

Community Update

State Representative Linda Ichiyama • 2011 Legislative Session
415 S Beretania Street, Room 426 • Honolulu HI 96813 • 586-6220



Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you in the House of Representatives. I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the 26th Legislature. This session we overcame many significant challenges, including a serious budget deficit and the tragic events following the tsunami in Japan. By pulling together as a State, we not only helped our neighbors down the street, but also our neighbors in Japan. We passed legislation to reform our government retirement system, improve public education with an appointed board of education and ensure long-term quality care for our kupuna. This newsletter discusses many of the important bills that will affect you and your family.

As the Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, I was able to work on many issues close to home, including our State Highways and the Honolulu International Airport. I remain committed to working with you towards making our community a better place to live. Please keep in touch with me about your concerns. Your participation in the democratic process is essential if we are to continue to produce good laws and make our government work for the people. I look forward to speaking with you in the future and thank you for the privilege of serving you in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Ichiyama".

Linda Ichiyama
State Representative
31st District
Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu

Rep. Ichiyama Passes Legislation to Support Women and Our Community

HR 149 - Completion of Salt Lake District Park Master Plan

HR149 urges the City and County of Honolulu to complete the implementation of the Salt Lake District Park Master Plan and requests a report of its progress to the Legislature prior to its next session in 2012. The Salt Lake District Park was developed in the 1980's. In later years, a Salt Lake Master Plan was drafted to include the construction of a walking and biking trail connecting the Salt Lake District Park to the Ala Puumalu Community Park. This will expedite these long awaited improvements.

HR 9 - Involving Women in the Political Process

Rep. Ichiyama introduced HR9, which encourages women to take active roles in public life, including business and government and provides support for women to fully participate by recognizing the need for educational opportunities and family care.

Women are an influential force in Hawaii and often the backbone of our families, but trying to balance home, work and education can be overwhelming. Hawaii women should feel that their voices are being heard and that they have a say in meaningful issues which impact their lives and families.

HCR 173 - Protecting Kamananui Valley

Kamananui Valley is one of Hawaii's most treasured cultural and historical areas. As Oahu becomes more urbanized, many families and visitors appreciate Kamananui Valley's wildlife, plants, and cultural artifacts.

In order to protect Kamananui Valley, the last remaining undeveloped ahupua'a in urban Honolulu, HCR172 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with the Moanalua Gardens Foundation to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and to provide a progress report to the Legislature prior to its next session in 2012



Congratulations to Salt Lake Elementary School on their 40th Anniversary!



Rep. Ichiyama and Rep. Johanson explain the legislative process to students from Aliamanu Elementary School.

Highlights of the 2011 Hawaii State Legislative Session

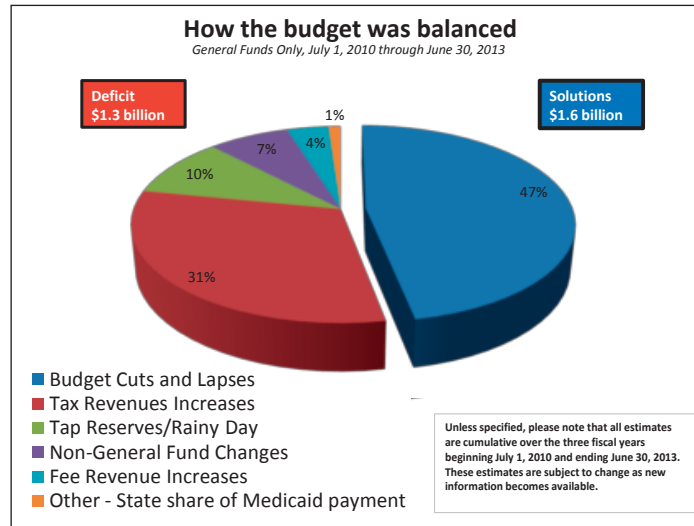
At the start of the session, the primary challenge facing the legislature was how to address a \$1.3 billion deficit (over the current fiscal year 2011 and the next biennium FY12 and FY13), after facing and closing a \$2.1 billion deficit in 2009 and another \$1.2 billion in 2010. As in 2009 and 2010, the legislature balanced the budget this year through a combination of budget cuts and increasing revenue. About half of the deficit was closed by making cuts to the State budget, **avoiding a raise in the general excise tax (GET) which would have seriously impacted every resident and business in the State.**

HOW THE BUDGET WAS BALANCED

HB200 State budget bill. The budget covers the next two years and appropriates \$5.4 billion in General Funds (\$11 billion in All Means of Financing) for FY12, and \$5.5 billion (\$10.9 billion in All MOF) for FY13. In order to solve a projected deficit of \$1 billion over the next two years, the legislature was forced to make over \$600 million in cuts and passed revenue generating bills totaling over \$600 million.

To alleviate the budget crisis, the legislature passed **HB575** which extended 5% pay cuts for state legislators, judges, the governor, lieutenant governor, and department heads and deputies.

Revenue generation bills include: **SB120 Non-general fund transfers.** Transfers \$38 million from special funds to the General Fund.



SB570 Tax deduction. Eliminates the deduction for state taxes paid for high income individuals, temporarily limits itemized deductions for high income individuals, and delays the standard deduction increase for low-income filers. This will generate \$113.5 million.

SB754 Repeal GET exemptions. Repeals various GET business exemptions for two years, which generates \$385.8 million.

SB1186 TAT and HTA Cap. Caps the counties' share of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) until 2015, generating \$40.4 million. Caps the TAT going to the Hawaii Tourism Authority, generating \$34.9 million.

HB1039 Rental Vehicle Surcharge. Increases the rental vehicle surcharge for one year and diverts the increase to the General Fund for only one year, which generates \$60 million for FY12.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The budget bill includes an investment

in local infrastructure, mostly through the issuance of general obligation (GO) bonds, to help stimulate job creation through the construction industry and to ensure that state facilities are properly maintained. Total appropriations for the next two fiscal years is \$2.8 billion. The CIP budget funds:

- \$816 million for Department of Transportation projects - airports, highways and harbors
- \$328 million for Department of Education projects, including charter schools and public libraries
- \$174 million for the University of Hawaii system
- \$149 million for the Department of Health and the state hospital system
- \$7.8 million to repair and reconstruct infrastructure due to tsunami damage
- \$20 million for various grants to nonprofit organizations

GOVERNMENT REFORM

HB1038 Employees' Retirement System unfunded liability. For state and county workers hired prospectively (after June 30, 2012), the bill makes needed changes by decreasing employees' benefits and increasing contribution rates in order to maintain the retirement system in a fiscally responsible manner and reduce the state's unfunded liability in the future.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

SB651 Mortgage foreclosures (Act 48). With the passage of this bill, Hawaii has one of the strongest mortgage



The Moanalua High School string ensemble with Music Director, Mr. Elden Seta, perform on Opening Day.



Rep. Ichiyama assists with 1st grade vision screening at Moanalua Elementary School.



Rep. Ichiyama and fellow legislators show their support for seniors at the Kupuna Rally at the State Capitol.



Rep. Ichiyama participates in a forum featuring young elected officials hosted by KITV.

foreclosure laws protecting owner-occupants in the country. The new law establishes a 3-year Mortgage Foreclosure Dispute Resolution Program for non-judicial foreclosures beginning no later than October 1, 2011. The law voids any mortgage foreclosure actions taken by an unlicensed nonexempt mortgage servicer and prohibits egregious misconduct by foreclosing mortgagees.

Among other things, the law also permits under certain circumstances the conversion of non-judicial foreclosures to judicial foreclosures. The law prohibits deficiency judgments after non-judicial foreclosures under certain circumstances. It also requires certain large mortgage servicers to maintain an office in Hawaii to address consumer inquiries, complaints, and to accept service of process starting July 1, 2012. There is now a moratorium on any new non-judicial foreclosure under the old process until July 1, 2012.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

SB8 Appointed BOE (Act 5).

Implements the constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2010 requiring that the Board of Education members be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Allows the governor to nominate candidates directly and requires those nominees to meet certain qualifications.

HB945 Student instructional time (Act 52). Implements the minimum school year and student instructional hours requirements passed last session in a feasible and fiscally responsible way. Exempts multi-track schools from the requirement, staggers the implementation of the student instructional hours requirements, permits waivers, and requires the DOE to assess the ability of schools to comply.

HB688 School bullying. Provides for a safer learning environment by requiring the Board of Education to monitor the Department of Education for compliance with the rules and statutes on bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying. Requires a compliance report to the Board.

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

HB1520 On-bill financing. Supports the state's clean energy objectives by requiring the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an on-bill financing program that would allow electric company (i.e. HECO) customers to purchase or acquire a renewable energy system or device, and provide for billing and payment through the customer's electricity bill. Allows the PUC to implement such a program.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

HB865 Invasive species (Act 36).

Provides the State with increased revenue to detect, quarantine and eradicate invasive species. The measure raises inspection fees from 50 cents to 75 cents per 1,000 pounds of freight, or part thereof, brought into the State to fund inspection programs.

HEALTH

HB597 Quality Assurance Committees.

Establishes that the proceedings and records of quality assurance committees made up of members from various healthcare organizations have similar protections as committees formed in hospitals, HMOs and statewide trauma care systems. Increases patient safety and overall quality of care.

SB40 Pseudoephedrine tracking.

Establishes a tracking system for the sale

of over-the-counter products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine to prevent their use in the illegal manufacture and sale of methamphetamine (ice).

SB1348 Health Insurance Exchange.

Establishes the Hawaii Health Connector, the state's health insurance exchange, pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The Connector will facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health and dental plans, enable consumers to purchase coverage and manage health and dental plans electronically, and serve as a clearinghouse for information.

TRANSPORTATION

SB1328 Vehicle Registration

Fees. Improves the Department of Transportation's ability to construct, operate and maintain the State highway system by increasing the motor vehicle registration fee from \$25 to \$45, and increases the portion deposited into the State Highway Fund.

SB1329 Vehicle Weight Tax. Increases the vehicle weight tax in order to improve and better maintain State highways, including road repaving, sidewalks, guidrails, and crosswalks.

HOUSING

HB960 Low income housing tax credits. Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to grant no-interest low-income housing tax credit loans in order to encourage the development and preservation of rental housing for lower income families.

SB903 Affordable rental units.

Creates the affordable rental housing development program. Allows non-profits to acquire expiring federal housing contracts to ensure that projects remain affordable housing.



State Representative
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Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu

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Town Hall Meeting

Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu

Wednesday, July 6, 2011 • 6:00-7:30 pm
Salt Lake Elementary School Cafeteria

*Please join me and Senator Glenn Wakai for chili and rice
as we share with you the highlights of the 2011 legislative session.*

DISTRICT 31 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following projects have been approved by the legislature and are in the State budget.

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL

\$600,000 supplemental funding for the first phase of construction of the Performing Arts Center, which will eventually include a 1,000 seat auditorium.

\$800,000 for school science facilities upgrades. Renovation of existing science labs to meet safety, work space, utility infrastructure, and storage requirements.

MOANALUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\$2,000,000 for campus electrical and telecommunications upgrades.

SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\$1,000,000 for design, construction and equipment to renovate interior of classrooms in building C.

ROCKFALL & FLOOD MITIGATION

\$1,000,000 for Moanalua Valley rockfall mitigation safety measures.

SALT LAKE APARTMENTS

\$2,600,000 for design and construction of building improvements, and elevator renovation and installation.