



Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

District 4

Wailuku, Waihe'e, Kahului, Paia, Lower Paia



February 2011

Community Action Agencies Recognized by Hawaii State Senate

On February 10, 2011, Senators honored four Hawaii Community Action Organizations with a floor presentation in the Senate Chambers. Guests included: Maui, Kauai and Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Inc. and the Honolulu Community Action Program. These organizations are dedicated to providing assistance to needy and underserved populations across the State of Hawaii and offer outreach services that include transportation, employment, youth, and kupuna services. "Community Action Organizations play a vital role in helping our communities survive and thrive," said Senate President Tsutsui "recognizing their effort through a floor presentation is a small gesture to show our appreciation."

Senator J. Kalani English (D-Maui) made opening remarks and introduced representatives from Maui Economic Opportunity, while Senators Kouchi, Solomon and Galuteria introduced their respective neighbor island counterparts. Following the presentation, Senators personally congratulated the representatives with certificates and lei.



L to R: Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, CEO of Maui Economic Opportunity Lyn McNeff and Senator J. Kalani English

Medal of Honor Ceremony set for March 29



Service members observing the Medal of Honor Ceremony in 2008

Every session the House and Senate hold a joint presentation to award the Medal of Honor to military service members with ties to Hawaii who have sacrificed their lives for our country and freedom. Created in 2005 through Act 21, the medal has been awarded to over two hundred men and women who were killed in action as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

This year's ceremony will begin at 2pm on March 29th, 2011, in the Hawaii State Senate Chambers. The gallery will be open to the general public with limited seating. Session will also be broadcast live via public access television and streamed on demand via the senate webcast page.

Wailuku II Elementary School

With recent delays worked out, groundbreaking on the new Wailuku II Elementary School might soon be underway. According to the Department of Education, the \$31,255,000 construction contract for the new school was awarded to Primatech Construction on January 7, 2011 and submitted building permit applications currently awaiting approval.

In response to Central Maui's growing population, in 2007 the Legislature appropriated funds to plan, design and construct the new school. Set to be built in the 2,000-home Kehalani subdivision, Wailuku II Elementary will house approximately 550 students and is expected to take two years to construct.

"I'm happy to see progress on this project as it has been a long time coming," said Senate President Tsutsui, "Wailuku II Elementary will reduce overcrowding in our schools and I look forward to its groundbreaking and completion."

Maui Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii Students visit the State Capitol



Senate President Tsutsui with Maui representatives of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii and REAL

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii is the only independent organization in Hawaii dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. On February 14, 2011, coalition representatives from Maui attended "Kick Butts Day" at the Hawaii State Capitol and participated in a Tobacco Education & Health Fair and a REAL youth rally. Students also had an opportunity to sit down with Senate President Tsutsui and talk about the organization's message. Their goals are to unite individuals to advance tobacco control by building partnerships and collaborations, increasing access to prevention and cessation, creating healthier communities, exposing tobacco's harm, protecting our youth and saving lives.

For questions, comments or concerns please contact Senator Tsutsui at sentsutsui@capitol.hawaii.gov or (808) 586-7344.