



Senator Donna Mercado Kim

October 2011

Serving District 14

Moanalua
'Aiea
Fort Shafter
Kalihi Valley
Halawa Valley

Community Boards

Kalihi Palama No. 15
Kalihi Valley No. 16
Aiea No. 20
Moanalua Gardens Association
Moanalua Valley Association

Leadership and Committees

Vice President of the Senate

Chair:

Committee on Tourism
Committee on Accountability

Member:

Committee on Ways and Means

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As Chair of the Committee on Tourism, I have been spending this interim looking at opportunities to bolster our tourism industry to help create jobs and grow our local economy.

Last month, the committee went on site visits to Kauai to meet with the Kauai Visitor Bureau, Mayor Carvalho, and many local businesses and industry leaders. Much insight into the what our neighbor islands contribute to our tourism industry has been gained—remember that Hawaii's tourism industry is not just what Oahu has to offer but what the entire State has to offer.

I also participated in the 5th annual China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit which brought together more than 60 regional tourism officials from the United States and China to discuss tourism building policies between our two countries. This event greatly served to strengthen the relationship between the two countries and helped understand the barriers that might restrict growth of our local industry.

China's outbound tourism to the US is rapidly growing, with officials projecting nearly five times growth without the current restrictive barriers. We are working hard to make it easier for Chinese tourists to arrive here in Hawaii.

While much progress has been made, such as adding direct flights from China to Hawaii, there still exists restrictions that make it difficult for us to fully capitalize on the Chinese market. Most prominently mentioned at the Summit involved the Visa application process, which could take up to 3 months for approval.

The summit was a great opportunity for Hawaii to participate in fruitful discussions on an international stage. The event itself and the dialogue from the Tourism Leadership Summit will serve as a precursor for the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting.



Delegates from the China and the United States at the 5th Annual China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit. Senator Kim pictured wearing white in the front row.

Schedule of Community Meetings

Neighborhood Board Meetings

Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
Kalihi Union Church

Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.
Akira Sakima Recreational Center

Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20

Monday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.
November: On Recess
Aiea Library Conference Room

Community Association Meetings

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.
Moanalua Middle School

Moanalua Valley Community Association

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.
Moanalua Golf Course

Community Meeting for the Former Kamehameha Drive-In

Robertson Properties will be hosting a public forum to present the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the planned project for the site

**Monday, October 24th
7:00—9:00 PM**

Pearl Ridge Elementary School

You can find more information at
www.liveworkplayaiea.com

After-School All-Stars

The weekday after-school hours of three to six p.m. represent an enormous challenge for children in the U.S. More than 70 percent of U.S. children have parents who work outside the home, leaving youth unsupervised by adults when the school day ends. These children are three times more likely to engage in violent crime, drug use, and alcohol.



Founded by Arnold Schwarzenegger in 1992, After-School All-Stars offers a proven alternative for these children. The mission of After-School All-Stars is to provide free, quality comprehensive after-school programs that keep children safe and help them succeed in school and in life. Their vision is to provide at-risk youth with the opportunities to participate in educational, sports, cultural and community enrichment programs; to build confidence and self-esteem; and to encourage youth to say 'no' to gangs, drugs and violence and 'yes' to hope, learning and life. The program currently serves children on Oahu at Kalakaua and Dole Middle Schools in Kalihi, S.W. King Intermediate in Kaneohe, Jarrett Middle School in Palolo and Washington Middle School in Honolulu.



On September 12th, Governor Schwarzenegger made a surprise visit to present Dawn Dunbar, Executive Director of After-School All-Stars Hawaii and students of Dole Middle School with the All Star Spirit Award.

Keiki ID Day at McDonald's Pearl Kai

Saturday, October 22, 2011

9:00-1:00 PM

McDonald's Pearl Kai Shopping Center



Bring your child or grandchild (12 years and younger) to receive their FREE Keiki ID card. The Keiki ID includes important information like a photo, fingerprints, and emergency contact information and helps authorities if an emergency occurs.