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Town & Upcountry Update

2014 LEGISLATIVE MID-SESSION
 FROM REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Makawao · Kula · Pukalani · Keokea · Ulupalakua · Spreckelsville · Kahului

Aloha Neighbors!

The 2014 Legislature has passed the midway point of session, and I want to update you on our progress.

As you may know, The House of Representatives has approved the 2014-15 Supplemental Budget. The House budget reflects the view that Hawaii should be fiscally prudent. Taking into consideration the State Council of Revenues forecast, the House has crafted a sound and far-sighted budget. By being mindful of economic conditions, the State can operate confidently and plan strategically for the future.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of serving as your State Representative for another two years. I have included a few highlights of the progress made by the House of Representatives this session. If I may be of any assistance to you, please contact me or my staff toll free at 984-2400 ext. 66330 or email me at

repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov

Mahalo,

HEADED TO COMPLETION

I am pleased to announce the release of \$25,850,000 for the auditorium at King Kekaulike High School. These funds will complete the construction for the new auditorium. Currently, King Kekaulike High School uses its cafeteria stage for assemblies and performing arts events.

King Kekaulike High School first opened in 1995, and a learning center for the visual and performing arts has always been a part of the school's master plan. While King Kekaulike High School offers 3 pathways of interest for its students, the arts and communication pathway is King Kekaulike High School's most popular educational track.



The King Kekaulike Auditorium project began in 2006, when the legislature announced funds allocated for the design of the auditorium. By 2010, design had been completed. King Kekaulike High School is home to 3 musicals, 1 drama, and 3 band concerts per year. The new King Kekaulike Auditorium will allow the high school to showcase its student performances, and engage and inspire King Kekaulike students through exposure to the arts.

The release of the \$25,850,000 by Governor Abercrombie was announced on March 4th. It was part of the release of \$65.6 million released for public school improvements across the state of Hawaii.

CULTIVATING AGRICULTURE

HB1716 Invasive Species Council.

Protects Hawaii's environment, agriculture, economy, and the health and way of life of Hawaii's people by appropriating \$5,000,000 for Hawaii Invasive Species Council projects.

HB1991 HD2 Fresh Meat and Produce; Procurement Code Exemption.

Encourages the use of State and County purchasing power to support local agricultural and livestock producers by exempting public agencies' purchases of fresh meat and produce, and animals and plants from the administrative and regulatory requirements of the Procurement Code.

HB1929 HD2 Farmers' Market; Sale of Fresh Produce; General Excise Tax Exemption.

Stimulates the market for fresh fruits and vegetables that are Hawaii-grown and intended for consumption as food within the State by exempting Hawaii-grown produce sold at farmers' markets from the general excise tax.

KULA ELEMENTARY TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Kula Elementary will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2014 and will be hosting a luau on the evening of September 6th. If you would like to volunteer to help with planning and/or fundraising, please email Stacie Fernandez at stacie_fernandez@notes.k12.hi.us.

INVESTING IN OUR KEIKI

HB2276 HD1 Early Childhood Education Program.

Provides much-needed early childhood education for the children of Hawaii by establishing within the early learning system an Early Childhood Education Program, to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning, upon the ratification by the voters of Hawaii of a constitutional amendment authorizing the use of public funds to



At the State Capitol, pictured with Mayor Alan Arakawa, Maui County Councilwoman Gladys Baisa, and Mike Molina.

provide early childhood education through private providers.

Mandatory Kindergarten.

Improves the early childhood education system in Hawaii by:

- Including all children not medically or legally exempt and who will be at least five years old by July 31 of any school year in the requirement for compulsory school attendance;
- Establishing within the Department of Education an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system; and
- Requiring the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Executive Office on Early Learning, to develop a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness system to collect information and data made available through the individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system. HB14 HD2

HB2109 HD2 Afterschool Programs; Elementary-school Students; Evidence-based Physical-activity and Nutritional-education Program.

Promotes good health for Hawaii's elementary-school students by establishing and funding the Fun 5 Program, an evidence-based physical-activity and nutritional-education program within the A+ Program.

HB2008 HD1 Future Farmers of America.

Supports sustainability and resiliency in the local agriculture industry by appropriating funds to the Department of Education for the implementation and operation of the Future Farmers of America program to educate and support youth in agriculture careers.



The state House honored Brother Noland with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his impact on island music.

HB1756 HD1 After-School Program; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program.

Establishes and funds the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) Program, which provides quality after-school programs for academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics in public middle and intermediate schools to keep Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during after-school hours.

SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE

HB2217 HD2 Workforce Development Working Groups.

Promotes the creation of the highly-skilled labor workforce necessary to attract investment in innovative, high-growth, and high-wage industries by authorizing and funding working groups of industry leaders to assist the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

HB1975 HD1 Criminal History Record Checks for State & County Employees.

Allows the State and the Counties to perform criminal history record checks on their employees, prospective employees, volunteers, and contractors who work with children or vulnerable adults.

THE STATE BUDGET

The House passed its version of the state budget, including operating monies of \$6.253 billion in general funds and \$12.148 billion including all means of financing for the 2015 fiscal year. The House draft saves approximately \$125 million from the Governor's proposed budget. The House budget restores recent staff and faculty cuts made during the recent economic slowdown .

KEEPING HAWAII HEALTHY

HB1713 SD1 Elderly; Health Care and Social Services.

Provides for the long-term health care needs of Hawaii's rapidly-growing elderly population by appropriating funds to support collaborative health care and social service agency programs.

HB2457 HD1 Dental Health.

Takes proactive steps to improve oral health among Hawaii's children by requiring the Director of Health to participate in the National Oral Health Surveillance System to facilitate data management and provide access to federal assistance.

HB2459 HD2 Dentistry; Anesthesia and Sedation.

Supports the safe and effective delivery of dental anesthesia and sedation by requiring any dentist who prescribes or administers general anesthesia, intravenous-conscious sedation, or conscious sedation to meet dentistry licensure and site certificate requirements.



Maui legislators with Shane Victorino and family. The House honored Maui native Shane Victorino for his achievements as a baseball player and the community contributions of the Shane Victorino Foundation.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HB1564 HD1 Veterans' Services; Cemeteries; Counties.

Recognizes the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States and continues to honor their memory by properly maintaining the statewide network of veterans' cemeteries by requiring counties to obtain approval from the Office of Veterans' Services prior to any action that may negatively impact the State's ability to fulfill its financial obligation to establish and maintain veterans' cemeteries.

HB2051 HD1 Daniel K. Inouye; Patsy T. Mink; Works of Art.

Continues the work initiated to honor the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and the late U.S. Representative Patsy T. Mink.

HB2427 HD1 Government Transparency; Repeal of Non-general Funds.

Supports ongoing governmental transparency and efficiency by eliminating several unused, inactive, and obsolete funds and accounts.

Tax Modernization; Electronic Filing. Helps to modernize the Hawaii tax system by:

- Requiring that general excise tax returns be filed electronically, beginning on January 1, 2015, HB1847 HD1;

HB1848 HD1; and

- Authorizing the Department of Taxation to require the electronic filing of all tax returns starting with the 2015 taxable year. HB2342 HD1

HB1664 HD1 Fireworks Storage.

Protects public health and safety by restricting the storage and redistribution of fireworks to facilities that comply with county building or fire codes, or nationally recognized standards.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE

HB1728 HD1 Disputed Roads; "Roads in Limbo"; Road Maintenance.

Removes a disincentive to maintain roads in safe conditions by specifying that a government agency does not assume ownership or jurisdiction over a disputed road solely through maintenance or repair activities. Authorizes the State to resolve questions of jurisdiction by turning over ownership of a disputed road to a county.

HB2426 HD1 Biosecurity Facilities; Invasive Species.

Helps prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the State by authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the planning, design, and construction of biosecurity facilities at harbors and airports throughout the State.



AT THE CAPITOL

On Monday, April 28, 2014, we will host our annual fundraiser, the "Bizarre Bazaar," for the Maui Foodbank. The event features plate lunches, baked goods, fresh produce, plants, protea, door prizes, a silent auction, and many other items for sale. Last year, we were able to raise over \$2,400. Representative Yamashita's office has been coordinating the annual fundraiser since 2006.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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