

Senator Ronald D. Kouchi

Senatorial District 7 – Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ *Message from Senator Kouchi*
- ◆ *Balancing the Budget*
- ◆ *Capital Improvement Projects*
- ◆ *Meet Ronald D. Kouchi*

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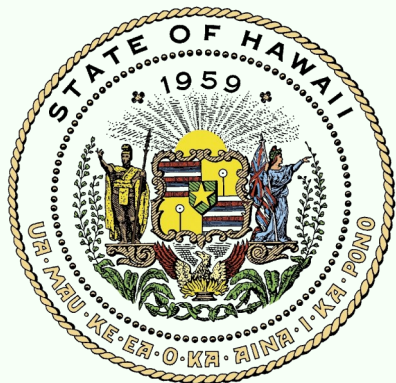
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Aloha Friends,

As my first session as the elected state senator for the islands of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau has come to a close, please accept my deepest gratitude and aloha for granting me the privilege of representing you and your family in the Hawaii State Legislature.

In addition to my duties as a member of several senate standing committees, including the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I was honored by my colleagues to serve as the Senate Majority Caucus Leader and a member of the senate leadership group.

One of the biggest measures passed during this past legislative session was the state budget. Despite facing a crippling budgetary shortfall, the tragedy in Japan, and no apparent economic relief on the horizon, we were able to pass a balanced budget that sought to address most of the public's concerns. This could not have been possible without your support and input.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me as it is both necessary and important for me to be aware of the issues facing Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau residents as your Hawaii State Senator.

Malama Pono,

RWD. Kouchi



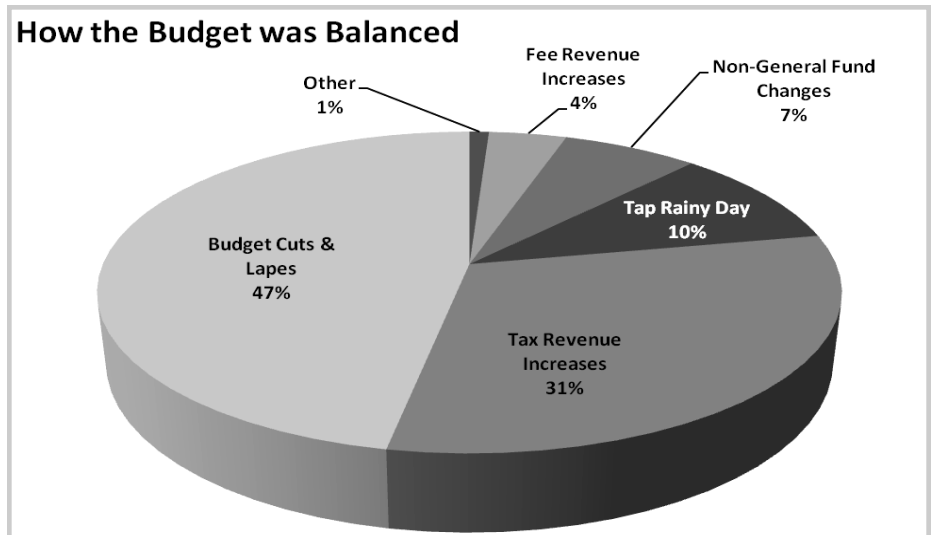
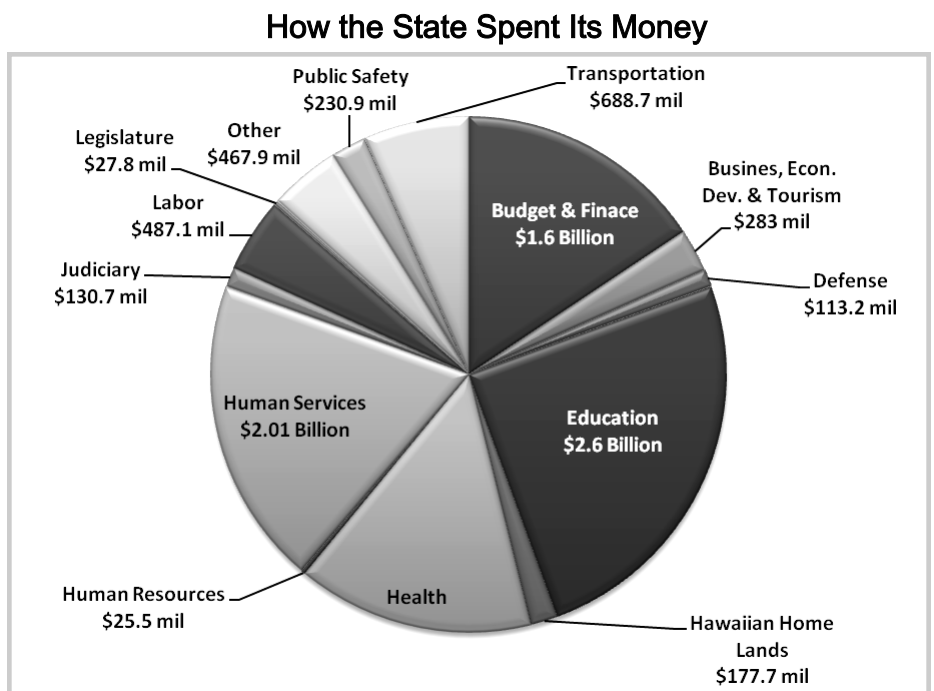
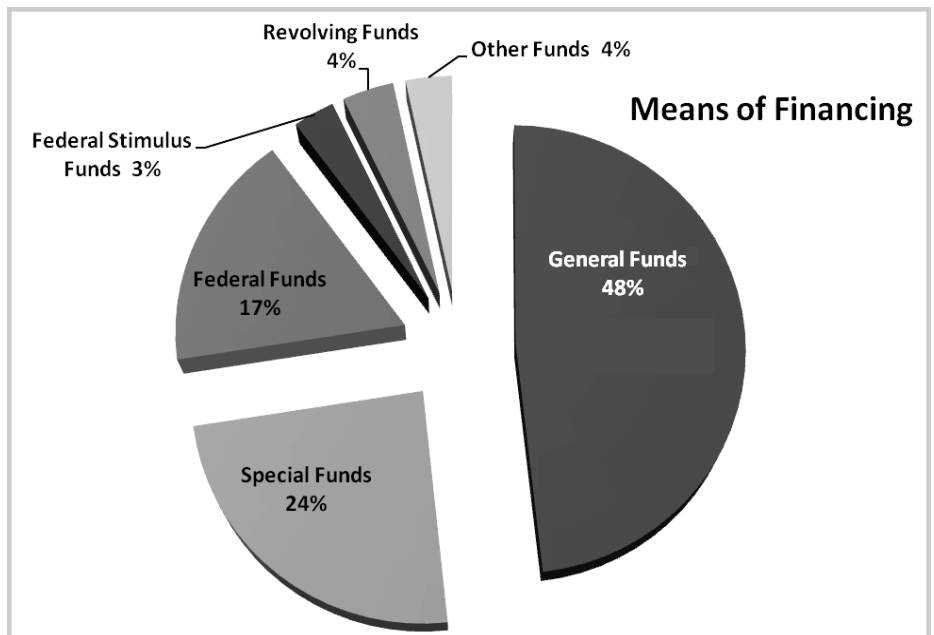
BALANCING THE BUDGET

The three pie charts in the adjacent column show a graphic shot of the state's budget for 2011 fiscal year. The state's fiscal year begins from July 1st through June 30th. The top pie chart indicates monies that are received by the state, the middle pie chart illustrates how the state spends its monies, and the bottom pie charts explains how the budget was balanced.

At the beginning of the 2011 Regular Legislative Session in January 2011, our state was facing a budget deficit of \$71.6 million through the 2011 fiscal year that ended at the end of June 30, 2011. In addition to this daunting news of having to meet a deficit of some seventy million dollars in six months, the state was projecting a \$1.3 billion projected budgetary shortfall for the next biennium, fiscal years 2012 through 2013.

In order to balance the budget for fiscal years 2012 through 2013, the legislature passed a two year suspension of tax exemptions for two dozen businesses, repealed state income tax exemptions and capped itemized deductions for higher income taxpayers, and delayed implementation of an increase in personal exemptions and standard deductions for all taxpayers. Balancing the budget also required capping both the counties' share of the transient accommodations tax and monies to the Hawaii Visitors Bureau. These measures resulted in balancing the budget without having to tax pension incomes and to raise the general excise tax.

(All graphs below are using estimated fiscal year 2011 data.)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS



KIKIAOLA SMALL BOAT HARBOR
SAND BY-PASS PROGRAM
\$1,400,000



MANA DRAG STRIP
IMPROVEMENTS
\$500,000



KOKEE ROAD, WAIMEA CANYON
and KALALAU LOOKOUT
IMPROVEMENTS
\$14,500,000



KAWAI HIGH SCHOOL GYM
IMPROVEMENTS
\$10,936,000



KAWAI ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY, INC.
\$80,000



LIHUE AIRPORT, AIRFIELD and
AHUKINI LANDFILL
IMPROVEMENTS
\$35,600,000



HANALEI RIVER IMPROVEMENTS
\$1,000,000

In addition to the above capital improvement projects (CIP) highlights, below are projects that Senator Kouchi fought diligently to ensure funding for the 7th district:

- \$10,000,000 for Wainiha Bridge Improvements;
- \$6,000,000 for Kapa'a Elementary School Library;
- \$30,000 for Filipino Community Center;
- \$1,700,000 for Kekaha Ditch Improvements;
- \$36,350,000 for Kuhio Hwy Improvements;
- \$6,900,000 for Kaumuali'i Hwy Improvements;
- \$7,900,000 for Nawiliwili Rd Improvements;
- \$150,000 for Kapule Hwy, Rice St. & Wa'apa Rd Improvements; and
- \$5,280,000 for Kaua'i's Intersection & Highway Improvements.

For a complete list of CIP funded for the 7th district, please visit the capitol website. (www.capitol.hawaii.gov)



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Meet Ronald D. Kouchi

Raised on Kaua'i's Westside, Ronald Dan Kouchi graduated from Waimea High School in 1975 and attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Ron is married to the former Joy Tanimoto and they have two sons, Dan and Egan, who are both currently attending college.

In 1983, Ron was first elected to the Kaua'i County Council where he served for 22 years as a council member, 12 years as the council chair. Among Ron's many accomplishments during his 11-term county council service included co-sponsoring a charter amendment that created the open space commission and establishing funding to acquire beach front access and mountain pathways for Kaua'i. Ron also served as the director of the National Association of Counties and vice chair of its Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee.

Understanding the large role that service organizations play in the community, Ron has served as a former director of the Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce, the Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital, the YMCA, serving as chairman of the Capital Campaign for Wilcox Health Foundation and as director of the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative from 2003 to 2006.

In addition to attending services at New Hope in Kapa'a, Ron has also been involved in many capacities in community sports, including the Kaua'i High School Baseball Booster Club, Lihue Baseball League and West Kaua'i Midget Baseball League. During the mid-80s, Ron was the Head Coach of the Waimea High School Girl's Volleyball program.

On September 7, 2010, Governor Linda Lingle appointed Ron to complete the term of the vacant seventh senatorial district. Ron has since been elected to serve as the current senator representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

September 22, 2010

Chief Justice Recktenwald swears Ron in as interim senator of Kaua'i & Ni'ihau



Senator Kouchi and our Kaua'i Delegation
Mayor Carvalho, Rep. Kawakami, Rep. Morikawa & Rep. Tokioka