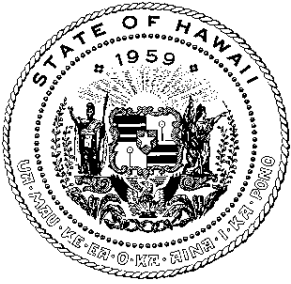


February 2012



Community Update

Representative Linda Ichiyama

House District 31: Moanalua, Salt Lake, Aliamanu
Room 426 • Phone # 586-6220



Aloha Neighbors,

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you in the State House of Representatives. The State House of Representatives opened the 2012 legislative session on Wednesday, January 18th at the State Capitol.

After a busy start to the legislative session, all bills have been introduced and are being heard within the House and Senate. The legislature is also working on the State budget for the 2013 fiscal year. In addition to tackling the challenges of the budget, I will continue to work with my colleagues to address important issues to improve our State and our community.

As we continue through the legislative session, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Your participation in the democratic process is essential to producing good laws and ensuring that our government responds to the needs of its people. If you would like to discuss issues, community concerns, or if there is any way I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at my office at 586-6220.

Sincerely,

The 2012 Tax Season is almost here!



Need Help Filing Your Taxes?

If you make **less than \$49,000** annually, you may be eligible for free tax help.

The following sites provide **free tax assistance services** to low-to-moderate income workers (by appointment only):

ALU LIKE, INC.

458 Keawe Street

Tue. and Thurs., 4:30-6:30pm; (last appt. 6pm)

Call (808) 548-1925 (between 8am-1pm)

Start: 1/31-End: 4/12

Honolulu Community Action Program

33 S. King Street

Mon., Wed. and Fri., 9am-Noon

Call (808) 521-4531

Start: 2/01-End: 4/13

Hawaii Schools Federal Credit Union

233 Vineyard Street

Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm

Call (808) 791-6224

Start: 2/01-End: 4/13

For more info regarding eligibility, required materials, and answers to FAQs:

<http://www.hawaiiataxhelp.org/learn/eitc-faqs/>

Opening Day



Rep. Ichiyama meets with members of the State Department of Defense, Brigadier General Joseph Kim, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anthony, and Major General Darryll Wong (left to right).



Crew members of 'Olelo Community Media interview Rep. Ichiyama on Opening Day.



Members of ILWU Local 142 with Rep. Ichiyama.



“They (women in the armed forces) are role models and we admire their courage and perseverance.”

– Rep. Ichiyama

**2012 Women’s Legislative Caucus:
“Service and Sacrifice”
Dedicated to Women Veterans**



Pictured above: Members of the Women’s Legislative Caucus and honored guests Theresa Johnson, manager of the Tripler Army Fisher Houses and Chelsea Fernandez, veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve.



Theresa Johnson speaks on behalf of the Tripler Army Fisher Houses, a nonprofit organization that provides housing for military families during stressful times-hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

Current Legislation

Bills Introduced by Rep. Ichiyama:



HB2194

Our kupuna population is growing rapidly, creating a greater need for education about long term care. Many in our community do not know how to plan for long term care issues. In support of healthy senior living, HB2194 will fund a long term care education campaign, which will be conducted and evaluated by the Department of Health. The campaign will promote awareness of issues in long term care, including planning for long term care, available resources and making the most of independent living.

HB 2250

The economic recession has made a huge impact on our local economy, leaving many able-bodied workers unemployed. To help the economic recovery and get people back to work, the State will allocate money to establish an emergency environmental workforce. The research corporation of the University of Hawaii will work with the Pacific Cooperative Students Unit to administer the workforce program, which will employ 500-750 people who were terminated from their last job as an effect of the economic downturn. The workforce will assist the State in maintaining and improving watersheds across the State, including eradication of several species of invasive plants, insects and amphibians.

HB2729

In an increasingly competitive economy, having an education is even more important to secure a quality high-paying job. Adult educational programs provide a way for those outside the traditional age range of public school students to gain basic educational skills, complete a high school education, and actively contribute to society. Due to recent budget cuts, the Department of Education is considering closing all of its Adult Community Schools. HB 2729 allocates \$3,500,000 from the General Fund toward adult education to continue our community school programs and help to put more people back to work.

Community Meeting Schedule

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

- 7:00pm Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at Moanalua Middle School, Rm B2

Moanalua Valley Community Association

- 7:00pm Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at Moanalua Valley Golf Clubhouse

Neighborhood Board # 18 (Salt Lake/Aliamanu/Foster Village)

- 7:00pm Thursday, February 9, 2012 at Oahu Veterans Center