

2013 Bill Introduction

The following are a list of bills that I will be introducing in the 2013 Legislature. Among the legislative goals that I have set for this session are measures that will develop the economy, preserve our environment, enhance education, and improve government.

Developing the Economy

In order for the University of Hawaii at Hilo to move to the next level, I am proposing the creation of the **Hawaii Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation**. This will be a public-private entity that will work to coordinate and focus our economic efforts toward defined goals and objectives. It will provide a broader economic base for the County of Hawaii and provide direct benefits to the people of our state.

Preserving our Environment

Preserving and protecting our environment involves managing the a'ina to ensure available resources for all citizens. Toward this end, I am proposing the development of a **County Game Management Commission**, which will have management authority for state lands within the County to ensure that natural resources including wildlife are available to Hawaii residents well into the future.

To plan and care for the management and preservation of this very special resource, I am proposing the creation of the **Waipio Valley Management District** a local authority made up of residents and land owners.

Planning for Sustainability

Everyone talks about food sustainability but our current education system is not turning out the farmers necessary to grow that food. The **Hawaii Agricultural Leadership Program**, to be housed at the University of Hawaii, will work with high schools through the Future Farmers of America Program to train and expand our agricultural leadership program. This would reinvigorate our agricultural sector.

In order to address our energy needs, it will be critical to be prepared for the 2015 roll-out of commercially available hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. To prepare for this opportunity, I am proposing a **Hydrogen Fueling Station Demonstration Project** to be the first hydrogen fueling station in the State of Hawaii.

After 55 years since statehood, it is critical that we begin a re-examination of state programs and services. Key to this is a conscious review of the **Hawaii State Plan**. Adopted by the legislature in the 1980's, the plan provided a road map to guide growth and development in the state. The plan, however, has fallen seriously out of date and must be amended. Key in this discussion will be an examination of how legislation we adopt fits into the Hawaii State Plan and

the impact that these bills will have on the future of Hawaii. Asking these very simple questions will go a long way in planning for our future.

To help students and educators plan for their future, the **Middle School Testing Pilot** will provide students, teachers, counselors and parents with meaningful assessment of student standings earlier in their educational career.

To ensure effective state government and to build employee and employer capacity, the **Hawaii Employee Training Program** will help to develop employee skills and capacity to assure effective public service.

The 2013 legislative session will bring many issues and challenges as we work toward a better future for our state. Long-term vision and planning to meet those goals that look beyond the next election cycle is needed if we are to break our dependence on fossil fuels, improve our education system and develop sustainable agriculture.

If you would like to share your thoughts on issues facing our state, please email me at repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov or call 974-4000 extension 6-6680.