

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

August 2014



Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chairman,
Committee on Tourism



A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha!

The summer has officially come to an end for thousands of students and teachers across our state. As they return to the classrooms please anticipate the busy roadways and our school crossing zones as they are usually filled with our keiki.

The ending of the Summer season puts many things into perspective, especially when it comes to the future of Hawai'i's children. I am proud of the work we have done in securing funds and jump starting projects for our Hawai'i Island students.

I have said this before and I will say this again, whatever economic challenges our state may be facing, we must continue to invest in education and our keiki. Educating the present for the future is the best way to prepare our lāhui for a vast and competitive global society.

As we move toward the end of 2014, I will seek feedback from you and many other members of our community to help guide our policies and initiatives for the upcoming 2015 legislative session. I look forward to our conversations, welcome your ideas and encourage you to be part of our legislative process. Together we can make Hilo and our great State a better place to live, work and raise our families.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilbert Kahele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Senate Honors Carolyn Loeffler, First Female President of The Hawai'i Island Contractors Association

On June 21, 2014, The Hawai'i Island Contractors Association (HICA) welcomed their incoming Directors and their very first woman President Carolyn Loeffler. The Senate was honored to recognize her for her accomplishments and historical feats.

Carolyn was also the first female car salesperson for Kitagawa and Company in the 1980's. Through her efforts she has opened doors and created opportunities for future generations of women.

Carolyn was originally from Jamaica and moved to Hawai'i Island in 1979 with her family. She graduated from Hilo High School and worked for various employers but it was at Rosey's Boat House where she met her husband Buddy Loeffler.

In 1990 she and her husband Buddy started their own construction company, Loeffler Construction.

In 2009 Carolyn became an official member of HICA and will now serve as its first female President.



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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's webpage
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.asp>

Aloha+ Challenge

A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ‘Ae’oia

July 7, 2014. Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawai‘i’s four county mayors, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) leadership jointly launched the Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ‘Ae’oia at a declaration signing held yesterday at the State Capitol.

The statewide joint leadership commitment sets clear targets for clean energy transformation, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, smart growth, climate resilience, green jobs and education by 2030.



Senators Kahele, Tokuda and Galuteria, Mayor Arakawa, Senate President Kim, Senator English, Rep. Rhoads, Governor Abercrombie, Reps. Thielen and Morikawa, Mayor Carvalho, Rep. Takai, OHA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kamana’opono Crabbe, Rep. Nakashima and Mayor Kenoi.

House Committee on Health Holds a Community-Based Public Hearing

On July 28, 2014 the members of the House Committee on Health held an informational briefing in Hilo to gain insight into the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s (HHSC) plans to streamline operations and address anticipated budget shortfalls.

Gary Yoshiyama, Regional Board Chair, HHSC East Hawai‘i Region testified amongst other board members.

The committee had previously held briefings on O‘ahu and Kaua‘i and will continue on Maui in August before returning to O‘ahu for the remaining meetings.



Reps. Tsuji, Onishi, Oshiro, Jordan, Morikawa, Chair Belatti, Reps. Nakashima, Creagan, Kobayashi and Senator Kahele listen in as the HHSC East Hawai‘i Board testifies before State Legislators.

Changes to the Cell Phone and Driving Law

Changes to the cell phone ban passed by the legislature in 2013, which prohibits the use of mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

The amendments to the law include exempting drivers who are completely stopped and pulled over in a safe zone with their engines off; making the violation a traffic infraction and thereby eliminating the need to go to court; and changing the penalties for the violation.

The fines for the new law have changed to a flat fee of \$250 for first and multiple violations and \$300 for violations in a school or construction zone.

This law has gone into effect on July 1, 2014.

