

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

March 2012



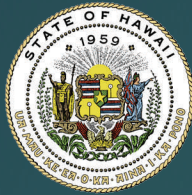
Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 2

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following
communities:

Hilo,

Puna,

Ka'u



Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 208

Phone: (808) 586-6760

Fax: (808) 586-6689

Email: senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit *Senator Kahele's page*
at www.capitol.hawaii.gov

2012 Legislative Session Opening Day



*Senator Kahele at the start of the
2012 Legislative Session*

Capitol Improvement Projects

The legislature runs on a two-year biennium system with 2012 being the second year of the 26th legislature. That being said, the Senate members are limited to three Capitol Improvement Projects which are supplements to the requests made last year. Although there are numerous projects within the 2nd district that are deserving of state funding, tough decisions need to be made to narrow the list down to three.

At the top of Senator Kahele's list is the construction of University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Pharmacy School building. It is a \$33 million project that will create jobs within our community and the finished product will definitely help to further the success of the Pharmacy School.

The other projects on the list are the electrical upgrades and installation of air conditioning units in the computer lab at Pahoa High and Intermediate School and funding for the repairs at the Miloli'i Landing.

District 2 Concerns

Geothermal energy is one of the most effective, inexpensive methods of energy production and we have a great opportunity on Hawai'i Island to harness this energy. Currently, there are approximately 30-megawatts being produced in the Puna region and there is capacity for much more. Being one of his priorities, Senator Kahele will do all he can to bring more geothermal energy to Hawai'i and lower the cost of electricity for us all.

Another issue that has caught the attention of Senator Kahele is the deplorable condition of the Lanakila Homes in Hilo. He has been working hand in hand with George Yokoyama, the County of Hawai'i representative on the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors, to address the situation and get people back in these homes as soon as possible. With the long list of constituents waiting to be placed in these homes, Senator Kahele is working to get this fixed right away.



*The Kahele Ohana
Opening Day*

Invest in Hawai'i Act of 2012

On February 21st the Senate unanimously passed The Invest in Hawai'i Act of 2012 (Senate Bill 2012). The bill will go to the House next for consideration. Garnering bipartisan support, Senate Bill 2012, is an aggressive \$500 million general obligation bond - funded Capital Improvement Program package aimed at creating jobs by investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the state.

With Hawai'i experiencing the lowest interest rates on record and significant savings made from the State's most recent bond authorization and issuance, now is the time to invest in our State. The program will appropriate funds for shovel-ready projects that will create jobs for all trades in the construction industry - from carpenters to consultants.

Senator Kahele, a co-sponsor of this measure said, "SB 2012 is great for our economy and for getting our people back to work. This is the opportunity we've been working towards to help whittle down the backlog of R & M projects at our schools."

In order to expedite the backlog of repair and maintenance projects, SB 2012 makes revisions to the State's permitting, approval and procurement processes. As a result, the accelerated processes will expedite the creation of jobs and facilitate the return to work for many of our residents.

Here are some of the highlights for the funding:

–\$150,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects and to address infrastructure needs, such as science and technology, electricity, and other utility infrastructure improvements, within the public school system.

–\$3,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects within the Hawai'i State Library system.

–\$90,000,000 for capital renewal and deferred maintenance projects of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

–\$25,000,000 for capital renewal and deferred maintenance projects within the University of Hawai'i community college system.

–\$60,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects of the Department of Accounting and General Services.

–\$40,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects of the Department of Human Services.

–\$40,000,000 for repair and maintenance projects of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

SB 2012 is now pending the approval of the Finance Committee in the House of Representatives.

Out and About...



Senator Kahele with Helene Hale and George Yokoyama



Members of UH Hilo's student body recently paid a visit to the State Capitol



Senator Kahele presented Coach Jimmy Yagi a certificate of recognition for his outstanding service at UH Hilo's annual Distinguished Alumni Banquet

Pupukahi I Holomua
Unite to move forward