

News from Roz

A Legislative Update from your State Senator Roz Baker

August 2008

Aloha neighbors,

As your State Senator from the 5th District of South and West Maui, it is an honor to work on issues that matter to you, your family and our community.

Mahalo to everyone who has taken time to stop by the Capitol, come to our town meetings or has e-mailed, written or called with suggestions for action this year. I appreciate your involvement in our community!

During my tenure in the Legislature, I have focused on delivering solid results for our district and our state. This past session was no exception. Some of the measures I've championed or helped push through this biennium:

- \$20 million for the development of the [Kihei High School](#)
- \$12 million for [Lahainaluna High School's](#) new cafeteria
- Air conditioning for [Lokelani Intermediate School](#)
- Renovations for [Kihei Elementary](#), [King Kamehameha III](#), [Lahaina Intermediate schools](#)
- Improvements for [Maui Community College](#)
- Continued funding for [Maui's Medivac services](#) including acquisition of a new helicopter
- [A New Heart, Brain and Vascular Center](#) at Maui Memorial Medical Center
- Dedicated funding for [more trauma services](#) on Maui and the neighbor islands
- More [DOCARE officers and support staff](#) for Maui

I would very much like to continue working hard for Maui as your State Senator. Our island needs and deserves a strong, seasoned voice at the State Capitol speaking up for all of us. I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming Primary, September 20th.

In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance to you and yours, please call, e-mail or drop me a note.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Senator Roz Baker
5th District – South and West Maui
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee



West Maui seniors who attended Senator Roz Baker's June 17th campaign kick-off.



Voting should be easier for everyone

I am committed to increasing voter participation in our state and making it easier for residents to vote. That's why I joined others to fight for passage of SB 156, which authorizes permanent absentee voting.

It took a veto override vote in special session to make SB 156 law (Act 4) for this year's elections. This measure will make voting easier for our seniors, disabled community and anyone with a busy life, but it will save time and money for our elections officials too. Safeguards against fraud and misuse are built in and other states have successfully implemented similar programs.

With this new law, we end a practice that inconveniences many voters and hopefully will encourage others to vote. Next session I hope we will enact same day voter registration as another way to encourage citizens to participate in our democracy.



Reflections on the 2008 Session

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for the past two years, I've had the privilege of playing a major role in crafting a State budget that reflects our shared goals and priorities. However, the 2008 Legislature faced one of its most difficult challenges in recent history to adjust the budget and underlying financial plan in the face of substantially lowered projections of general fund revenues which fund most State programs. To craft a responsible and sustainable budget, we had to make reductions to the Administration's requests, and table many worthy proposed initiatives.

The good news is: the Legislature was able to preserve essential health and safety funding including vital projects for Maui. Other legislation enacted covered the full spectrum of life in Hawaii. Bills ranged from those to chart our path toward energy self-sufficiency like requiring solar water heater systems on all new single-family residences, to establishing a taro security and purity task force, e-waste recycling, and much more.

If you have any questions about the budget or legislation, please feel free to contact my office at 808-586-6070 or go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov.





As chair of the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee, Roz has a unique opportunity to ensure that Maui's infrastructure and other needs are addressed even in challenging economic times.

Speaking out on Healthcare

I wholeheartedly support my district's desire to have more healthcare services available to them on Maui.

I know many were disappointed when Triad, Malulani's financial partner, was bought out by Community Health in spring 2007, putting dreams for a South Maui hospital on hold. It was especially disappointing since we were, through Healthcare Association of Hawaii, facilitating discussions between Maui Memorial and Malulani looking for that public private partnership and a win-win for our community. However, something positive did result from the effort. It helped focus the public's attention on Maui's healthcare needs and the challenges that must be overcome in order to fulfill our community's dreams.

It is easy to blame others for a dream not immediately realized. It is much more difficult to take an objective second look and move forward with positive, realistic options. For the record, I believe we can have privately funded hospitals, along with an improved Maui Memorial Medical Center and advanced medical services here at home. I strongly support the current effort to bring an acute care critical access hospital to West Maui. I also look forward to supporting new efforts in South Maui, as I did when responding to the community's request for a dedicated ambulance stationed in Wailea.

Working at the State Capitol these past six years, I have successfully championed a number of ways to improve Maui's healthcare for the short and long term. Even in tough economic times, I ensured there was funding available to expand the nursing program at Maui Community College so that the next generation of nurses can be trained. I funded a stipend program for our paramedics to upgrade their skills. I secured Maui's Medivac helicopter services. I fought for a family practice residency program on Maui to help us with physician recruitment and retention. And I pushed through funding to increase reimbursements for physicians who treat Medicaid and Quest patients.

"I believe we can have privately funded hospitals, along with an improved Maui Memorial Medical Center and advanced medical services here at home..."

Many Mauians are surprised to learn that we have the second busiest emergency room in the state. The demand for increased trauma services makes it especially important to treat patients here on island instead of having to fly them to Oahu. That's why I pressed so hard for a veto override to secure more dedicated funding to enhance ER services statewide. Our goal is to upgrade Maui Memorial to a level II trauma center, on par with the state's only other level II facility at Queen's Medical Center. As a cancer survivor, it was also especially gratifying to secure funding using the cigarette tax increase (2006) to expand research and treatment capabilities of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii.

Ultimately, my goal as your Senator is to spearhead ways for our residents to enjoy a continuum of quality medical care that expands current services and improves access for all. The new services should complement and augment current services -- not diminish or marginalize them.

Notable Capital Improvement Projects

5th Senate District and Maui - FY '07-'09 Biennium

- Honoapiilani Highway widening and/or realignment, Honokowai to Launiupoko - \$46 M
- Honoapiilani Highway widening, Lahainaluna to Front Street - \$6 M
- Honoapiilani Highway widening, Kaanapali Parkway to Lower Honoapiilani Road - \$2 M
- Kahului Airport parking lot expansion - \$16.1 M
- Kahului Harbor, improvements & construction - \$35 M
- West Maui Elementary, new school plans- \$650,000
- Kihei High School development - \$20 M
- Kihei Elementary School renovations - \$4 M
- Lahainaluna High School, new cafeteria - \$12 M
- Lahaina small boat harbor, pier, utility improvements - \$2.5 M
- Maui Arts and Cultural Center - \$250,000
- Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) new transportation facility - \$1 M
- Upcountry Maui watershed and reservoir - \$9.749 M
- Maui Economic Development Board, buildout - \$300,000
- Maalaea small boat harbor, electrical improvements and land acquisition - \$7.3 M
- Ahihi-Kinau NARS, public use facilities improvements - \$ 100,000

2008 Session Statistics

- 2,746 bills introduced
- 294 bills passed by the Legislature
- Of the bills that passed, 140 came through the Senate Ways and Means committee
- Nearly 600 bills were considered by the Ways and Means Committee, and 295 bills were passed out by the committee for further consideration by the Legislature



Maui's State Senate team fights for the people of Maui.



Alliena Carter from Kibei Charter School & Nathan Ugale from Lahainaluna High School join Roz for the 2008 Legislature's Opening Day.



Roz received C-Change award for exemplary leadership in cancer control by an elected official from former President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush, founders of the national collaborative to conquer cancer.



Roz, a cancer survivor, participates in the South and West Maui Relays for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society.



Roz received a FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity) Award for her dedication in fighting for caregivers.



Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunrise's school supplies drive in July during the year 2007-2008 Roz served as club president.



First neighbor island Children & Youth Day event, held in North Kibei, was co-chaired by Roz and Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka with lots of volunteer help from the community.



Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee visit the Maui Wind Farm in October 2007.



Senate Ways & Means Committee members and staff receive a briefing on Lanai's school facilities during their site visit to Maui County.



Senator Roz Baker and Representative Josh Green, MD, announce the Legislature's joint effort to ensure every keiki in Hawaii has health insurance. Keiki Care became law in 2007, Act 236, and is a partnership with HMSA Foundation.



Strong. Seasoned. Savvy.

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