



2015-2016 Biennium Legislative Highlights

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives. As always, my highest priorities are to stay in touch, represent your views, and deal with your concerns as best I can. The 2016 legislative session came to a close on May 8th and this newsletter highlights important bills passed and items of community interest.

A number of major projects are now completed such as the Kaiser High School girls locker room and the Aina Haina Elementary School parking lot. Funding has been secured for additional improvements in East Honolulu which include a new girls locker room at Kalani High School, additional classrooms at Niu Valley Middle School, an ADA walkway at Wilson Elementary School, new bathrooms at Aina Haina Public Library, and restoring the Kalauha'iaha'i Fishpond and Lucas Spring in Niu.

As Chair of Housing, legislation was passed this session that: (1) increased monies for additional affordable housing, (2) began a process that can significantly lower housing costs in new developments over time, and (3) provided more funding for homeless transitional housing. Hawaii has one of the highest housing and rental costs in the nation and it is imperative that we find ways to provide relief for our residents.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mahalo,

Haha'ione Elementary School Receives National Blue Ribbon Award

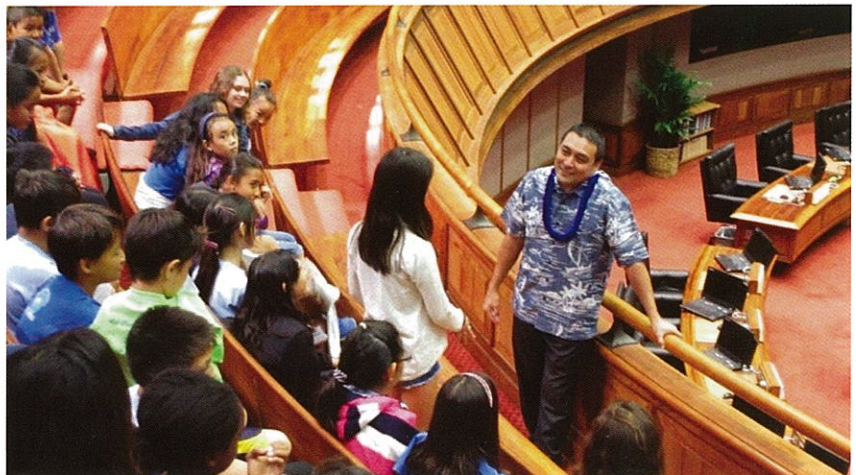


Left to right: Haha'ione Principal Shannon Goo, Haha'ione Teacher Joan Ogata & Rep. Mark J. Hashem.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a US government program that was created in 1982 to honor schools which have achieved high levels of performance or made significant improvements in closing the achievement gap.

Haha'ione Elementary is a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School—one of only three in Hawaii. During Education Week at the Capitol, Principal Shannon Goo and teacher Joan Ogata were honored for the achievements made by the school's staff, teachers and students!

John H. Wilson Elementary School 5th Graders Visit the State Capitol



Happenings In Our Community



Left to Right: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Aaron Koseki, Valerie Chang, Governor David Ige and Representative Mark Hashem. Missing: Stephen Wehrman.

Regulation of Respiratory Therapists

Thanks to the help of East Honolulu residents Aaron Koseki, Stephen Wehrman and Valerie Chang, Governor Ige signed into law SB 2341 which makes the regulation of respiratory therapists in Hawaii permanent. The regulation was due to expire on June 30, 2016.

Hawaii and Alaska were the last two states to regulate respiratory therapists. A State Auditor's Report concluded that permanent regulation was necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers. The regulation has not artificially increased the cost of respiratory therapy services and has not unreasonably restricted entry into the field for qualified practitioners.

Respiratory therapists are specialized healthcare practitioners who work in intensive care, operating rooms, and outpatient clinics. They are specialists who manage life support systems for people in intensive care units and are educators and clinical providers to those with breathing and sleep disorders.



Better Veterinary Pet Care

Hawaii is the last state to recognize veterinary technicians as bona fide health professionals. This year, the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 2671 which will regulate veterinary technicians for the first time. Veterinary technicians support all aspects of pet healthcare and act as a general and surgical nurse, laboratory and radiology technician, anesthetist, and client educator.

Veterinary doctors are highly trained professionals who must complete a four year graduate program and pass a national licensing exam. The public's perception is that veterinary technicians also have formal training however, most veterinary technicians in Hawaii are trained on-the-job.

Our office has worked closely with Dr. Eric Ako, veterinarian-owner of the Pet Doctor in Kahala and past chair of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Examiners (HBVE), Dr. John Kaya – current chair of the HBVE and Sam Geiling – president of the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association to pass SB 2671. The law will require new veterinary technicians to complete an accredited two year college program and pass a national exam.



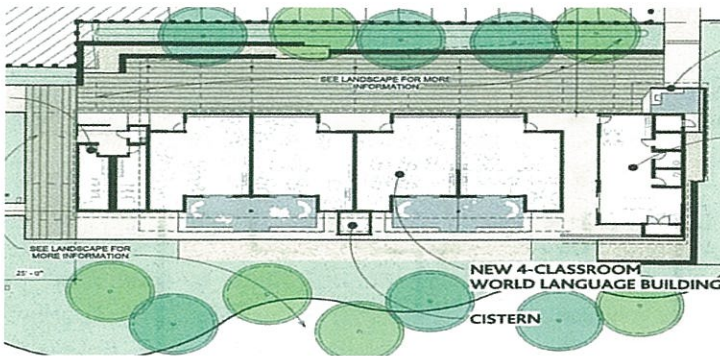
Rep. Hashem & Dr. Eric Ako
Dr. Ako is a Niu Valley resident and veterinarian at the Pet Doctor in Kahala.

Trust for Public Land Seeks Help to Preserve Kanewai Spring

The Trust for Public Land and Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center are working to preserve Kanewai Spring, one of the last remaining freshwater springs in Honolulu. The Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center and hundreds of volunteers have brought the once dark, overgrown and murky spring to life after 5 years of hard work in cooperation with the current land owner. The property is now for sale and the Trust for Public Land is working to raise \$2.65 million in public and private funds by August 31, 2016. You can support them by making a tax-deductible donation. Look for more information on our Easterly Winds page.

Happenings In Our Community

Full Funding for Niu Valley Middle School World Language Building



With the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and the dedicated work of the Niu Valley middle school principal, teachers and staff, the enrollment has grown from 400 students to over 800 students. This year we were able to obtain supplemental funding for four additional classrooms.

HYPE Represents Hawaii in San Antonio



Rep. Hashem with HYPE student members at a recent rehearsal at Niu Valley Middle School.

Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble (HYPE) represented Hawaii at the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy (NCPP) in San Antonio, Texas on May 15, 2016. HYPE was formed by Niu Valley middle school music teacher Zachary Morita. The youth group consists of 14 public school students who performed at the University of Texas-San Antonio. They include students from Niu Valley Middle School and Kaiser High School. HYPE was the only ensemble invited by the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy (NCPP) Board of Advisors to perform at this year's conference. The NCPP is designed to explore the status of percussion education and training in the US.

Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble Student Members (In no particular order): Tressa Dequina, Chelley Endo, Logan Fujitani, Emerson Goo, Natsumi Hamane, Tyler Kam, Maverick Maeda, Triston Roberts, Soma Shimoda, Brayden Silva, Ashley Summers, Ian Wacksman, Scott Watanuki, Nanami Yokoyama.

2016 Legislative Highlights

Sign Language Official Language - SB2981

Recognizes American Sign Language as a world language, and allows public school students who pass courses in American Sign Language to receive credit toward world language graduation requirements.

Prohibiting Latex Gloves - SB911

Prohibits the use of latex gloves by personnel working in food establishments or by emergency medical services. Nearly 68% of children with spina bifida and nearly 17% of health care workers have a latex allergy.

Mopeds Registration - HB 1753

Requires registration, inspections, and number plates for mopeds.

Animal Desertion - SB2512

Establishes penalties for the offense of pet animal or equine animal desertion. Imposes a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for each desertion of each pet animal and equine animal and a fine not exceeding \$2,000 for each recklessly caused death of or substantial bodily injury to each pet animal and equine animal, in addition to any other penalties.

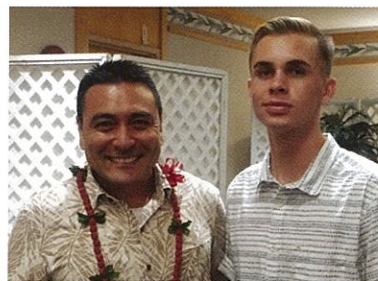
The Care Act - HB2252

Requires hospitals to adopt and maintain written discharge policies consistent with recent updates to federal regulations. Supports families by enabling patients in inpatient hospitals to designate a caregiver prior to discharge or transfer from the facility.

Kona International Airport - HB1736

Renames the Kona International Airport as the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport.

National Merit Scholarship Awardee Peter Johnson



Congratulations to Kalani High School Senior, Peter Johnson, who was awarded a National Merit Scholarship and is one of 42 valedictorians at Kalani. Peter interned in our office his Sophomore year during the 2014 Legislative Session. He will be attending Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA.

Affordable Housing & Homeless

Public opinion polls continue to highlight the housing and homeless problems as critical issues that the State of Hawaii, along with the City and County of Honolulu, need to address. Homelessness also is likely to be a long term problem due to Hawaii's inviting climate and high housing and living costs.

While many people believe the State and City & County are not doing enough, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State Legislature have **appropriated over \$123,141,000 for affordable housing and homeless services.** Below are the latest HUD and State Budget amounts for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.



Fair Housing Awareness Day at the Capitol

Left to right: Jelani Madaraka, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Carolyn Vierra, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Rep. Mark J. Hashem and Marcus Kawatachi, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.



Ola Ka Ilima Artspace Lofts - above

Received an allocation of \$14,250,000 of federal and \$7,120,500 of state Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). The 84-unit affordable rental, to be built on land owned by the Hawaii Community Development Authority on Waimanu Street, will give preference to artists with incomes of 30 to 60 percent of the area median income (AMI).

Re-development of Mayor Wright Housing

Hawaii Public Housing Authority has signed a predevelopment agreement with a development team headed by Hunt Companies. HPHA plans to build approximately 1500 new affordable and market rental units on the existing sight. Construction is planned for 2018.

Affordable Housing & Homeless Funding

HUD Funding

- **\$10,000,000** Tier 1 Continuum of Care for homeless housing and service programs.
- **\$831,397** Tier 2 Continuum of Care for homeless housing and service programs.
- **\$3,000,000** Housing Trust Fund to build new affordable housing.

State of Hawaii Funding

- **\$3,000,000** Housing Trust Fund to build new affordable housing.
- **\$66,600,000** to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to construct approximately 600 new affordable rental units.
- **\$1,055,928** for the state rent supplement program.

State of Hawaii Funding - Continued

- **\$29,150,000** to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for improvements, and renovations. HPHA manages 85 properties, **housing 31,000 individuals** and 10% were formerly homeless. HPHA also administers 5,265 federal Section 8 rental assistant vouchers.
- **\$27,773,864** for homeless services, including a lump sum of \$12,000,000 to be used as necessary for homeless programs.
- **\$25,000,000** to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund for infrastructure construction related to affordable housing.
- **\$4,230,000** in tax credits for construction loans to developers of low-income housing projects.

Easterly Winds

District 18: Kahala, Waialae, Aina Haina, Niu Valley, Kuliouou, and Hahaione

Summer 2016

Representative Mark Jun Hashem

Friends of Aina Haina Public Library in partnership with Rotary of East Honolulu

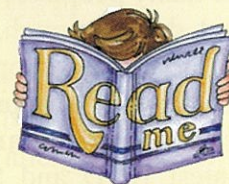
Mark Your
Calendars!

Aina Haina Library Annual Book Sale

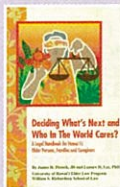
Friday, September 23rd and Saturday, September 24th

10:00am to 4:00pm

5246 Kalaniana'ole Highway, located in the Aina Haina Shopping Center



Many topics to select from, including fiction, children's books, Hawaiiana, art, history, DVDs and CDs, at bargain prices. The sale will be located in the library meeting room and at the front of the library. Proceeds from the sale will go to Aina Haina Public Library to support programs, events, services and resources provided by the library. For more information, check them out at www.ainahainalibrary.org or call 377-2456.



Deciding What's Next and Who in the World Cares?

We have a limited supply of a Legal Handbook by James H. Pietsch, JC and Lenora H. Lee, PhD with the University of Hawaii Elder Law Program, William S. Richardson School of Law. This book will guide you through several areas of legal concerns affecting older persons as well as their families and those who care for them.

- If you are a constituent and would like a copy of the handbook, please call our office at 586-6510.
- The handbook can be viewed on: www.elderlyaffairs.com
- If you have further questions, please call the Elderly Affairs Division **Senior Helpline** at 768-7700.

Hawaii Senior's Fair The Good Life Expo

Showcasing products and services related to Travel, Health, Nutrition, Crafts, Financial Services, Estate Information, Home Products and much more.

When: September 23, 24, 25

8:30am to 4:30pm

Where: Neal Blaisdell Center

Admission is Free

Discard medication that you no longer need - Go to booth #540 near the main entrance of the event.



Family Caregiving Guide

The Family Caregiving Guide, a guide for family caregivers and the people who support them is currently being updated by the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu. The updated version should be available by the Fall of 2016.

- If you are a constituent and would like a copy sent to you, please call our office at 586-6510. We will be compiling a list and will send them out as soon as they become available.
- The Family Caregiving Guide, 2013 edition may be viewed online at the following website: <https://www.elderlyaffairs.com/>
- More information is available by calling the **Senior Helpline** at 768-7700.

The Trust for Public Land and Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center

are committed to raising \$350,000 before August 31st to purchase and forever protect Kanewai Spring in Kuliouou. \$1.3 million has been approved by the state Board of Land and Natural Resources from the Legacy Land Conservation Program and another \$1 million will come from the City's Land Conservation Fund to go toward the purchase. Kanewai Spring feeds into Kanewai Fishpond, the Paiko Wildlife Sanctuary, and Maunaloa Bay.

For more information contact

Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center at 382-0847
or kanewaispring.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Representative Mark Jun Hashem

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Summer 2016

Improvements to Our District

Kalani High School Girls Locker Room Breaks Ground in 2017



Kalani High School received funding for a new girls locker room complex to comply with Title IX requirements. Included in the project is a new multi-purpose room which will be shared by the wrestling, judo and cheerleading teams which currently practice in the cafeteria. The new facility is scheduled to break ground in early 2017 and will be on the mauka side of the track next to the gym.

Aina Haina Public Library Gets ADA Restroom

Currently Aina Haina Public Library's wheelchair patrons cannot be accommodated in the public restroom and must be directed to a staff restroom in another section of the library. This year we were able to obtain \$100,000 to make the public restroom ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Community groups that use the library after hours will be happy to hear that once the public restroom has been upgraded they will not have to pay overtime to keep a library staffer on duty.

New Kaiser High School Track 2017 New Girls Locker Room Nov. 2016

The new Kaiser High school track is scheduled to break ground in early 2017 after the 2016 football season. The project consists of a synthetic field and new rubberized track. The new girls locker room is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed by November of 2016.



East Honolulu School Improvements

Kalani High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Purpose Athletic Facility & Girls Locker Room • Walkway Repairs 	Niu Valley Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New World Language Bldg. • Reroof D & E Building • Replace Band Room Air-Conditioning
Kaiser High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reroof D Building • Athletic Facility & School Lighting • Replace Football Scoreboard 	Hahaione Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room Renovations • Reroof Buildings
Aina Haina Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repaint Interior 	Wilson Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Walkway Improvement & Fencing