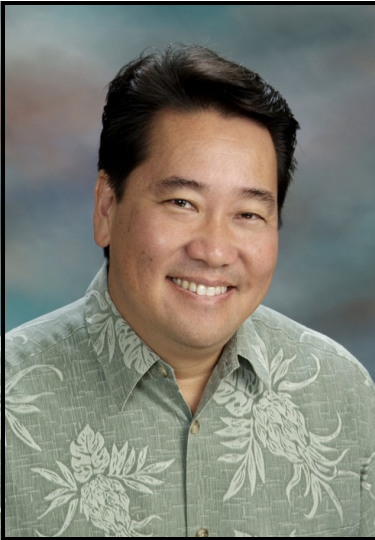


UPCOUNTRY UPDATE



MID-SESSION 2009



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as your State Representative since 2005.

During the Twenty-Fifth Legislative Session, I am serving as the Vice-Chair of the Labor Committee and as a member of the Finance, Transportation and Public Safety Committees. I am also serving as Assistant Majority Whip.

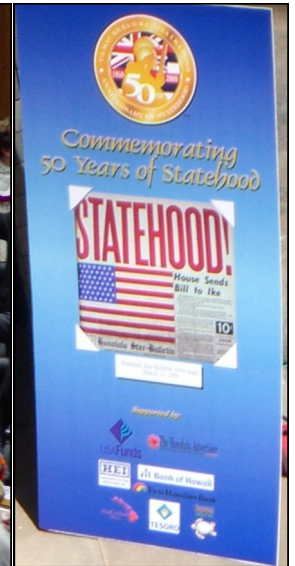
My colleagues and I look forward to a very challenging session as we struggle with our economy. We will seriously need to look into cost cutting measures without jeopardizing the well-being of our people. I will continue to advocate the unique needs of Maui's people.

We remain committed to working with all of you towards making our community and state a better place to live and work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to voice your concerns.

With Warmest Aloha,

Commemoration of Hawaii's Statehood



State Legislators stand to sing Hawaii Pono'i in Celebration of Hawaii's 50th Year as a state.

On Wednesday, March 18th, 2009, the 50th state of the United States of America turned 50 years old. At the Hawaii State Capitol past governors and lawmakers who helped shape the foundation of our government and other dignitaries joined the 25th Legislature and the administration in commemorating this historic event.

President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii Admissions Act on March 18, 1959, and three months later the people of Hawaii voted 17 to 1 to accept statehood.

Members of the First Legislature of Hawaii House of Representatives who were honored this year at the

Statehood Special Joint Session:

1. Thomas P. Gill. Mrs. Lois Gill and son, Mr. Eric Gill;
2. Stanley I. Hara, Mrs. Diane Hara and son, Judge Glenn Hara;
3. Walter M. Heen and Mrs. Norma Heen;
4. George Koga and Mrs. Ruth Koga;
5. Katsugo Miho, Mrs. Laura Miho, and daughter, Ms. Mariko Miho.
6. Frederick W. Roling and Mrs. Roling



The public filled the chamber of the House of Representative to help commemorate Hawaii's 50 years of statehood

2009 MID-SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Kyle with Aaron Nakamura and Darren Strand from Maui Gold Pineapple Company

The Legislature has reached the midpoint of the 2009 Regular Session and I would like to offer you some “Highlights” to the bills that have been passed by the House of Representatives and are now being considered by the Senate.

There is still a long way to go this session, and we will continue to discuss ways to improve these measures and fully address issues that are important to the people of our State. We recognize the importance of maintaining the State’s basic need for health, education, and public safety, and moving the state forward on energy and technology initiatives.

HB984, HD4—Broadband Communications Infrastructure: Through the establishment of a Hawaii Communications Commission, provides the foundation for a high-speed communications infrastructure statewide which will enable Hawaii to participate and compete in the global economy.

HB987, HD2—Statewide Employment Training. Creates a comprehensive state employment training program which would provide assistance to those who have run out of unemployment benefits. Provides temporary employment in needed public service positions. Provides incentives for certain private employers who participate in the program.

HB697, HD1—Temporary Health Insurance for the Unemployed. Ensures that people who lose their health insurance due to the economic downturn are provided a safety net for their health care needs.

HB570, HD1—Coastal Hazards and Shoreline Erosion. Requires government to account for the rise in sea levels and to minimize risk from coastal hazards. Preserves public shoreline access and authorized the counties to account for the rate of shoreline erosion throughout the state

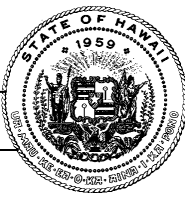
HB986, HD1—Green Schools. Helps schools to improve facilities through technology design. Reduces the cost of energy, decreases carbon emissions and energy dependence, creates “green” jobs in construction, technology, and labor sectors of our community.

HB145, HD2—Red Light Cameras. Establishes a red light camera system which captures images of the driver and vehicle license plates of those disregarding red light traffic laws, to be implemented by the counties.

HB990—Disaster Preparedness: This bill establishes the Office of the Director of Disaster Preparedness and a Disaster Preparedness Commission to develop a plan that includes the identification of hazards and hazard impact zones, disaster mitigation policies, requirements, incentives, and best responses.



Kyle with Nickie Hines on Elderly Care Awareness Day



Happy Easter

From my office to your home, we wish you a very Happy Easter!

I encourage you, and your family, and colleagues to participate in the State legislative process in Hawai'i. Your participation in the legislative process is essential to the preservation of democracy. You really can make a difference! For more information you can visit the capitol website at <http://capitol.hawaii.gov>, or the Hawaii Public Access Website at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>. You can reach me or my staff toll free at 984-2400 ext. 66330. The number for the Public Access Room is toll free 984-2400 ext. 70478.

2009 Legislative Calendar

April 9	Second Decking—Deadline for submitting bills that have been amended by the non-originating chamber. This allows for delivery of the amended bills in their final form to the chamber's members at least 48 hours prior to third reading.
April 16	Second Crossover—Deadline for bills to pass third reading in their non-originating chamber in order to "cross back" to the originating chamber.
April 16	Last Day For The Originating Body To Disagree With Bill Amendments—If the Senate and House disagree on a bill, members from each chamber meet in a "conference" committee to work out their differences.
April 17	First Crossover For Concurrent Resolutions—Deadline for passing the single reading required for resolutions in order to move from the originating chamber to the other chamber.
April 24	Deadline For Final Form Of Bills Proposing Constitutional Amendments—At least 10 days prior to passing final reading by a 2/3 vote in each chamber, written notice of the proposed amendment's final form must be provided to the Governor. Once adopted by the Legislature, the proposed amendment is submitted to the voters, in the form of a 'yes or no' question on the ballot, for ultimate decision.
April 27	Second Crossover For Concurrent Resolutions—Deadline for passing concurrent resolutions in the non-originating chamber in order to "cross back" to the originating chamber.
April 30	Final Decking Of Non-Fiscal Bills—Deadline for submitting non-fiscal bills for final reading by both chambers.
May 1	Final Decking Of Fiscal Bills—Deadline for submitting fiscal bills for final reading by both chambers. Fiscal bills include appropriation or spending bills, tax credits, etc. that emerge from the fiscal committee of their respective originating chamber (Finance in the House; Ways and Means in the Senate).
May 7	Adjournment Sine Die—In Latin, "sine die" means "without day." Adjournment sine die occurs on the 60th day of a regular session, and indicates a suspension of the business of the legislature indefinitely. From this point, the Legislature will certify bills whose form both chambers have agreed to and transmit or "enroll" those bills to the Governor.



Kyle discusses some agricultural issues with Executive Director Warren Watanabe of the Maui Farm Bureau. This year, Agricultural Sustainability Day was held on March 17th, 2009 at the State Capitol.

Many veterans in the Legislature have described this session as the most difficult they have experienced due to the State's current fiscal deficit and negative projected revenues. The House has identified the economy as our number one priority, including balancing the State budget as required by law.

Capital improvement projects are important for stimulating our economy and in providing construction-related jobs. It is important however, to distinguish that the funds appropriated are not from the State's General Fund.

The amount of money required for major construction is substantial so the State finances them through General Obligation Bonds. This source of funding is similar to the way that we must finance our homes through mortgages as opposed to writing a check. Investing now in projects we need, can not only help current economic growth, but also lay the foundation for future growth.



Representative Yamashita with his wife Karen, son Tyler, and parents Mr. & Mrs. Stan Yamashita

Proposed Capital Improvement Projects for 2010-2011

UPCOUNTRY MAUI

King Kekaulike High School—Design for Auditorium	600,000
Makawao Elementary School—Plan & Design Cafeteria	400,000
New Long Term Care (LTC Green House) Facility	5,000,000
Upcountry Maui Ground Water Test Well—Plan & Design	150,000
Haleakala Highway Widening at Milepost 0.8	1,905,000

[MAUI COUNTY]

Agricultural Value Added Processing Facility	2,704,000
Waihee Elem. School— Structural Improvements	600,000
Imi Kala Street—Iao Stream Bridge Improvements	3,000,000
MCC, Mau, Science Building Improvements	3,157,000
Maui Waena Intermediate School—New Classrooms	1,200,000
Maui Memorial Medical Center	
<i>New Dialysis Unit</i>	7,200,000
<i>New Helipad</i>	2,300,000
Kahului Airport	
<i>Access Road</i>	38,590,000
<i>Program Management Support</i>	500,000
<i>Elevator & Escalator Improvements</i>	6,460,000
<i>Fire Sprinkler System Replacement</i>	400,000
<i>Rental Car Facility Improvements</i>	6,300,000
<i>Water System Improvements</i>	2,250,000
<i>Reconstruct Taxiways, Runways, & Apron</i>	47,642,000
Kahului Harbor	
<i>Acquisition & Improvements</i>	43,300,000
Puunene Avenue Widening—Two Lanes to Four Lanes	4,000,000
King Kamehameha III Elem. School—ADA Accessibility	375,000
Honoapiilani Highway	
<i>Widening and/or Realignment</i>	14,215,000
<i>Shoreline Protection</i>	5,500,000
<i>Shoreline Improvements</i>	2,150,000
Lokelani Intermediate School—Electrical Upgrades	1,350,000
Hana Highway Improvements—Upgrading & Repairing	4,940,000
Kamehameha Highway Bridge Replacements	
<i>Stream Bridges</i>	8,250,000

Contact Information



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