



Senator Jill N. Tokuda

# 2012 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

24th Senatorial District - Kaneohe, Kailua, Enchanted Lake

Dear Friends,

After overcoming more than \$3 billion in deficits in recent years, the legislature maintained a cautious, yet focused approach in putting together the \$11.2 billion supplemental budget. From putting people back to work by investing over \$414 million into the repair and maintenance of our aging infrastructure, including schools and roadways, to embracing the philosophy that the money should follow the child and increasing the weighted student formula by \$14 million, we targeted resources to where they were most needed.

We were able to strengthen the safety net for many of our residents and families by providing nonprofit organizations, such as Child and Family Services and Catholic Charities of Hawaii, with \$20 million in grant funding.

As the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, I continued my efforts to put students at the center of our educational reforms with a clear understanding and belief that if we want our students to succeed, then **learning must matter**.

Laying the foundation for early childhood education, increasing accountability for charter schools, and making a commitment to medical education in our state with the hopes of growing our own professionals where we need them the most, we've worked hard to make sure that everything we do to support education begins and ends with the student.

As many of the issues we deal with on a committee and community level are ongoing, our office will be working hard through the interim on a number of projects. I am very fortunate to have a great team working with me to serve the people of our district. If there is anything we can do to further assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us!  
Mahalo!



Rep Ken Ito, Rep Pono Chong and Sen Tokuda serving breakfast at the Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe's 51st Annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast.

## Community Priorities, Capital Improvements

### Over \$17.9 million for Senate District 24

Since 2007, Senator Tokuda has brought home over **\$105 million** in CIP funding for the 24th Senatorial District. During the 2012 Legislative Session, she fought to ensure that the following priority projects were funded for fiscal year 2013 so that our community's needs could be met:

#### Education

<b>Kalaheo High School</b> .....	<b>\$410,000</b>
<i>Plans, design, and construction of bleachers for athletic field and tennis courts</i>	
<b>Kapunahala Elementary School</b> .....	<b>\$330,000</b>
<i>Design and construction for a mechanical lift to transport wheelchair-bound students from the ground floor to the second floor</i>	
<b>King Intermediate School</b> .....	<b>\$700,000</b>
<i>Design and construction to convert the school cafeteria into a cafetorium by adding bathrooms and stage; upgrades to media system</i>	
<b>Windward Community College</b> .....	<b>\$3,520,000</b>
<i>For various repair and maintenance needs</i>	
<b>All Senate Disgtrict 24 Schools</b> .....	<b>\$3,870,000</b>
<i>For addressing the repair and maintenance backlog of our aging infrastructure</i>	
<b>Kaneohe Public Library</b> .....	<b>\$20,000</b>
<i>Plans, design and construction of new ADA compliant circulation desk</i>	

#### Community

<b>Kawainui Marsh</b> .....	<b>\$1,055,000</b>
<i>Construction and equipment for the restoration of endangered habitat and wetlands</i>	
<b>Maunawili Trail</b> .....	<b>\$25,000</b>
<i>Plans for a public parking lot</i>	

#### Healthcare

<b>Hawaii State Hospital</b> .....	<b>\$2,800,000</b>
<i>Plans, design, and construction to remove hazardous materials and the demolition of Goddard building</i>	

#### Roads and Highways

<b>Kahekili Highway</b> .....	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<i>Plans for widening and improving Kahekili Highway</i>	
<b>H-3</b> .....	<b>\$3,730,000</b>
<i>Design and construction for a divided highway from Junction H-1 to Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station</i>	

<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$17,960,000</b>
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# Putting People First – Job Creation, Education, and Public Safety

## Job Creation

Although Hawaii is experiencing a steady economic recovery, many people are still unemployed or under-employed, especially in the construction and trade industries. Realizing this grim reality, the Senate made job creation and creating a sustainable economy top priorities through its flagship initiative, The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012. To accomplish this goal, the Senate was able to include in excess of \$414M for repair and maintenance projects in the Capital Improvement Program portion of the budget for fiscal year 2013, pursuant to **House Bill 2012**. The funding will allow for the creation of more than 4,000 shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants, and help put money in workers' pockets and give companies confidence to begin hiring again.

## Highlights of the funding is as follows:

The Department of Education will receive \$296M in FY13, including \$116M that has been appropriated for classroom renovations and school building improvements to address the department's repair and maintenance backlog, \$10M for electrical upgrades to support the rapidly evolving technology that is imperative to keep students competitive in the global economy, and \$30M in various lump sum appropriations for schools throughout the State to address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, health and safety and special education needs.

For the University of Hawaii, over \$80M was appropriated for capital renewal and deferred maintenance as well as health, safety, and building code requirements, system wide. Additionally, to increase capacity as a result of significant growth in student enrollment at the community colleges, \$27.5M was provided to the community colleges, as well as \$10M in matching funds for Kapiolani Community College to begin construction of the Culinary Institute of the Pacific.

Over \$60M has been provided for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to continue to upgrade its units and help to shelter low-income families; \$35M has been appropriated for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to help tackle the repair and maintenance needs at community hospitals statewide; \$26M



*In the final days of the 2012 session, the conference committee on SB2115 Relating to Charter Schools met and passed the bill. Senator Tokuda and Rep. Belatti are signing the vote sheet.*

has been provided to the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources to allow them to continue their efforts to maintain the State's irrigation systems.

As a result of our State's steady economic recovery, the safety net continues to need strengthening. There are many who still suffer job loss and significant wage and benefit reductions. Mindful of the struggles of Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens, child welfare, domestic violence shelters, MedQuest, and various shortfalls across the Department of Human Services were addressed in the State Supplemental Budget, House Bill 2012.

To further continue supporting our top industry, strategic investment was made in our tourism industry through **Senate Bill 490**. The measure develops and implements new initiatives to significantly increase travel and tourism in the State, taking advantage of an executive order signed by President Obama to ease access for international travelers. The expanded visa programs would help provide up to an estimated 154,000 jobs in Hawaii. China in particular is a rising market for Hawaii's tourism industry, with unprecedented growth potential.

## EDUCATION

Education remained a top priority for the Legislature. Through the state budget, investments were made to direct money into the classroom, prevent school lunch prices from becoming unaffordable for working families and allow for the continuation of adult education and student transportation.

As a result of the Charter School Governance, Accountability and Authority Task Force chaired by Senator

Tokuda, **Senate Bills 2115** is a complete recodification of Hawaii's charter school laws, focused on providing charter schools with the autonomy they need to be innovative while ensuring accountability at all levels given that there are public school students and tax payer dollars. **Senate Bill 2116** appropriates funds to help with the transition and implementation of this new system.

Early life experiences lay the groundwork for a child's lifelong learning and providing high quality early learning programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are critically important for ensuring the success of Hawaii's keiki. Working closely with the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator, Senator Tokuda introduced and passed **Senate Bill 2545**, which establishes the Executive Office of Early Learning and provides the framework and resources to transition from junior kindergarten to the first phase of the Keiki First Steps Program, marking Hawaii's entrance into a publically funded early learning system.

The Legislature passed Senator Tokuda's **Senate Bill 2540**, a statutory clean up measure for the DOE, amended or repealed various sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, that have already been accomplished and are no longer necessary to be codified in statute; impede rather than assist the Department of Education in meeting its core mission; fall under the purview of the Board of Education; are already mandated by other federal or state laws.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing electricity costs depends in part on diversifying the energy sources within the State. Geothermal energy is a solid source of indigenous, renewable energy

that could be made available at low costs. **Senate Bill 2001** requires consultation and input from the Native Hawaiian community and general public when developing geothermal projects on public trust lands. Meanwhile, **Senate Bill 3003** allows geothermal resources exploration and development in all state land use districts and all zones of the conservation districts. Governor Abercrombie signed SB3003 into law in April.

With our State's dependence on imported foods and threat to our food security, **Senate Bill 2695** establishes a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to help address the rising cost of feed and explore ways to increase the sustainability of our local protein sources. Self-sufficiency is critical to Hawaii's food security and ability to respond effectively in the event of natural disasters or disruptions in transportation.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Senate Bill 2776, Relating to Public Safety** - After an unprecedented collaboration between the Governor, Chief Justice, Senate President, House Speaker and Director of Public Safety, a data-driven justice reinvestment strategy was created to bring out-of-state prisoners back to Hawaii, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest savings generated in strategies that would reduce recidivism and crime and increase public safety.

One of the outcomes of the Justice Reinvestment Initiatives was the passage of Senate Bill 2776. The measure establishes a statutory structure to improve the criminal justice system, relying on the Department of Public Safety, Hawaii Paroling Authority, and Adult Probation Services to effectively implement changes to policies and practices.

**Senate Bill 2247**, known as Kelsey's Law, Act 94 (2012), which was signed into law by Governor Abercrombie in April, will require cell phone or communication service providers to assist law enforcement agencies in determining the location of a cell phone in emergency situations. The bill was named in honor of Kelsey Smith, an 18-year-old Kansas woman who was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2007. It is believed that if Verizon Wireless had turned over cell phone records on the day Smith was kidnapped, she may be alive today.

**House Bill 2030**, Relating to Emergency Vehicles, requires motorists to move over and slow down their vehicles when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway. If this measure becomes law, a violation against it will result in a fine, which will not impact the driver's car insurance rates.

**Senate Bill 2228**, Relating to Pseudoephedrine, establishes an electronic tracking system for the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine as a base and requires the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Enforcement Division to implement the electronic tracking system, with the intent of decreasing the production of meth.

### **RETOOLING GOVERNMENT**

In the area of technology, the Legislature focused on investing in the State's information technology (IT) infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient. The State Supplemental Budget, House Bill 2012, makes significant investments in software upgrades, integration in information technology, and modernization of databases and records.

The Legislature also supports the Governor's broadband initiative to improve services and to ensure that each and every citizen has access. The initiative is supported by **Senate Bill 2236**, which assists Clearcom or a partnership headed by Clearcom, Inc., with the planning, designing, constructing, and operating of broadband infrastructure throughout the State.



*Senator Tokuda giving a speech on the Senate Floor in support of one of the hundreds of bills that passed out of the Legislature in the final days of session.*

### **OTHER NOTABLE BILLS:**

**House Bill 608**, Relating to Health, Act 1 (2012), was signed into law by Governor Abercrombie in February. The measure appropriates state funds to the Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawai'i to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. Act 1 helps ensure that organ transplant patients are able to remain in the islands and receive efficient and timely care.

**Senate Bill 2783**, Relating to the Public Trust Lands, Act 15 (2012), conveys Kaka'ako Makai lands to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). The State and OHA agreed that an approximately \$200 million settlement represents a reasonable compromise of the disputed claims. To satisfy that \$200 million amount, the State is conveying contiguous and adjacent parcels in Kaka'ako Makai. Under this law, all disputes and controversies relating to OHA's portion of income and proceeds from the public trust lands will be extinguished and discharged as well as bar all claims, suits, and actions for the period November 7, 1978 through June 30, 2012. Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 2783 into law in April.

**House Bill 2502, Relating to Mortgage Servicers** - The Legislature continues its commitment to assist Hawaii's homeowners through the passage of House Bill 2502. Among other things, this measure helps the State to meet national standards for Mortgage Servicers and helps the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs monitor them. HB2502 requires mortgage servicers that provide loan-modification services to be properly licensed. The measure also authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Institutions to require all mortgage servicers to register with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System.

**Senate Bill 2804**, Relating Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, allows Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, temporarily established by Governor Neil Abercrombie in 2011, to continue to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives that would mitigate homelessness as well as ensure that the homeless persons obtain permanent housing to become reintegrated into the community. If signed into law, this measure would require that the Department of Human Services conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing safe havens in Hawaii and to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session.

### **CONTACT SENATOR JILL TOKUDA**

# Senate District 24 Talk Story Town Hall Meeting

Hosted by Senator Jill Tokuda,  
Representative Ken Ito,  
Representative Pono Chong, and  
Representative Chris Lee

**Thursday, June 28, 2012**  
**Windward Community College,**  
**Hale Akoakoa 105**  
**7:00pm-8:30pm**

You're invited to hear from your  
area Legislators about the  
2012 session and to share your  
thoughts and concerns  
about our community.

For more information, please  
contact our office at 587-7215.



**Senator Jill N. Tokuda**  
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Honolulu, HI 96813

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## Windward Special Purpose Revenue Bonds

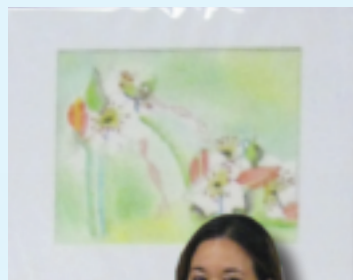
Senator Tokuda introduced and passed out two bills to give Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to two Windward Schools – Le Jardin Academy and Hawaii Pacific University. **SB2952** extends the lapse date to June 30, 2017 for a \$25,000,000 SPRB awarded to Le Jardin Academy in 2007. **HB2248** gave \$120,000,000 to Hawaii Pacific University for the construction of educational facilities including student housing at the Hawaii Loa Campus and athletic facilities, renovation of existing educational facilities, purchase of tangible assets including land and improvements, acquisition and installation of information technology.

## STAR Program Continues to Showcase Student Artwork

Senator Tokuda's Art Review Program (STAR) continued for its 6<sup>th</sup> year in showcasing the artistic talents of students from Windward Oahu.

This year we had the privilege of having art displayed at the State Capitol from more than 220 artists from 9 windward schools including: Castle High, Heeia Elem, Kalaheo High, Kaneohe Elem, Le Jardin Academy, Puohala Elem, St. Mark Lutheran, Windward Community College and Windward Nazarene Academy.

Since its establishment in 2007, the STAR Program has showcased the artwork of over 1,250 Windward Oahu artists. We thank you for sharing your work with us.



*Senator Tokuda with Windward Nazarene Academy artist Mayah and sister Reese.*



*Senator Tokuda being interviewed after presenting to the Charter School Review Panel on the recommendations of the Charter School governance Task Force.*

## Clean and Sober Homes

As a result of ongoing community concerns, Senator Tokuda introduced legislation over the past three years relating to the regulation and oversight of clean and sober homes and halfway houses. With many of these residential homes operating in windward neighborhoods, she has also worked closely with state and city agencies to ensure their compliance with existing laws and ordinances.

This year the legislature passed her bill, **SB2536**, which calls upon the Department of Health to convene a task force to determine how to best regulate clean and sober homes and halfway houses, recommend clear occupancy requirements, develop an accountability plan including appropriate levels of oversight, and conduct an inventory of clean and sober homes statewide assessing their current occupancy levels and compliance with county zoning laws and tax requirements.