



REPRESENTATIVE DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI

Twenty-Seventh Legislature
House of Representatives, State of Hawai'i
District 14: East and North Kaua'i

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you want to share your concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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and Commerce**

Committee Member of:
Judiciary
Energy & Environmental
Protection
Ocean, Marine Resources, and
Hawaiian Affairs
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Aloha Kakou!

As session ends I am left with a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of this past session. It also gives me an opportunity to ponder on what we can improve as well.

One of the main accomplishments this past session is the repeal of Act 55 commonly known as the Public Land Development Corporation, or PLDC. Although there were many benefits that this may have brought to the state of Hawai'i, it took the voice of concerned citizens to point out some of the many unintended consequences of this measure. I am pleased to say that the people have spoken and we have listened.

This session we worked with a constituent and the Office of the Kaua'i County Prosecuting Attorney to introduce a bill that includes partners in a dating relationship to be covered and protected against domestic violence. The bill also extends the period, from 24 to 48 hours, whereby partners need to remain away from each other after physical abuse occurs. This provides additional time for the individuals to cool down, collect themselves, and reflect on alternate solutions to their problems. (HB 587)

I also sponsored a bill to provide tax credits for business owners who hire people with various disabilities. Throughout the years I have had the chance to work with the Friendship House, an organization that works to improve the lives of individuals with mental or physical disabilities by getting them job ready. Through this partnership, I discovered a workforce that bring outstanding capabilities and pride in the workplace. This measure intends to provide incentives for businesses so we can break down the walls and create greater access to employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. I will continue to work on this bill next session. (HB 1298)

We were able to pass a resolution (HR 149) urging Congress to require genetically engineered products to be labeled. In a day and age where an informed consumer is an empowered consumer, we felt that an individual's right to know what is in their food was in order. We are happy to report that shortly after our resolution passed, Congress introduced a measure to accomplish just that.

Last year, we lost our dear Senator Daniel K. Inouye. The Senator's legacy has spanned decades and has benefitted our island, our state, our nation, and the world in ways that words can do no justice. One of his characteristics was his ability to illuminate Hawai'i's citizens and needs. He served as a beacon of hope for our state. With the support of my colleagues in the House and Senate, we were able to pass a resolution urging Congress to rename the Kilauea Lighthouse in honor of Senator Daniel K. Inouye. (HCR 41)

In the closing days of the session, four representatives were unanimously elected by the Majority and Minority Caucus to serve in leadership positions (HR 218). I will serve as an Assistant Majority Leader in the 2014 Legislative Session. I look forward to my new assignment ; however, for the interim, it will be my pleasure to see all of you in the stores, streets, restaurants, and beautiful beaches of our beloved Kaua'i. It is so good to be coming home again. "Take me home, country roads."



With love and aloha,

Waipa Foundation receives \$200,000 Grant in Aid (GIA)

A community dream that has been in the making for the past 30 years will reach one of its significant milestones of constructing a kitchen, poi mill, and imu with assistance from a State Grant In Aid of \$200,000. Legislators recognized the organization's efforts to raise 60% of the 1.7 million to build these facilities and will reach 100% very shortly. The Waipa Foundation serves as a Native Hawai'ian learning center for the North Shore ahupua'a to reaffirm the long term sustainability of the land for the benefit of our island communities.



Mahalo to Stacy Sproat-Beck and Johanna Ventura for their work and dedication at the Waipa Foundation as well as their diligent lobbying efforts at the State Legislature.

Kaua'i House District 14 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) 2013

House District 14 requests received the following allocations:

- Installation of waterline improvements to upgrade fire sprinkler system at Kilauea School— \$1.3 million
- Design, construction, site improvements and equipment for renovation of the old Kilauea School cafeteria; historic building will house the administrative offices thus providing more classroom space in the main building.— \$1.5 million
- Design and land acquisition for safety improvements of intersection Mailihuna Road and Kuhio Highway (Kealia Bridge)- \$448,000
- County of Kaua'i subsidy to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust for plans, land acquisition, and design for the former Coco Palms site- \$270,000

KISC Takes Top State Award-Greatest Hit of 2012



The Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee led by Karen Gunderson and a core of dedicated volunteers protected Kaua'i from invasive species such as the mongoose and coqui frog. KISC

early detection program takes a proactive approach which was recognized by Governor Abercrombie at the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Awards Ceremony.

Kapaa Middle School AVID Students Visit the State Capitol



On April 19, 2013, Kapa'a Middle School Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students visited the Capitol after checking out several college campuses on Oahu. AVID is an American college

readiness system designed to increase the number of students to enroll in four-year colleges by providing critical life skills for academic success.

The Hashimoto Family @ the State Capitol



Uncle Thomas Hashimoto of Haena awaiting his confirmation as a member of the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee, who advises the Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources, on issues related to land management through the ancient 'Aha Moku System and its best practices. He is accompanied by his wife Annie and daughter, Dancette. His term expires on 6/30/2016.

New Bargaining Unit 14 For Lifeguards

Last session, Representative Kawakami introduced HB 2627 to create a new bargaining unit for water safety officers. This bill would have ensured that those who are responsible for ensuring our safety at our beaches get the recognition they deserve at the bargaining table. However, it failed to pass. This session, SB 883 passed. This bill creates a new bargaining unit to include state law enforcement officers, and state and county ocean safety and water safety officers effective July 1, 2013.



Photo courtesy of Jeff McIntosh



Legislative Accomplishments 2013 Hawai'i State Legislature

Throughout this first year of the legislative biennium, the House of Representatives focused on the state's long term needs such as long term fiscal liabilities, repaying our reserve funds, promoting economic development, education, sustainability, and improving the quality of life for residents. As Vice Chair of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee and a member of various committees, Representative Kawakami rallied for early education and teacher's salaries; expansion of agriculture and entrepreneurial initiatives; addressed tough issues such as GMO labeling, medical marijuana, animal cruelty, protecting the rights of the media; and reaffirm his commitment to our kupuna by supporting appropriations for programs, such as funds to address Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia services. Here is a snapshot of highlighted measures; more information is available on the State Capitol website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov or call the Office of Representative Kawakami at 808-586-8435 or email: repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. Works toward developing the early foundation and support necessary for Hawai'i's children to avoid remedial training and achieve success in their future educational endeavors by proposing an amendment to the Hawai'i State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for all eligible children. (SB1084 CD1)

INSTALLATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS BY LANDLORDS AND LESSORS. Exempts landlords and lessors who install renewable energy systems on properties and provide, sell, or transmit electricity generated from those renewable energy systems to tenants or lessees on the premises from the definition of "public utility" under certain conditions. Requires certain disclosures with regard to rate schedules or formulae in the lease agreement for the protection of the lessees or tenants. Specifies that provisions of this measure shall not be construed as to permit wheeling. (SB19 CD1)

RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: Establishes a regulatory financing structure to provide low-cost loans for green infrastructure equipment. (SB1087 SD2 HD3 CD1)

CHOICE OF PHARMACY-Protect the right of Hawai'i residents to utilize services of their community pharmacist rather than being forced to obtain their needed prescription medications only through the mail; ensures patient choice, and creates fair competition among large Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and local community pharmacies. (HB 65 HD2 SD2 CD1)

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM TREATMENT- Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorder treatments. This bill will remain in conference until the 2014 session. (SB 668)

TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATION TAX. Maintaining the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) rate at 9.25 percent; Allocating \$93,000,000 annually to the counties. Note : Kaua'i County- \$10 Million) (SB1194 CD1)

EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND. Accelerates the recapitalization of the State's "rainy day fund" by transferring an additional \$50,000,000 from general funds to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2013-2014. (SB1094 CD1)

HURRICANE RESERVE TRUST FUND; RECAPITALIZATION. Accelerates the recapitalization of the Hurricane Reserve Trust Fund, whose funds had been used by the State to help cope with the economic challenges caused by the Great Recession, by transferring an additional \$50,000,000 from general funds to the Hurricane Reserve Trust Fund for fiscal year 2013-2014. (SB1092 CD1)

MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT. Extends the motion picture, digital media, and film production tax credit until 2019; increase percentage of production costs by five percent and increase the ceiling amount for total credits claimed per qualifying production from \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000. Requires transparency in the application of the credit by providing important reporting mechanisms to document the qualifying production costs of entities that claim the credit and to determine the effectiveness of the credit. (HB726 CD1)

RENAMING KILAUEA POINT LIGHTHOUSE. Urging the United States Congress to recognize the legacy of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye by designating the Kilauea Point Lighthouse on the island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i, as the Daniel K. Inouye Point Lighthouse. Representative Kawakami was the first primary introducer of this resolution. (HCR 41)



DEDICATED MAY 4, 2013



Representative Kawakami was honored to be accompanied by his Aunt, former Representative Bertha C. Kawakami, on the 2013 Legislature Opening Day.

Photo Gallery



Session Staff Rise Doi and Polly Phillips assist visitors to the Capitol office of Representative Kawakami. The HCAP Head Start Program lobbying on behalf of the early education bills.



Mahalo Marilyn Pollock for your three decades of community service and utilizing art as a medium to teach students about history, culture, and science. Kilauea School students Lilianna Perry and Mason Gibson accompanied her as they revealed a beautiful mural of the reef.



Representative Kawakami delivered the invocation for the floor session on March 2, 2013. "The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."- Ernest Hemingway



Theresa Octavio, Anthony Garma, Shane Vegas, Abraham Jimenez, William Newell, and El Doi from the Kauai Developmental Disabilities Council visited the Capitol to discuss developmental disabilities issues with the Kauai delegation.



Representative Tokioka, Senator Kouchi, and Representative Kawakami visited the Kauai Grown table at the Capitol for Hawaii Agriculture Awareness Day with representatives from the Kauai Farm Bureau.