



# Senator BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA

Waikiki • Ala Moana • Kaka'ako • Downtown • Chinatown • Palama

Senate Majority Leader • Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee



**Serving Hawaii's  
Senate District 12  
since 2008**

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## ***Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!*** **Happy New Year!**

Aloha Colleagues, Neighbors, Supporters, and Friends,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as the Hawai'i State Senate Majority Leader and Chair of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee, as well as represent Senate District 12, which encompasses Waikiki, Ala Moana, Downtown, Kaka'ako, Chinatown, and parts of Iwilei, Kalihi, Makiki, and Palama. I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work side-by-side with such esteemed colleagues; to serve my community and the State of Hawai'i; and to live and work amongst members of such a dynamic and diverse district.

The Hawaii State Senate is committed to a vision and future for Hawai'i that will stabilize our economy and improve the quality of life for generations to come. We have a unique opportunity to join with the Executive Branch and move in unity, as articulated in the well respected *olelo no'eau* (Hawaiian proverb), *Pūpūkāhi I Holomua* (Unite To Move Forward). By working together we make progress. Likened in our culture to the *wa'a* or canoe, each paddler pulls their paddles together on command in order to make the canoe move quickly to its destination.

In that spirit, we are committed to being open, inclusive, and collaborative in our decision-making on behalf of the people of Hawai'i. We are moving forward through the second year of the Twenty-Sixth Legislative biennium with overarching themes and priorities for legislation that will improve the quality of life for those who are most in need, including our *keiki, kūpuna, na 'Ohana* and the greater Hawai'i, by aligning our themes with the three themes of the Governor's "A New Day In Hawai'i." We consider this direction paramount in determining legislative outcomes.

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Toward these ends, we will focus on the following issues during the 2012 Session:

**Job Creation:**

Creating and bringing back jobs will be high priority. At its core, we must plan to strengthen our economy and create jobs, setting the framework for Hawai'i's economic future, including near and mid-term measurable indicators. In stabilizing our economy, we will also support Hawai'i's small businesses. We are committed to supporting the entrepreneurial and creative spirit of our people – investing in our people will amount to contributions to our State that outweigh the investment.

**Supporting People and Children:**

We will continue to strongly support education. From our youngest keiki to our wisest kūpuna, ensuring access to the highest quality educational opportunities will remain a top priority.

We have a responsibility to insure fundamental human services for our people and improve the quality of life for those who need it most. We will assure that the basic needs of our keiki, kūpuna, families, and individuals are met by providing increased access to clean air, water, food, health care, public safety, and education.

**Retooling Government:**

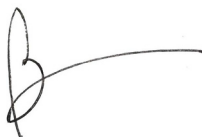
Our efforts have already begun with the establishment of a Senate Committee on Accountability. Action will be initiated through Senate resolution. We will create additional opportunities to attain more efficiency by capitalizing on collaboration within branches of government, between County, State, and Federal governments and related stakeholders such as private businesses and non-profit organizations. We support the Governor's new CIO as he advances the newest technologies to make our government not necessarily smaller, but smarter.

At the start of the 2011 session, the primary challenge of the legislature was how to rectify a \$1.3 billion deficit. About half of the deficit was closed by making painful budget cuts, while avoiding having to raise the general excise tax (GET) and taxing pensions for seniors.

Another, less apparent, challenge resulted from the numerous vacancies in the legislature due to appointments to key government positions and ambitions for greater opportunities to serve the people of Hawai'i. Though it was a pleasure to get to know and work with so many new, and in one case, returning, legislators, it was quite an endeavor to ensure that our new legislators and their staff were brought up to speed in terms of processes, procedures, and protocol.

That said, and in spite of the many other challenges we faced throughout the legislative session, as well as during the interim, 2011 was a productive year overall. But there is still a lot of work to be done, and many more challenges to face. I will continue to strive to meet the challenges head-on, to engage in and encourage out-of-the-box thinking, and champion good causes to work towards win-win solutions to our most pressing problems.

Hauoli Makahiki Hou...Mahalo a nui loa,



Senator Brickwood Galuteria