



# REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE W.L. CHING

## District 27 Neighborhood Board Newsletter

LILIHA · NUUANU · PUUNUI · ALEWA HEIGHTS · PALAMA

APRIL 2011

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### Representative Ching's 2011 Committees

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- **Tourism (TOU)**
- **Health (HLT)**
- **Human Services (HUS)**
- **Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC)**



Dear Neighbors,

It continues to be my honor to serve as your State Representative. As we have already begun this year's Legislative Session we face more challenges than ever before. If you have any questions or concerns, please always feel free to contact my office at 586-9415 as we value your input. We have enclosed a survey in this issue to provide you an opportunity to give us your feedback.

As we begin this Year of the Rabbit, we are happy to report that our annual events held this past month from our Opening Day Trolley in January to our Annual Liliha-Nu`uanu Candlelight Tour were both successes. We thank all of the participants and volunteers for their support and commitment. Most importantly this year, we launch the first ever Vitality Project here in Liliha which addresses the serious issue of Diabetes. Additionally, we are getting involved with APEC as we hope it will be an opportunity for Liliha.

I appreciate your trust in me, indeed it is a privilege to be your Representative.

Mahalo nui loa,

Representative Corinne W. L. Ching

## REP. CHING TAKES ON THE DIABETES ISSUE BY LAUNCHING FIRST EVER VITALITY PROJECT FOR LILIHA

*What does the "Vitality" project mean for Liliha?* There is nothing more important than future growth and prosperity of our community and its members. The Vitality Project's goal is to add years to the lives of those in the community by encouraging them to make changes in their daily lives. Areas shown to be home to healthiest, longest living humans were classified as "Blue Zones". The Liliha Vitality Project (LVP) will address three main issues: Encouraging members of our community to get out of their homes and exercise and walk in the community, make eating healthier easier and more convenient through community gardens, healthier food choices in restaurants and farmers' markets and finally establishing stronger ties and connectivity among members, civic engagement. You can learn more about Rep. Ching's project by accessing the LVP: Liliha Vitality Project on the ILoveLiliha.org website.

Revitalization, cleaning up the community to make it more walkable and livable, creating community events to make sure connectivity is reached between members of the town, and making fresh fruits and vegetables more a part of our everyday diets, as well as brown rice over white rice are all recipes for a healthier more vibrant Liliha.

**A BUDGET YOU CAN AFFORD**  
**Letting the Sun Shine on Hawaii's Budget Process**  
BY THE HAWAII HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The Hawaii State House Republicans believe that good government means opening the decision making process, including the State budget, to the public. We know that sometimes the best answers are with the people. That is why we have posted our budget online for the people to see and work with to develop their own budget balancing solutions.

From our website, [www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com](http://www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com), you can download an interactive worksheet with the House Republican caucus' plan to close the state's \$1.3 billion budget gap without raising the general excise tax rate, taxing pension income, increasing alcohol taxes, or inventing a new soda tax.

The worksheet is designed to allow you, the taxpayer, to easily choose the spending cuts and revenue increases you believe are best to help Hawaii stay solvent. Like a mortgage calculator, the worksheet keeps track of your selections and lets you know whether your budget is balanced or in a deficit.

To solve the immediate budget crisis of closing a \$200 million budget gap, which must be done by June 30, the House Republicans are proposing five actions:

1. Using the \$46 million balance in the State's rainy day fund, which is meant for times like these.

2. Making a short-term loan of \$47 million from the Hurricane Relief Fund that will be paid back in 2013. Permanently everything in the fund, as others have suggested, would put Hawaii at risk of never recovering from a natural disaster. It would also hurt our bond rating, increasing the future cost of every state project.

3. Postponing some of the income tax refunds, for those not urgently needing the refund, until July 2011.

4. Retaining the 50-50 split between public employee and the state for health care premiums.

5. Temporarily postponing paying a portion of the amounts due hospitals and doctors for Medicaid health services. The balance would be paid in July.

Proposals like this don't come easily. We would prefer not to take some of those actions. But, as every family knows, you can't spend money you do not have.

For the following two fiscal years, we need to take more possibly controversial steps to close an additional \$1.1 billion deficit. House Republican proposals to accomplish this include: selling idle or under-performing property, such as Aloha Tower Marketplace; continuing the two-day per month furloughs for state employees, except for teachers and education staff; restructuring state hospitals and Medicaid services, and reducing Governor Abercrombie's budget request by nearly a quarter



Members of the House Minority Caucus (From L-R) Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Aaron Johanson, Rep. Corinne Ching, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Kym Pine, Rep. Gil Riviere, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, Rep. Gene Ward.

of a billion dollars.

Some of our proposals will undoubtedly be unpopular. But they are consistent with the priorities we have heard the public voice: do not increase the general excise tax (GET), do not hurt our communities and do not hurt our small businesses.

The Republican Alternate Balanced Budget is a starting point to getting the state to operate within its means and minimizing the harm to Hawaii's families. Even if you don't agree with our plan, we hope it will encourage you to join the dialogue.

We look forward to your feedback, because it will be vital to developing the best solutions for our state and our future.

For more information, please visit the website: [www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com](http://www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com) or call our office 586-9415.

**ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING**

Monday, April 18, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

LANAKILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CAFETERIA

**Agenda:**

State Budget • Liliha Vitality Project • Community Concerns

*light refreshments provided*



**8th Annual  
I Love Liliha Festival  
August 28, 2011**



**LILIHA**

**FREE ADMISSION**

# Liliha Family Easter Egg Hunt



**All Families & Children Welcome!**

Sunday, April 24, 2010

Pu'unui Park

2555 Pu'unui Ave.

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Find the golden egg and win a fun filled Easter Basket!**



**Sponsored by Kahuaka'i Church  
For more information contact 586-9415**

**Representative Corinne W.L. Ching** **Constituent Survey 2011**

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK???**

Would you like to see the proposed tax increase on alcohol and soda passed?

- In Favor
- Opposed

Comments:

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Do you feel the proposal to treat pension income the same as regular income for tax purposes will be beneficial for our senior citizens?

- In Favor
- Opposed
- Unsure

Comments:

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Would you like to see gambling legalized in Hawaii?

- In Favor
- Opposed
- Unsure

Comments:

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Are you in favor of civil unions?

- In Favor
- Opposed
- Unsure

Comments:

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Relating to the "Vitality" initiative, if you could participate in events aimed at boosting

your community's health, well being and economic status. Would you?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me e-mail updates from Rep. Corinne Ching.