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**SENATOR ON THE MOVE - DISTRICT 2 SITE VISITS GIVE**

*Senator Ruderman made district site visits a priority during the interim between sessions with more to come before the beginning of the 2014 Legislative Session in January.*

Senator Ruderman presented a Senate certificate to Kalleigh Stewart and Brandon Damitz of Big Island Coffee Roasters congratulating them on achieving a score of 93 from CoffeeReview.com for their 100% Puna Kazumura Reserve Peaberry Medium. CoffeeReview.com is the world's largest and most respected coffee buying guide. Big Island Coffee Roasters also received 1st place in the Creative Division in the 2013 Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) 5th Annual Cupping Competition on July 18-20, 2013 in Lihue, Kauai. This is the first award to a coffee farm on Hawai'i island outside of Kona and Ka'u.

Hawaii County Civil Defense Chief Darryl Oliveira and Dan Coloma, Governor's Advisory Council, Hawaii County Representative gave Senator Ruderman a tour of the County Civil Defense Headquarters and the impressive operations that form the backbone of protection during natural disasters.



*Kalleigh Stewart and Brandon Damitz of Big Island Coffee Roasters receiving a certificate from Senator Ruderman recognizing them for the work their work in improving locally grown coffee quality, expanding the farmer knowledge base, and developing and marketing the Puna coffee district and brand.*

Senator Ruderman participated along with almost 25 members from the community, the Big Island Invasive Species Council and the US Division of Forestry and Wildlife in a volunteer workday at the Black Sands Subdivision to combat the giant albizia.

The Black Sands Albizia control demonstration project is a new model bringing together community members, business and governmental organizations to address a serious, fast-growing problem. By calling upon community members to help with the work and follow-up maintenance, coordinating with HELCO, County of Hawaii, and State DOT, and the utilizing the expertise of DOFAW and BIISC.

One of the many schools visited by Senator Ruderman was Na Wai Ola Charter School which was close to having its charter revoked amid financial troubles and lagging test scores four years ago, but under the leadership of Principal Dan Caluya, NA WAI OLA, through limitless energy, initiative and spirit is now recognized as one of the Hawaii's top-performing public schools. Δ



*Sen. Ruderman visited Ka Wai Ola Public Charter School to congratulate the students, teachers, and Principal Daniel Caluya who ranked 6th in the State according to Strive HI performance standards!*



*Sen. Ruderman getting a hands on lesson on the intensive efforts to control invasive Albizia trees from not only the district, but county-wide.*



*At Hawaii County Civil Defense Headquarters with Darryl Oliveira - Hawaii County CD Chief & Don Coloma, Governor's Advisory Council representative. The Senator toured Civil Defense & was briefed on their impressive operations.*



*I would like to express my thanks to those of you in the district that have reached out to me and my office to express your concerns and ideas for Senate District 2. The insight that I have gained from your calls, emails, and participation in our community meetings has been invaluable in guiding my efforts.*

*I strive to keep our district informed and to assist in taking a proactive roll in the legislative process, and I will continue to work on increasing constituent participation on the issues that matter most to our district, including videoconferencing*

*With that in mind, the upcoming 2014 Legislative Session is set to begin on January 15th, 2014. Legislation that I am introducing this upcoming session will focus on food sustainability and security, invasive species control, sustainable living, increasing library resources, initiative and referendum, medical cannabis dispensaries, and decriminalization of cannabis.*

*Throughout the interim of 2013 I have been active in site visits, including almost every school in the 2nd District. These visits have helped tremendously in gaining more in-depth knowledge and forming a better understanding of the needs of Puna and Ka'u.*

*My staff and I are committed to improving the quality of life for every constituent, and we are happy to hear from you. As always, if you have a concern or a question, need assistance or information on a particular issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.*

Aloha,

Senator Russell Ruderman  
Senate District 2

PUNA | HAWAI'I ISLAND DISTRICT 2 | KA'U  
**COMMUNITY**  
**UPDATE**  
**& PREVIEW**

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 6

DECEMBER | 2013

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THE 2014 SESSION**

**COMMUNITY**

**Public Utilities; Occupancy Verification**  
Requires verification of legal ownership or legal occupancy of a property prior to the initiation of new public utility service.

**Sustainable Living Research; Permit**  
Establishes a permit process that excepts sustainable living research and sites from certain county codes, ordinances, and rules.

**ENERGY**

**Geothermal Permitting; County**  
Restore County permitting provision that was repealed by Act 97, SLH 2012.

**Conservation; Mining and Materials; Hydraulic Fracturing**  
Prohibits hydraulic fracturing and the collection, storage, treatment, or discharge of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing. Provides for penalties and enforcement.

**FOOD SECURITY**

**Coffee; Hawaii-grown Coffee; Labeling; Geographic or Regional Origins**  
Requires a specific listing of the geographic origins of various Hawaii-grown coffees and the geographic or regional origins of the various coffees not grown in Hawaii that are included in a coffee blend to be listed on the front panel of a label. Permits the aggregate percent by weight of foreign grown coffees to be listed in lieu of a list of each of the geographic origins of the coffees not grown in Hawaii.

**Cottage Food; Cottage Food Operations; Permits; Registration**

Permits the cottage food industry in Hawaii. Establishes requirements for cottage food operators, cottage food operations, and cottage food products. Permits class A cottage food operations to engage in direct sales of cottage food products and permits class B cottage



food operations to engage in direct and indirect sales of cottage food products.

**Industrial Hemp; Marijuana**  
Provides the authority, procedures, and licensing related to the production of industrial hemp. Requires the department of agriculture to promote industrial hemp research and development of markets for industrial hemp. Requires the possession, use, sale, or transfer of industrial hemp for research and development purposes to not constitute certain offenses involving a detrimental drug.

**Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture; Appropriation**  
Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture and the University of Hawaii to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

**Raw Milk; Agriculture; Public Health; Cow, Goat, Sheep Shares**

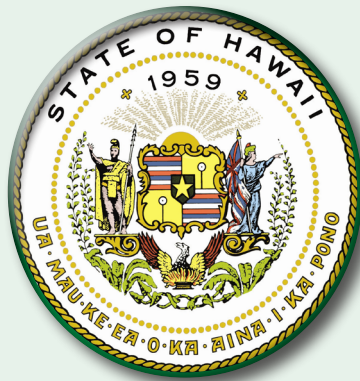
Permits the acquisition of raw milk and raw milk products by owners of cows, goats, and sheep and cow shares, goat shares, and sheep shares if certain conditions are met. Requires farms and dairies that produce raw milk or raw milk products to register with the department of health. Permits farms and dairies to set up a location near an improved road to distribute their products to owners of cow, sheep, or goat shares. Prohibits the

*continued on page 3*

SENATOR  
**RUSSELL RUDERMAN**  
HAWAII STATE SENATE  
2ND DISTRICT

Member of the  
Senate Committees on

EDUCATION  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
WATER AND LAND  
WAYS AND MEANS



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status and documents, go to:  
http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov



**MARRIAGE EQUALITY PASSES  
IN THE ALOHA STATE**

*The following is my Senate floor speech in favor of equal rights during the Senate floor debate on Senate Bill 1 on Marriage Equality*

*I am very happy that we are voting today on extending equal rights to gays and lesbians. This is one more step on our society's path toward "Liberty and Justice for ALL."*

*As we saw massive public input from both sides, my office did an analysis which I find revealing. Although total input was mostly against marriage equality, input from my district was remarkably 80% in favor. Is this because my district is more in favor than most, or because of more statewide mass mailings coordinated by a few organizations opposing equality? I believe it is both.*

*I am proud of my colleagues for the courage to do what's so clearly right. I want to acknowledge the strong leadership of our Judiciary Chair and thank him for helping bring us to this point.*

*In the past two weeks we have seen an outpouring of comments from those on both sides of this issue. This was expected, and good for our democracy. What I did not expect was the coordinated expressions of hatred, bigotry, and intolerance in the name of God and church. I have been shocked and saddened by this, and especially disturbed by the fact that some religious leaders taught a perversion of their faith, and encouraged their flock to practice these hurtful passions instead of the true message of their faith. I believe the pastors who advocated this intolerance must now work extra hard to reverse the damage they have done to their congregations and their own moral authority by now siding with Love, and teaching Love.*

*I deeply thank the many church representatives from a variety of religious organizations and most of the Christian churches urging us to side with love and acceptance.*

*I am the son of a religion scholar. As I understand the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, the core of his message is "Love." Love thy neighbor, love thy enemy, love thy God. Along with this he practiced and preached tolerance, acceptance, and forgiveness, and gave us the Golden Rule – Treat others as you would want to be treated. I try to picture Jesus standing at the door of a Temple, blocking the entrance to someone whose heart is filled with Love. The image is absurd. On the contrary, I'm sure Jesus opens his arms in welcome to anyone with love in their hearts, most especially those who have faced persecution for their beliefs. If he heard someone preaching hatred, intolerance, and bigotry in his name, in his Temple, that false leader would be evicted, while welcoming all*



*those who practice compassion, acceptance, and Love. Just ask yourself, "Who would Jesus hate?"*

*So here we are. It's true that we must now heal the divide in our community. I call upon those on both sides to help this healing. A few people on both sides have crossed the line of civility, and in some cases their lack of Aloha has swayed legislators in the opposite direction of that intended. Forgiveness and love will be needed to heal.*

*I am glad for the exemptions we included, so that we can move forward on the more important issue of basic equal rights. The ultimate way that healing will occur is for all individuals and organizations to put behind them this latest wave of intolerance. Yes, those churches that choose to do so can now legally discriminate against gays and lesbians, in the name of 'religious freedom.' But there is no moral or ethical excuse for such discrimination, now or ever. If that's not clear, just insert any other category, such as race, in place of same-gender couples, and the indefensibility of the position becomes clear. When you are ready to correct this mistake, you will open your doors and teach your flock acceptance rather than intolerance, courage rather than fear, and Love rather than hate. Then our community will be healed from this rift, and then we can move forward as one.*

*To those who could not accept gays and lesbians as members of your community yesterday, today is a bright new day, and it is your time to learn to do so. We all stand ready to help each other in this growth.*

*Now we can celebrate a great victory. I thank all the members of the House, Senate and public who showed bravery in standing up equal rights for all. Today, in the Aloha state, thank God, Love wins.*

Love is Love.  
Thank you.

**\$4,510,000 IN CIP FUNDING FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2**



|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Ka'u Forest Reserve.....   | \$240,000 |
| Ka'u High and Pahala Elem Bldgs J & K, Renovate Restrooms.....   | \$68,000  |
| Ka'u High and Pahala Elem Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....  | \$106,000 |
| Keaau High Football Field Maintenance.....   | \$2,000   |
| Keaau High Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....   | \$68,000  |
| Keaau Middle School B, D, E, G - Demolition.....   | \$375,000 |
| Keaau Middle School Bldg F, Repair Restroom & Locker Rm.....   | \$51,000  |
| Keaau Middle School Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....  | \$31,000  |
| Keaau Middle School (addtl Construction Music Bldg.).....  | \$20,000  |
| Keaau Middle School Electrical Upgrade.....  | \$300,000 |
| Keonepoko Elem Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....   | \$48,000  |
| Keonepoko Elem Electrical Upgrade.....   | \$200,000 |
| Mountain View Elem Repair/Replace Playground Equipment.....  | \$100,000 |
| Mountain View Elem Upgrade Fire Alarm System.....  | \$194,000 |
| Mountain View Elem Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....   | \$31,000  |
| Mountain View Elem Misc R&M for RTTT ZSI.....  | \$103,000 |
| Mountain View Elem Electrical Upgrade.....   | \$400,000 |
| Pahoa Elem Misc. R&M, RTTT, ZSI.....   | \$159,000 |
| Pahoa Elem Electrical Upgrade.....   | \$200,000 |
| Pahoa High and Inter Misc. R&M for RTTT ZSI.....   | \$289,000 |
| Pahoa High/Inter Electrical Upgrade.....   | \$300,000 |
| Pohoiki Boat Ramp Maintenance Dredging.....  | \$400,000 |
| Improvements to Hale Nani Waste and Graywater Systems, Phase II.....   | \$225,000 |
| Hawaii CCC, Div. 11/17 Improvements.....   | \$500,000 |
| (Detention-grade Security Doors, Windows, Frames and related Security Locks and other Security Hardware (DIV. 11); Security Electronics Systems (DIV. 17). |           |
| Hawaii CCC, Expand Hale Nani Support Services Building, Phase II.....  | \$100,000 |

**\* THESE AMOUNTS DO NOT INCLUDE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OF PROJECTS**

**PROPOSED FOR 2014 cont.**

sale and redistribution of raw milk and raw milk products.

**GOOD GOVERNMENT**  
**Audiovisual Technology; Videoconferencing; Legislative Hearings; Testimony; Teleconferencing; Neighbor Islands; Appropriation**

Requires both houses of the legislature to implement rules to permit neighbor island residents to present testimony through audiovisual technology. Appropriates funds to establish audiovisual systems throughout the State.

**Constitutional Amendment; Initiative; Referendum**

Proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for initiative and referendum.

**Initiative; Referendum**

Provides for initiative and referendum procedures. Takes effect upon ratification of a constitutional amendment enabling legislation by the people.

**Marijuana; Civil Penalties for Possession of One Ounce or Less**

Establishes a civil violation for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana that is subject to a fine of not more than \$100.

**Medical Use of Cannabis; Medical Cannabis Cooperative Disposal and Transfer Access Centers**

Permits the regulation of medical cannabis cooperative disposal access centers (co-ops) by the Department of health. Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to regulate the co-ops. Requires a patient determined, self-titrated dosing model for medical cannabis. Requires co-ops to register with the Department of Health and pay federal, state, and local taxes, including a fifteen per cent excise tax on proceeds. Defines new terms and amends existing definitions relating to medical cannabis.

**Recall Election; Voting**

Provides procedures for recall vote of elected state public officers.

**HEALTH**

**Naturopathic Physicians; Health Insurance; Primary Care**

Requires insurers, mutual benefit societies, fraternal benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide

**MEET SEN. RUDERMAN'S  
OFFICE STAFF**

Office Manager Maigee Chang previously served as a Legislative Aide in the Hawaii State Senate office representing the 1st District on the Big Island for four years before moving abroad for five years. Returning to Hawaii this summer, she was thrilled to have the chance to work again for a Big Island Senator. She studied Political Science at the University of Hawaii and has experience in communications, education, research and international development



Office Manager Maigee Chang and  
Legislative Assistant Michael Greenough.

Legislative Assistant Michael Greenough has previously served in both the Hawaii State Senate and the State House of Representatives going back to 2002 - most recently as Legislative Aide for Senator Ruderman for the 2013 Session. Michael has lived in Hawaii and the Pacific Rim for 30 years and spends as much of his free time as he can in Puna with his wife, Kaleilani Keolanui. Δ

coverage for health care services provided by a naturopathic physician.

**AGRICULTURE**

**Genetically Engineered Food; Labeling**  
Imposes labeling requirements on genetically engineered food offered for retail sale.

**Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Coqui Frogs; Appropriation**

Makes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Hawaii invasive species council for the control of coqui frogs.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**DLNR feasibility study for Pohoiki Safe Swim Area**

Department of Land and Natural Resources, in consultation with the County of Hawaii and concerned stakeholders, is urged to complete a feasibility study for a safe swim area in the Pohoiki Bay Area. Δ