

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

July 2011



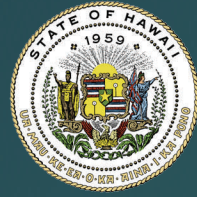
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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's page
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On the Scene

- On June 7, accompanied by the Vice-Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Michelle Kidani, Senator Kahele visited UH Hilo, Hawai'i Community College, Pahoa Elementary, and Volcano School of Arts & Sciences to look at CIP sites.
- Along with other Big Island state and county officials, Senator Kahele welcomed the first nonstop flight from LAX on June 9.
- June 8-10 marked the annual Lawai`a `Ohana Camp held at Miloli`i. Senator Kahele led a hike through the historical area and shared his knowledge of the area with the youth in attendance.
- From June 15-17, Senator Kahele attended an international conference put on by the Association of Pacific Island Legislators along with Senators English and Wakai.
- Senator Kahele and Rep. Tsuji honored former Big Island Mayor Stephen Yamashiro in memoriam with a legislative certificate on June 18th.
- Senator Kahele attended the DHHL annual Hawaiian Homes Commission Meeting on June 20, hosted by the Keaukaha Panaewa Farmers Association.

CIP Site Visit

On June 7, Senator Kahele and Senator Michelle Kidani visited various sites in the District to view firsthand some of the CIP projects that received appropriations this past legislative session as well as other potential project sites. Senator Kidani is the Vice-Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and is a major factor in the decision-making process for CIP appropriations.



Visiting Volcano School
of Arts & Sciences site



Gathered in front of `Imiloa Observatory

Sites visited included: University of Hawai'i Hilo, Hawai'i Community College, Pahoa Elementary School and Volcano School of Arts & Sciences.

The trip provided an excellent opportunity to introduce members of the community to an influential member of the Ways and Means Committee. Also having gone directly to these sites resulted in a clearer idea of what each project would entail.

Asia-Pacific Island Legislatures 30th General Assembly



Senator Kahele had the opportunity to participate in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures General Assembly Conference that was held from June 15-19 in the Republic of Palau.

The conference was an international forum with representatives from across the Pacific region. The theme for the conference was “The Blue Continent: Communications Infrastructure and the Health of Our People”.

Despite coming from and representing a multitude of different cultures, there was a shared concern about the problems facing people across the Pacific. One major concern that was brought to the attention of conference members was the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCD).

Dr. Greg Dever of Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) underlined the gravity of the situation. NCDs such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes have become an epidemic afflicting people all across the Pacific and it is something that must be faced.

This issue is of grave importance and needs to be addressed now with the eye to potential legislation in the 2012 Legislature.

Also attending the conference were Senators Kalani English and Glenn Wakai.

2011 Lawai`a `Ohana Camp for Youth in Miloli`i



From June 8-10, Big Island youths were invited to the fishing village of Miloli`i to participate in the annual Lawai`a `Ohana Camp. Put on by Pa`a Pono Miloli`i Inc., the camp was free for families in the South Kona and Ka`u areas.

With an emphasis on marine conservation and fish sustainability, participants and their families took part in a variety of activities including: `opelu fishing, upena (net) fishing, wana/opihi gathering, lu`u kai (diving), a cultural tour of the coastline south of Miloli`i, and a fishing tournament. Projects were led by `opio, makua, and kupuna from the community highlighting the importance of `ohana and ensuring that knowledge was being passed on to the younger generation.

Senator Kahele also had an opportunity to participate in the camp and led the cultural tour of the coastline south of

Miloli`i, sharing his insight about the richness of the area and the need for care and conservation to protect the area for future

Nonstop Flight from LAX to Hilo



generations to enjoy.

Senator Kahele was on hand on June 7, 2011 to welcome the first nonstop flight from Los Angeles to Hilo. This flight will hopefully mark the start of an influx of tourists from the mainland who will help to boost the economy on the Big Island. Senator Kahele speaks with pilot Lance Lau, a Hilo native.