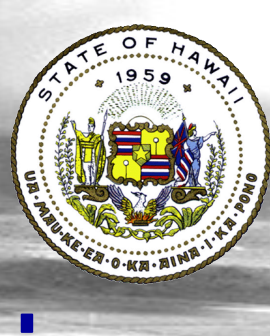




Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

District 4

Kahului, Wailuku, Waihe'e, Paia, Lower Paia



APRIL 2011

Japanese Consul General Addresses Legislature

On April 26, Japanese Consul General of Honolulu Yoshihiko Kamo addressed the Legislature in a special joint session. The Consul General provided Representatives and Senators with an update on the aftermath of last month's 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that happened off the eastern coast of Japan. Honorable Yoshihiko Kamo, who was invited to address the Legislature following the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 319, articulated his gratitude for the support Japan received by the State of Hawaii and the Nation.

Senate President Tsutsui, offered the following remarks:

"With many ties to Japan, our residents are deeply moved by the devastation and suffering that the Japanese people have endured. Together, we mourn the loss of life, search for answers as to the missing, and offer our sympathies and support to the survivors.

The resiliency and determination of the people of Japan, as well as the citizens of the world, will be necessary in the rebuilding and restoration efforts that are to come.

We will continue to offer our thoughts and prayers to all those affected."



Consul General Yoshihiko with his wife and Senate President Tsutsui



The joint session convened in the House Chambers on April 25, 2011

Senate Confirms Appointed Board of Education Members

It was a historic day at the State Capitol on Thursday April 14, as Senate President Shan Tsutsui, Senators J. Kalani English, and Roz Baker, along with their twenty-two colleagues, unanimously confirmed Hawaii's first appointed Board of Education. Those members are:

Wesley Lo, chief executive officer at Maui Memorial Medical Center;

Brian De Lima, attorney and former Hawaii County Council Member;

Nancy Budd, an attorney and a member of the Kauai Planning and Action Alliance Public Education Action Team;

Don Horner, chief executive officer and chairman of First Hawaiian Bank. Governor Abercrombie chose Horner to serve on the elected BOE to fill a vacancy on Feb. 9, and has designated him to serve as chair of the BOE;

Kim Gennaula, philanthropy director at the Kapiolani Health Foundation;

Jim Williams, administrator and CEO of the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund (retired);

Charlene Cuaresma, associate director of the UH Manoa Graduate Professional Access Program;

Cheryl Kauhane Lupenui, former chief executive officer of the YWCA on Oahu; and

Keith Amemiya, executive administrator and secretary of the Board of Regents.

Act 5, which was signed into law on March 14, gives the governor the authority to appoint nine board members which will include: one member from the county of Hawaii, one member from the county of Maui, one member from the county of Kauai, 3 members from the city and county of Honolulu, and three at-large-members; provided that the governor selects an at-large member as the chairperson.

Voters in the 2010 General Election approved a constitutional amendment calling for an appointed, rather than elected, Board of Education.



Members of the Senate with the newly appointed Board of Education Members on April 14, 2011

Governor Recognizes Senate for Hawaii Green Government Challenge

On April 20, Governor Neil Abercrombie recognized the Hawaii State Senate for its participation in the Hawaii Green Government Challenge. "We're off to a great start in reducing waste," said Senate President Tsutsui. "The credit for our success in reducing paper waste while simultaneously improving public access goes to the many dedicated staff members who work here every day. Our intention is to continue to push forward in this direction."

The Hawaii Green Government Challenge, administered by the State Energy Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, provides an opportunity for government agencies to work towards smart energy and resource-efficient operations. This directly benefits the government through reduced operational and utility costs.

In 2008, the Senate launched its Paperless Initiative with two goals in mind – to enhance public access to the legislative process by making sure more documents are available in electronic format and to reduce paper waste generated by the Senate.

The Paperless Initiative has significantly reduced the Senate's paper usage by 80 percent since the program was put in place. During the 2010 session, only 1.5 million pages were printed, compared to 8.3 million pages in 2007. Over the last three years, the Senate has saved half a million dollars in purchasing paper and copy machine expenses.



Senate President Tsutsui joined several other Senators and staff members at the Green Government Challenge Ceremony held in Governor Abercrombie's Office on April 20, 2011

For the public, participation in the legislative process has become more accessible, as individuals are able to submit testimony by e-mail as well as view all measures, committee reports, and testimony submitted on any measure via the Legislature's website. Public hearing notices posted on the Capitol website are also interactive, containing links to documents previously mentioned.

The Hawaii State Senate is also supporting and participating in the Capitol's conservation initiatives, including: energy conservation, recycling, emissions reduction and water conservation.

Senator Tsutsui & Shimazu Shave Ice raise funds for Maui Food Bank

Amid a flurry of hearings, deadlines and floor sessions, members and staff at the Legislature pitch in every day to help the Hawaii Food Bank raise funds to feed our hungry. A regular homemaker, Senate President Tsutsui has sponsored past events featuring delicious items like ice cream and homemade beef curry. This session, the Senator and his staff teamed up with Shimazu Shave Ice— voted Honolulu Magazine's "best of" gourmet shave ice in 2010— to raise proceeds for the Maui Food Bank.

On April 13, Kelvin Shimazu brought his award winning shave ice to the State Capitol and personally served over 250 bowls. With an offering of 30 syrups and classic toppings like condensed milk and azuki beans, a line formed almost immediately out the door and around the corner of room 409. Senate President Tsutsui would like to extend a sincere mahalo to everyone who participated this year and contributed to helping feed our communities.



Staff members enjoying Shimazu's delicious shave ice



Mr. Shimazu also brought an assortment of flavored popcorns

For questions, comments or concerns please contact Senator Tsutsui at sentsutsui@capitol.hawaii.gov or (808) 586-7344.