



REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AQUINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

HOUSE DISTRICT 35
WAIPAHU * CRESTVIEW * SEAVIEW



FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Neighbors,

The 2012 legislative session is well on its way and we've hit the ground running. The state Legislature approved unanimously a bill to provide emergency funds to support the Queen's Medical Center launch of an organ transplant facility.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Hawaii, through the Justice Reinvestment Working Group, studied the current criminal justice system to determine a strategy and develop policies to address prison expansion, create alternatives to incarceration and reduce repeat offenders. The group's findings resulted in bills introduced by the administration.

I've introduced or co-sponsored a variety of bills this session. In addition to the bills listed in this newsletter, there are other bills I will be addressing including those that were referred to the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs in which I am the Chairman.

There will be **NEW** requirements to the Hawaii Driver's License and Learner's Permit application process effective March 5, 2012 (see page 4).

I will continue to work towards legislation and public policy that addresses issues impacting our community and the State. I welcome your feedback and comments.

With Much Aloha,

Representative Henry Aquino
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 419
Phone: 586-6520 / Fax: 586-6521
Email: repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov

Legislature Approves Transplant Facility Bill

The recent closure of Hawaii Medical Center (HMC) resulted in the shutting down of the Transplant Institute of the Pacific. In addition to being the only organ transplant center in the Pacific, HMC also provided dialysis services to many patients on Oahu.



In a Honolulu Star-Advertiser article (2-4-12), Rep. Aquino stated that the shutdown hits especially hard in Hawaii where the rate of chronic kidney disease is higher than the national average. "This certainly is a disease that is not far from any of our homes," said Rep. Aquino.

However, hope was restored for Hawaii patients who are waiting for transplants. The state Legislature fast-tracked a bill to address this immediate crisis. On, Friday, February 3, 2012 the state Legislature approved unanimously a bill to provide emergency funds to support the Queen's Medical Center launch of an organ transplant facility. The governor approved the \$1.5 million in emergency funds on February 4, 2012.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- P1: Legislature Approves Transplant Facility Bill
- P2: Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Hawaii
- P2: 2012 Bills of Interest
- P3: 2012 Legislature – Opening Day in Pictures
- P4: New Hawaii Driver's License & Learner's Permit Requirements
- P4: Did you know...you may qualify for **free** tax help?
- P4: Mahalo Lena Sumiye, Retiring Hawaii Educator

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE IN HAWAII

Due to the overcrowding in Hawaii's prisons, there are over 1,500 prisoners incarcerated in mainland prisons. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Hawaii, through the Justice Reinvestment Working Group, studied the current criminal justice system to determine a strategy and develop policies to address prison expansion, create alternatives to incarceration and reduce repeat crimes.

As Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I was invited to join the Justice Reinvestment Working Group comprised of leading state and local officials, Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Pew Center. During the past eight months, the group worked on a strategy and policies to support the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Hawaii.



Public Safety & Military Affairs (PBM) House Committee Chair Aquino and Vice Chair Cullen listening to testimony in support for HB2514.

The administration submitted bills **HB2514**, and **HB2515** based on the Justice Reinvestment Working Group's recommended policies. The bills would amend statutes to require a pre-trial risk assessment to be conducted within three working days; expand the parole board and require the use of validated risk assessments to guide parole decisions; limit length of incarceration for first-time parole violators; increase victim restitution payments by inmates; require a period of parole supervision prior to the maximum sentence date.

2012 Bills of Interest

The following highlights some of the 2012 House bills (HB) I introduced and/or co-sponsored. You may follow these measures from the capitol website at: www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

HB1788 RELATING TO COMPUTER CRIME

This bill updates existing law regarding computer crime to reflect the changes in technology. This bill define cookie, identifying information, phishing and spyware. This bill will also make it a criminal offense to distribute or transfer spyware that modifies an authorized users access to or use of the Internet, or collects the internet addresses visited by an authorized user. In addition, this bill also creates a third degree of computer fraud and incorporates the element of phishing into all three computer fraud offenses.

HB1888 RELATING TO AIR CARRIER FEES

This bill will enable passengers who buy airline tickets on any air carrier authorized to operate in Hawaii to be allowed to check on one bag that does not weigh more than fifty pounds without charge. This bill would help to lower the cost of air travel.

HB2030 (House Draft) HD1 RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE

This bill will help ensure the safety of all Hawaii drivers and emergency first responders, especially in light of the recent highway tragedies involving Honolulu police officers. This bill will require motorists to vacate the lane closest to the authorized stationary emergency vehicle or reduce driving speed until safely clear of the emergency vehicle on a highway.



Representatives from Honolulu Police Department attended a PBM Committee hearing to show support of HB2030

2012 Bills of Interest (cont.)

HB2140 HD1 RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION

In certain cases of reported or suspected child abuse or neglect, this bill protects the child by allowing the child to remain in a safe family home. This bill will allow any police officer to order the alleged perpetrator of the abuse to leave the home.

HB2258 HD1 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING

This bill recognizes the extensive training, education and service military personnel undertake throughout their military career. This bill will allow professional and vocational licensing boards to accept military education, training and service towards the qualifications of a license.

HB2409 RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION

Military personnel and their dependents are increasingly vulnerable to unscrupulous and predatory lending practices. Although there is federal law and regulations to protect military from unfair lending practices, help from state regulators is essential to enforcing the law and protecting military service members and dependents from fraud, deception, and abusive practices. HB2409 will authorize the director of commerce and consumer affairs to enforce certain federal laws that protect military members and their families from abusive lending practices.

HB2410 RELATING TO THE MILITARY

The military plays a vital role in Hawaii's economy and rivals tourism for the largest industry in the State. Therefore, it is critical that measures are taken to preserve the economic benefits from military operations in Hawaii. This bill will strengthen the state economy and maintain the mutually beneficial relationship between the State and the military by requiring the Governor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense to provide continued support for the military's presence in Hawaii.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) FUNDING:

HB2061 – Appropriates funds for CIP at August Ahrens, Waipahu High and Elementary Schools.

HB2643 – Appropriates funds for CIP at Waipahu High School.

HB2794 – Appropriates funds for the planning, design and construction for a second access road to Leeward Community College, Pearl City campus.

2012 Legislature Opening Day in Pictures

Mahalo to everyone who visited the capitol on 1-18-12, the official opening of the 2012 Legislature.



Olelo interview by Waipahu Intermediate School students



Constituent Leonae Rodrigues



Meeting with caregivers



Meeting with members of the community



PROCEDURE TO RENEW, REINSTATE, AND APPLY FOR HAWAII DRIVER LICENSE OR LEARNER'S PERMIT
State to Implement Legal Presence Act Requirements



As noted on the state Department of Transportation (DOT) website, beginning **March 5, 2012** legal presence requirements affects anyone applying for a Hawaii driver's license, including U.S. citizens and foreign-born applicants, those applying for a learner's permit, and permit holders passing their road test to obtain a driver's license. Legal presence also applies to anyone who has just moved to Hawaii from another state or country, and anyone renewing their Hawaii driver's license or permit.

Individuals applying for a Hawaii driver's license or permit will be required to provide proof of identity, social security number and legal presence. To further demonstrate legal presence, the Drivers Licensing Offices will also require at least one of the following documents:

- A valid, un-expired U.S. passport
- An original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a state Department of Health or equivalent agency in the individual's state of birth
- A Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) issued by the U.S. Department of State, Form FS-240, DL-1350 or FS-545
- A valid, un-expired permanent resident card issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Form I-551
- A certificate of naturalization issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Form N-550
- A certificate of citizenship issued by the DHS, Form N-560
- A valid U.S. Active Duty/Retiree/Reservist Military ID Card (DOD ID DD-2)
- A valid foreign passport with Visa and I-94 issued by Customs and Border Protection, DHS

Additional requirements may apply. A full list of the Legal Presence Act requirements and frequently asked questions can be found at www.hawaii.gov/dot and click on the legal presence banner.

Did you know...various agencies offer free tax help to qualifying individuals?

AARP - Free tax help until April 16, 2012. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is a volunteer-run tax assistance service for low- and moderate income taxpayers, notably those ages 60 and older. Call toll-free 888-227-7669 or go to www.aarp.org/taxaide for locations and information. Appointments may be required. Foreign language assistance may be available.

Goodwill - Free tax help until April 10, 2012 to qualified individuals (generally earning less than \$50,000 a year) as part of the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.
Oahu: Kapolei, 2140 Lauwili-wili St.
Days/Hours: Tues. – 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sat. – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) - Free tax help for low-income individuals, those with disabilities, non-English speakers and seniors as well as individuals who qualify for the earned income tax credit and other credits. For locations and appointments, go to www.hawaiitaxhelp.org, call HACBED at 550-2661 or call 211, Aloha United Way's information and referral service.

Congratulations and Mahalo!



Rep. Aquino presenting an honorary certificate to retired Waipahu teacher Lena Sumiye. Mrs. Sumiye spent over 30 years teaching at various area schools such as Waipahu and Honowai Elementary Schools. She was also Rep. Aquino's sixth grade teacher.