

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As summer quickly passes, I hope that you are able to enjoy the moments you have with family and friends. Focused on that which is important, the health and wellbeing of our people and our communities continued to be my top priority during this past legislative session as we dealt with unprecedented fiscal challenges.



Despite an additional \$1.2 billion deficit and without having to enact broad based tax increases, we were able to maintain our commitment to important government services like education, while preserving our social safety net for the most vulnerable in our communities.

I have also continued to work with parent organizations and community advocates to address difficult issues such as securing funding for the continued operation of the Families for REAL early education program, addressing security and safety concerns at the Hawaii State Hospital, and continuing our efforts to update and implement the Kawainui Marsh Master Plan.

While many of these issues are ongoing, our office remains strongly committed to working with our community to identify and implement solutions in a timely manner. As has been my practice during the months between sessions, I continue to reach out to our friends and neighbors in District 24 to listen to their thoughts and concerns and to assist them with problems they may have.

I hope to see you soon out and about in our community! As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

Mahalo,

Jill Tokuda
Jill

Year in Review

DISTRICT 24 • KANEOHE • KAILUA • ENCHANTED LAKE

Building Strong Communities... Putting People Back to Work

Focusing on what our community needs, building up our Windward infrastructure and putting people back to work in our construction and related trades has always been a top priority for Senator Tokuda.

Since 2007, Senator Tokuda has brought home over **\$83.9 million** in CIP funding for the 24th Senatorial District. During the 2010 Legislative Session, she fought to ensure that the following priority projects were funded so that our community's needs could be met:

Boys and Girls Club (Kailua Intermediate School)	\$1,500,000
<i>Athletic Wing Renovation (Grant-In-Aid)</i>	
Kāne'ohe Elementary School	1,200,000
<i>Library Expansion and Parking Lot</i>	
Lilpuna Road, Waikalua Road and William Henry Road	1,125,000
<i>Sidewalk and Pedestrian Improvements</i>	
Kawainui Marsh	800,000
<i>Update and Implementation of the Master Plan</i>	
Castle High School	300,000
<i>Cafeteria Dining Room Expansion</i>	
Ka'elepulu Pond	100,000
<i>Pond Mitigation</i>	
Maunawili Trail	25,000
<i>Temporary Parking Lot</i>	
Olomana and Pohakupu Subdivisions (Kailua)	25,000
<i>Traffic Study Relating to Ingress and Egress</i>	
TOTAL	\$5,075,000

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You can now follow Senator Tokuda on Facebook and Twitter for updates and happenings in Windward Oahu!



Jill Tokuda

@jilltokuda



Hawai'i State Senate - 2010 Session

Facing a \$1.2 billion shortfall at the beginning of the legislative session, the Senate maintained its focus on the state budget, closing the budget gap without resorting to a broad-based tax increase. At the same time, the Senate also succeeded in maintaining investments in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), helping to keep Hawai'i workers on the job, improving our public infrastructure, and aiding the recovery and revitalization of our economy.

Looking beyond our immediate financial concerns, the Senate also passed bills touching on the most important areas of our lives, from helping our working families to protecting our environment, and from taking a fresh look at education to supporting small business.

Our success is measured both in how we face our immediate challenges and how we plan for Hawai'i's future; that is how we best serve you, the communities that have entrusted us with your well-being. We have taken action to make our Hawai'i a better place for all of us.



The Budget

While signs indicated that Hawai'i is poised to emerge from its current economic downturn, the legislature continued to face reduced funding upon which to balance the state budget. Still, by establishing priorities, focusing on critical needs, and maintaining a process of open discussion and negotiation, the House and Senate avoided a broad-based tax increase, and **reduced the budget by \$324 million** over the previous year's total.

At the same time, the FY 2011-2012 budget maintained funding for education, health and human services, and support for our agricultural industries. That included restoring \$3 million in funding for public libraries, which the governor had cut from her budget proposal.

Funding was also restored for defense (including financial, cemetery and staff positions to those who provide services to veterans), health (\$4.5 million in general funds for emergency medical services; \$2 million in special funds for community health centers; and \$300,000 in general funds for the disability and communications access board) and agriculture (45 general funded positions, half of which are plant quarantine inspectors, and \$2 million in general funds).

Capital Improvements Program

In addition to practicing fiscal responsibility, the legislature also sought proper capital improvement investments that would help stimulate the economy and avoid greater expenses in the future. Funding capital improvement projects allows the state to benefit from available incentives and programs, as well as favorable market conditions affecting the sale of bonds to finance necessary projects.

For 2011, projects for the Department of Education total nearly \$190 million, including public school repair and maintenance, electrical upgrades at schools statewide, and other important investments in our school facilities and our students.

Projects within the University of Hawai'i system total over \$178 million, including maintenance projects, improvements to research facilities, and campus development at the University of Hawai'i at West Oahu.

Other projects will impact Aloha Stadium, Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, the Department of Agriculture, roads and harbor facilities, and projects that maximize federal fund contributions.

Consumer Protection

With colorectal cancer established as the second leading cause of death in men and women, **Senate Bill 2599** takes a vital step by specifying that colonoscopy will now be a covered benefit by all health plans in the state. As of January 1, 2011, all plans issued or renewed in Hawai'i will be required to cover colonoscopy at age 50, along with other types of early detection methods.

Education

House Bill 2486 establishes minimum instructional time for public school students, with a minimum of 180 days and 990 student instructional hours in the 2011-2013 school years, increasing to 190 days and 1,140 hours beginning with the 2015-2016 school years.

A Constitutional Amendment and enabling legislation contained in **HB2376** and **HB2377**, respectively, will increase accountability by converting the Board of Education to a board whose members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Energy and the Environment

HB1808 (Act 160) preserves public access to Hawaii's beaches by requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources to maintain beach transit corridors and prohibiting any

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obstruction of the corridors by vegetation from adjacent property owners.

HB2421 (Act 73) directs needed funding to energy and food self-sufficiency by increasing the “barrel tax” on imported oil.

SB2817 prevents homeowner associations from unreasonably restricting homeowners in installing solar energy devices, such as photovoltaic solar panels or solar water heaters. Similarly, **SB2231** prohibits a condominium association from preventing owners from installing electric vehicle charging stations in or near their parking stalls.

Health

HB2804 extends the state’s matching funds to receive federal Medicaid funding for hospitals, known as disproportionate share hospital funds, to June 30, 2011. This bill appropriates \$12.3 million in state funds in order to receive \$15 million in federal funds.

Housing

In response to the sharp rise in homelessness in the recent years, **HB2318** establishes the Housing First Special Fund to assist the homeless. Housing First aims to get the chronically homeless into stable housing, where they can better address related issues such as job training, employment, and healthcare.



Human Services

Finding it vital to address growing problems created by the current budgetary shortfall that affected many programs serving the most vulnerable in our community, **SB2469**, restores critical funding to essential programs relating to health and welfare. Those affected include children, family caregivers, the elderly, and those with developmental disabilities.

Judiciary and Government Operations

Thirty-seven years of amendments have left Hawaii campaign finance laws unorganized, difficult to read and, in some areas, inconsistent. Prepared by the Campaign Finance Commission Blue Ribbon Recodification Committee, **HB2003** addresses these concerns and reformulates the campaign finance laws in a logical and consistent manner.

HB2129 (Act 99) requires an individual convicted of criminal property damage involving graffiti to remove the graffiti within 30 days of sentencing and perform community service involving the removal of graffiti within 100 yards of the site of the offense.

SB2045 establishes Class A and Class B felony offenses for sexual human trafficking and includes these types of cases in the investigations that are

given greatest priority for witness protection programs.

Labor

In one of its first actions of the 2010 session, the legislature passed **HB2169 (Act 2)**, which mitigates the scheduled sudden increase in unemployment insurance taxes for employers due to the current economic downturn. The measure provided a significant benefit to Hawai’i’s small businesses.

By requiring that at least eighty percent of workers on construction procurements to be Hawai’i residents, **SB2840 (Act 68)** supports the local construction labor workforce and Hawai’i’s economy by securing local jobs in public construction projects.

Public Safety and Military Affairs

Each year, the use of illegal fireworks continues to increase, posing a fire and life safety risk to the public. **SB1059** enables the counties to play a role in regulating fireworks by allowing them to pass their own ordinances that are at least as stringent as state law, including banning fireworks entirely.

In addition, **HB1987** offers greater deterrence to the sale of illegal fireworks by allowing the forfeiture of property that is used in the illegal importing or sale of fireworks.

Improving Security at State Hospital Ensures Community Safety

April 27, 2010 marked an important accomplishment in ensuring the safety of our Windward community: The Hawai'i State Legislature passed **SB 2919, RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL**. During The 2010 Legislative Session, Senator Tokuda introduced this legislation to address long-standing concerns over safety and security issues at the State Hospital (HSH).

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Public Safety to provide security at the State Hospital and require the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, to report to the Legislature its plan for ensuring the Kaneohe facility's short- and long-term security.

Of particular concern was that due to budget restrictions, the Department of Public Safety (PSD) has removed all of its security personnel from HSH. This bill requires PSD to fulfill what many consider to be their legal obligation to oversee individuals who, if not for a determination by the courts to have a mental disability or defect, would be incarcerated in a facility operated by the department.

At any given time, most, if not all, of the patients at the State Hospital have been remanded there by the courts. This means that a facility that was never intended to house forensic patients, and was neither equipped nor staffed to manage them, now finds itself catering almost entirely to this challenging "and potentially violent" population.

On July 5th, Governor Linda Lingle vetoed **SB 2919** because she believed the bill improperly transferred the responsibility of security at HSH from the Department of Health to PSD. The passage of **SB 2919** may not have addressed all of the problems currently facing the State Hospital, but it certainly would have allowed us to take a step toward preventing future escapes and assaults on hospital staff. Despite the governor's veto of this bill, Senator Tokuda will continue to work on addressing these security and safety concerns next session.

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Putting an End to School Furlough Fridays/ Mandating Minimum School Hours

During the 2010 Legislative Session, many bills were introduced with the hopes of ending "Furlough Fridays." Senator Tokuda's measure, **SB2124, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND**, was the lone bill that survived the long and grueling journey through the State Capitol.

This bill appropriated up to \$67 million from the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) for the purpose of restoring "Furlough Fridays" during the 2010-2011 school year.

Fully aware that the purpose of the HHRF was to purchase re-insurance in the case that a hurricane hit our islands and the insurance carriers once again ceased operations leaving homeowners without coverage, the Legislature left approximately \$100 million in the fund.

On May 25th, the governor signed the bill into law and thereby eliminating "Furlough Fridays" for the 2010-2011 school year.

This legislation is a short-term solution for ensuring that the education of our students is not compromised further. It will not address all of the budgetary problems that our schools face, but the goal is to keep our children in school as we focus on improving and supporting our public education system.

To further ensure that this does not happen again, **HB2486, HD2, SD2, CD1** was passed mandating 180 instructional days and a set number of instructional hours per school year. Mahalo to all of the parents, community & educators who were instrumental in these education bills.

STAR Program Continues to Showcase Student Artwork

In November of last year, Senator Tokuda established a lofty goal for her Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program for the 2010 Legislative Session: display the artwork of two district schools each month. This resulted in the STAR Program showcasing approximately 350 art pieces that were created by over 300 Windward O'ahu students.

These students represented 10 public and private schools from Kailua and Kāne'ohe. They were Le Jardin Academy, Maunawili Elementary, Kāne'ohe Elementary, Castle High, Kalāheo High, Hakipu'u Learning Center, Keolu Elementary, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Trinity Christian, and Windward Nazarene Academy.

The STAR Program was established with the goal of showcasing the artistic talents of Windward O'ahu students and providing them with the opportunity to display their works of art in public places. Since 2007, the STAR Program has showcased the art of over 700 students at the State Capitol.