

Newsletter

March 2015

## Starting Again...

It's great to be back at the Legislature!

These first few months have been spent setting up my office and hiring staff, gaining a deeper understanding of the issues impacting District 4, drafting and introducing bills, working on committees, and most recently participating in hearings to confirm the Governor's appointees.

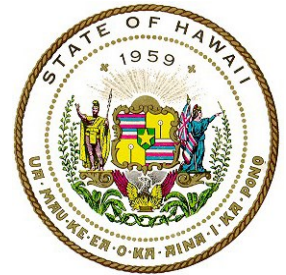
I am Vice-Chair of the committee on Higher Education and the Arts, and serve as a member of the Hawaiian Affairs, Transportation and Ways and Means committees.

At the Capitol, I have been welcomed by old friends – both elected officials and staff who are still here from my previous tenure in the Senate. I have also met many new people and my door is always open to constituents and others who drop in to say hello or discuss pending legislation.

I hope the following pages give you a small glimpse into what we have been doing and I welcome your calls and emails.

*Senator Lorraine Inouye*

*Photos clockwise from L: Office Staff – Kaala Coleman, Angela Thomas and Matthew Kennedy; Kohala Coast Sound Test (Dec 2014), Transportation Committee Hearing (Jan 2015); and Hawaiian Affairs Committee Confirmation Hearing for DHHL Director and Deputy (Feb 2015).*



**Serving Hawaii's  
Senate District 4**

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# CIP Requests for District 4

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## Three CIP requests will benefit Waimea, Waipio and North Kohala

Farming and agriculture are two of my priorities and all of my CIP requests are related in some way to sustaining our agricultural capacity.

The first has to do with the Kohala Ditch. While the ditch itself carries water for over 20 miles, it runs through many privately owned parcels and serves over 90 businesses and residences. This CIP request is for a study to assess the feasibility of the state maintaining and improving the ditch to provide adequate and reliable water to the community.



*View from Waipio Valley lookout.*



*Senator Inouye visits the Kohala Ditch with constituents on December 29, 2014—six days after the storm that left the community with severe flood damage.*

The second CIP request is for Waipio Valley and in particular, Ha Ola o Waipio, a new group formed within the Waipio community to continue the implementation of the 2006 NCRS Waipio Valley Stream Management Plan. The funding would provide equipment and construction costs to the group to provide preventative flood control measures and stream bank stabilization.

The third request is for the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant. The project will include planning, design and construction for improvements to the aging infrastructure of the building. Also included is the installation of up to a 100KW photovoltaic system that will help offset the costs of running the cooling plant and decrease costs for users in the community.



*Senator Inouye visits the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant in late December 2014.*



## The Twenty-Eighth Legislature

- There are 25 State Senators—24 Democrats and 1 Republican.
- There are 16 Senate Committees:

Agriculture

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Economic Development and Technology

Education

Energy and Environment

Government Operations

Hawaiian Affairs

Health

Higher Education and the Arts

Human Services and Housing

Judiciary and Labor

Public Safety/Intergovernmental/Military Affairs

Transportation

Tourism and International Affairs

Water and Land

Ways and Means

- This year there were 1,379 bills introduced in the Senate and 1,515 bills introduced in the House, for a total of 2,894. This number is actually low compared to previous years.

- Senator Inouye drafted and introduced 20 bills herself, and co-introduced another 90, for a total of 110.
- The work of the legislature is done through the committee process, where colleagues and advocates can exchange ideas and provide testimony to help shape, amend and kill legislation.
- Recess days are days when the House and Senate do not convene in chambers. Instead, they participate in committee hearings, informational briefings, caucus meetings or can return to their communities to provide updates on the session so far.
- In addition to creating new legislation, the Senate also holds confirmation hearings for the Governor's departmental appointments.



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*The view from Senator Inouye's office. The eternal flame, framed by palm trees, below Punchbowl and blessed by a rainbow.*



*Clockwise: Senator Inouye is sworn in; attending the Transfer of Authority for Brigadier General Logan; congratulating Catherine Awakuni Colon, new Director of DCCA; Muhammad Khan, International Student at Parker School, spent a day at the Legislature.*