



# Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

## District 4

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



#### Hawaii State Senate Adjourns 2011 Legislative Session

The Hawaii State Senate officially adjourned the 2011 legislative session on May 5th, 2011, with the passage of a final four bills and the singing of 'Hawaii Aloha'.

During the session, which began on January 19, more than 3,000 bills were introduced by the State Senate and House of Representatives, with about 250 of them getting final passage. The majority of such bills still await final approval by the Governor.

"It was a very challenging session," said Senate President Shan Tsutsui, "because our state is facing very difficult economic times which limits how much we are able to do. But it was also a rewarding session because in the end we were able to balance our budget while protecting the most vulnerable in our society and we passed some of the most historic legislation in the history of Hawaii."

Among the more memorable measures that were passed this year were the re-structuring of the Department of Education, the approval of Civil Unions and the passage of a bill that recognizes Native Hawaiians as the only original indigenous people of the islands. In addition, the Senate approved legislation that protects home owners by reforming the foreclosure process; legislation that makes Quest and Medicaid benefits more accessible to people in rural areas; and new rules that will help the State better administer and manage public lands.

"While we did not please everyone with our budget," said Tsustui, "we were able to avoid raising the State General Excise Tax (GET) and taxing the pensions of our elder citizens. Those were big concerns at the start of the Session."

Through deliberations with the House of Representatives, the Senate was able to balance the budget primarily through a temporary suspension of some business income tax exemptions, an adjustment in rental car surcharges and the transfer of some hotel room tax income to the State, as well as several other smaller income generating actions.

The Hawaii Legislature is scheduled to convene again next January for their regular 2012 Session, but in the intervening months all Senators will continue to meet with their constituents and be available for matters of government and civil concern.



#### Iao School Visits the State Capitol

On April 29, during their annual trip to Oahu, the Iao School band stopped by the State Capitol for a brief visit with Senator Tsutsui. After a few minutes of chatting and pictures, students were surprised with an impromptu visit from Governor Neil Abercrombie. According to Band teacher Mr. Jim Balicanta, the students were excited that Senator Tsutsui requested the meeting on their behalf and felt proud to have been granted such a privilege.



#### Over \$12 Million Secured for Capitol Improvement Projects in District 4

| Education                           |  |              |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Baldwin High                        | Design and Construction for Public Accommodation Transition Plan...  | \$800,000    |
|                                     | Renovation of Science Labs .....   | TBD          |
| Maui High                           | Roof Renovations .....   | \$9,954      |
|                                     | Paint Interior .....   | \$22,827     |
|                                     | Replace doors and panic door hardware .....  | \$19,271     |
|                                     | Renovation of Science Labs .....   | TBD          |
| Iao Intermediate                    | Roof Renovations .....   | \$12,931     |
| Paia Elementary                     | SpEd Preschool portable renovations .....  | \$500,000    |
| Kahului Elementary                  | Library A/C .....  | \$1,000,000  |
| Lihikai Elementary                  | Roof Renovations .....   | \$63,598     |
| King Kekaulike High                 | Design for new auditorium and ground improvements .....  | \$1,950,000  |
| Community                           |  |              |
| Hale Hooluolu Hospice Facility      | Plans, land acquisition, design and construction for a new hospice center .....                                | \$500,000    |
| Central Maui Regional Park          | Plans, land acquisition, design and construction for a new regional park complex .....                         | \$9,000,000  |
| Maui Science Building               | Construction and equipment for renovation of the existing science building .....                               | \$4,501,000  |
| Maui Memorial Medical Center        | Facility Expansion for imaging, laboratory, pharmacy, and other departments .....                              | \$3,000,000  |
|                                     | Fire sprinklers, smoke detectors and signage .....   | \$1,680,000  |
|                                     | Air conditioning upgrades .....  | \$1,600,000  |
|                                     | Plumbing Improvements .....  | \$2,000,000  |
|                                     | Dietary equipment upgrades .....   | \$1,000,000  |
| Airports                            |  |              |
| Kahului Airport                     | Re-roofing of terminal buildings and other related projects .....  | \$7,500,000  |
|                                     | Passenger Information System Improvements .....  | \$2,500,000  |
|                                     | Loading Bridge Modernization .....   | \$9,620,000  |
|                                     | Terminal Improvements .....  | \$3,000,000  |
|                                     | Land Acquisition .....   | \$11,625,000 |
| Roads & Highways                    |  |              |
| Kahului Baseyard                    | Design, construction and equipment for improvements .....  | \$800,000    |
| Existing Intersections and Highways | Design and construction for miscellaneous improvements .....   | \$2,815,000  |
| Kahului Airport Access Road         | Construction for a portion of the new access road to Kahului Airport from Puunene Avenue to Hana Highway ..... | \$9,525,000  |
| Haleakala Highway Improvements      | Construction for improvements and to install right turn lane and walkways/paved shoulder .....                 | \$1,500,000  |
| Harbors                             |  |              |
| Kahului Harbor                      | Costs related to Harbor Modernization Plan .....   | \$48,400,000 |

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