \$2.1 billion gap in our state's budget. While over a billion dollars in reductions came from cuts to our general fund budget, it is important to note that we made those decisions based upon the philosophy that we must preserve basic services, and maintain a social safety to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

As the Chair of the Higher Education Committee and a lifelong supporter of our public schools, one of my top priorities has been ensuring that our schools and university system have the resources and tools they need to provide all students with access to the highest quality education.

In addition to bringing in over \$15 million in CIP funding for our public schools and Windward Community College this year alone, I also worked with my colleagues to ensure that federal stimulus funds available to Hawai'i were directed towards both the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii.

While there are no easy answers for the challenges we will continue to face, I can assure you that my office and I will continue to focus on doing what is best for the residents and businesses of Senate District 24. As always, if I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Mahalo,



Legislative Wrap-Up

DISTRICT 24 • KANEOHE • KAILUA • MCAB • ENCHANTED LAKE

Building Stronger Communities, Supporting Schools on the Windward Side

Focusing on the diverse needs of our windward community and working to make life better for our friends and neighbors has always been a top priority for Senator Tokuda, particularly during such challenging economic times.

Since 2007, Senator Tokuda has brought home over **\$79.5 million** in CIP funding for our district. In addition to that, over **\$6.2 million** for repair and maintenance projects will begin this year at the following schools: **Aikahi Elementary, Castle High, Enchanted Lake Elementary, Kaelepulu Elementary, Kailua High, Kalaheo High, Kaneohe Elementary, Kapunahala Elementary, Keolu Elementary, Maunawili Elementary, Mokapu Elementary, Olomana, and Puohala Elementary.**

During the 2009 Legislative Session, Senator Tokuda fought to ensure that the following projects were funded so that our community's needs could be met:

Kailua High School	\$8,000,000
<i>Natural Science Classroom and Research Lab</i>	
Castle High School	5,000,000
<i>All-Weather Track, Synthetic Athletic Field, and Press Box/Announcer's Booth</i>	
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility	2,087,000
<i>Secure Facility Repair, Improvements, and Safety Measures</i>	
Hawaii State Hospital	2,071,000
<i>Repairs and Structural Improvements</i>	
Windward Community College	1,578,000
<i>Library and Learning Resources Center</i>	
Castle Hills Access Road	200,000
<i>Drainage Improvements</i>	
Kaelepulu Elementary School	175,000
<i>Walkway between Parking Lot and Building C</i>	
Ben Parker Elementary School	125,000
<i>Retaining Wall behind Cafeteria and Buildings B and C</i>	
Puohala Elementary School	100,000
<i>Electrical Upgrade Campus-Wide</i>	
King Intermediate School	50,000
<i>Conversion of Cafeteria for Use as Auditorium</i>	
Enchanted Lake Elementary School	30,000
<i>Windbreaker System between Building E and G</i>	
Pohai Nani	1,500,000
<i>Wellness Center (Grant-In-Aid)</i>	
TOTAL	\$20,916,000

CONTACT SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA

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Let us know if you'd like to receive our Koolau Konnections newsletter!

2009 Legislative Accomplishments

THE STATE BUDGET- HB200

Hawaii faces unprecedented economic challenges; the legislature has not confronted a budget shortfall of this magnitude in the history of our state. Challenged with producing a fiscally responsible budget, state legislators worked painstakingly this session to reduce government spending and streamline state government. Their goal was to not only help slow Hawaii's economic downturn but also lay the groundwork for future growth and prosperity.

HB200, the Hawaii State Budget, appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement costs of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. It covers general fund expenses totaling \$5.1 billion in FY2010 and \$5.2 billion in FY2011, and capital improvement projects for fiscal years 2010 (\$10.8 billion total) and 2011 (\$10.4 billion total). A key detail in the state budget: legislators have provided increased funding in the first year of the biennium for construction projects that can be executed immediately in order to help stimulate the economy and to provide jobs.

PROVIDING NEW WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES - SB1665

In this critical time of economic downturn, workforce sustainability is crucial to Hawaii's economic recovery and revitalization. Workforce sustainability gains strength by providing services such as workforce development training that help meet the rapidly changing needs of both employers and employees.

SB1665, introduced by Senator Tokuda, establishes a Skilled Worker and Business Development Center in Hawaii community colleges to provide enhanced workforce training programs to students just entering the workforce or to employees returning to school to seek greater opportunities. The bill also appropriates \$2.4 million for fiscal year 2009-2010 in Reed Act funds, with \$200,000 given to each community college in the University of Hawaii school system.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE - HB989

First launched in 2007, Keiki Care is a program aimed at providing health insurance coverage to all Hawaii's keiki under 18 years old, and ensuring that they receive the quality care they deserve. The program was terminated, however, when Governor Lingle eliminated funding for the program in October, 2008.

This session, legislators revived Keiki Care and passed HB989 which amends Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, to extend the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program to June 30, 2012. The bill also requires that the Department of Human Services provide the legislature with any findings or recommendations relating to Keiki Care. To fund the program, the legislature has appropriated \$200,000 each year for the fiscal years 2009-2011. Approximately 600 keiki will be cov-



Sen. Tokuda addresses her colleagues during a speech on the floor of the Hawaii State Senate.

ered annually.

CEDED LANDS - SB1677

A critical decision in the continuing debate on the issue of ceded lands in Hawaii has prompted state legislators to clarify policy regarding the sale or exchange of state-held lands. Following the March 31, 2009 opinion of the United States Supreme Court in *Hawaii et al. v. Office of Hawaiian Affairs et al.*, legislators passed SB1677 to protect the legislature's right to exercise its power over the use of ceded lands. SB1677 requires that any sale, gift or transfer of state-owned land be approved by the adoption of a concurrent resolution requiring a two-thirds majority approval by the legislature.

TOURISM-HB754

Hawaii's number one industry, tourism, has been hit hard by the current economic crisis. Visitor arrivals have dropped over 10 percent from the previous year with visitor expenditures down 15 percent, or \$133 million.

To better address the needs of the tourism industry, HB754 makes several key administrative changes to stream-

line operations and increase the efficiency of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. The bill transfers tourism research and statistics functions from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to HTA. It also removes ex-officio members from the HTA board and creates an advisory group.

In response to more immediate needs brought on by these critical times, HB754 expands the scope of a "tourism emergency," allowing HTA to access the tourism emergency fund during times of national or global economic crisis. It also provides approximately \$7 million in additional funds to the Tourism Special Fund for fiscal year 2010-2011.

ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT-SB1536 & SB1664

The unemployment rate in the state of Hawaii has reached its highest point in 26 years and more than doubled since January 2008. Given the current economic downturn, many employers have had to make difficult choices because they cannot afford to retain their employees at regular hours, forcing them to either reduce hours or layoff employees.

While existing law would make employees who keep their jobs but face reduced work hours ineligible to receive unemployment insurance, SB1568 allows individuals employed part-time or seeking part-time employment to receive unemployment insurance, providing protection to those who need it most. It also provides unemployment insurance to employees when, due to compelling family emer-

gencies, they are forced to take a leave of absence from work. SB1664 seeks to help employers retain their employees during this critical time by clarifying and recodifying the partial unemployment system. The bill adds partial unemployment definitions and requirements relating to eligibility, claim filing and reporting, and amends the conditions in which partial unemployment benefits may be extended beyond eight consecutive weeks.

PAY CUT AND SALARY FREEZE - HB1536

Given the declining economy and budget shortfalls confronting the state, a growing number of Hawaii residents are experiencing extreme economic hardships. Faced with layoffs, possible furloughs, and increasing cutbacks, Hawaii residents are looking to their lawmakers for leadership. Legislators passed HB1536 to ease these burdens and help reduce the impact of the current fiscal crisis.

Over the next few years, salary increases for top state officials set by the Hawaii Salary Commission would have cost the state an estimated \$4.1 million for the fiscal years 2009-2011. HB1536 mandates a salary freeze and a five percent pay cut of the salaries on June 30, 2009 of the governor, lieutenant governor, department directors, judges and state lawmakers, for a two year period beginning July 1, 2009. This ultimately will save the state \$2.1 million. HB1536 also ties vacation and sick leave to that of

collective bargaining for a two year period beginning July 1, 2009.

PRESERVING PUBLIC HEALTH CARE - SB1673

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is the fourth largest public health system in the nation, providing essential hospital and long-term care health services to Hawaii residents, especially those living in rural areas. Currently, HHSC faces grave economic shortfalls and is in a precarious financial position.

SB1673 seeks to ensure that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation remains intact and maintains its level of safety net services. The bill makes significant changes to improve the operations of the HHSC, including temporarily transferring the community hospitals to the Department of Health, allowing regional health care systems to transition into a corporate structure, and authorizing the corporation to conduct criminal history checks. SB1673 also establishes the Community Hospital System special fund.



Sen. Tokuda collects donations for the Hawaii Food Bank near Windward City Shopping Center.