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Holomua

moving forward

House District One · Rural South Hilo · North Hilo · Hāmākua · Kohala

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Robotics Invasion

Bi-Pedal Micro Robots Take Center Stage



Bi-Pedal Robots programmed and designed by participants at the Second Annual Micro Robotics Conference held this year at the Hawaii Convention Center.

The micro-bots pictured are participating in a “sumo” competition.

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2012 Year of the Dragon! While this past year, the Year of the Rabbit, was characterized by calm and tranquility, the Year of the Dragon is marked by excitement, exhilaration and intensity. The Rabbit imbues people with a sense of cautious optimism, but people respond to the spirit of the Dragon with energy, vitality and unbridled enthusiasm. These qualities are just what we need as we head into the 2012 Legislative Session. My colleagues and I will continue to look at proposals, initiatives and legislation brought up last session with a fresh and sharp viewpoint as well as begin looking at new initiatives that can better our community, island and state. I look forward to hearing from and working with all of you this year. Aloha and Best Wishes.

Mark Nakashima

2012 Bill Introduction

The following are a list of bills that I will be introducing into the 2012 Legislature. Among the legislative goals that I have set for this session are measures that will develop the economy, preserve our environment, enhance education, and improve government.

Develop the Economy

There are a number of good ideas such as the Manoa Innovation

Center, the Small Business Development Center, and Natural Energy Laboratory that were created to move our economy forward and they have done this to varying degrees of success. These agencies must be integrated to maximize their resources and to work toward workforce development and workforce training that will prepare the next generation for success.

Toward this end, I am introducing a bill to create the Hawaii Science, Technology and Innovation Agency, that will be a public-



Laupahoehoe Robotics team with Governor Neil Abercrombie

private entity that will work to coordinate and focus our economic efforts toward defined goals and objectives.

Preserve our Environment

Special Management Area for Designated Valleys

In an effort to preserve special places like Waipio Valley, I am

drafting legislation that would set a minimum set back from the valley rim to preserve the pristine view planes of the valley and surrounding areas.

Household Battery Recycling Program

The students at Kohala Middle School won a Siemens "We Can Change the World" challenge with their "6000 n 60" project last school year that focused on how to dispose of household batteries absent any local recycling opportunities.

They developed a household battery recycling effort to collect 6,000 batteries in 60 days, and predicted that if they provided information about environmental harm and tips on how to better use batteries, their community would be more conscientious about battery use and disposal. This bill would establish an incentive program to encourage the recycling of household batteries so that they

do not pollute our environment and our ground water.

Environmental Royalties

In order to enforce the appropriate use of the conservation



This year, the State of Hawaii, Federal Government, and the Trust for Public Lands dedicated additional acres to Lapakahi State Park in Kohala.

and agricultural lands in the State of Hawaii, I am proposing a surcharge on eco-tourism companies to help pay for the cost of protecting the environment and insuring proper stewardship of our natural resources.

Eco-Tourism Permits

Currently, there is little regulation or impact assessment made of the various eco-tourism ventures that have proliferated throughout the Big Island, especially in the First House District. As such, I am proposing the establishment of an eco-tourism permit program that requires eco-tourism operations to meet certain guidelines

for health, safety and protection of the environment, including but not limited to, an environmental impact statement.

Sustainability

Native Hawaiian Fishponds

There is increasing demand on our native fish population that is driv-

ing the need for open water aquaculture. To provide a more traditional alternative, I am proposing legislation that would give priority to the lease of state lands for the creation of native Hawaiian Fishponds and direct the department to adopt rules and regulations that would provide for the streamlined approval of the necessary permits



Science Fair Students from Kohala Middle School visit with Mark at the Capitol. From left to right: Josiah Adams, Gabrielle Bartolome, Tanya Adams, Yuki Zbytovsky, Ashlyn VanZandt, Kadence Coito. Back row adults from left to right: Nem Lau, Joyce Hashimoto, Erika Blanco, and Rep. Mark Nakashima.

required for these purposes.

School Farm Food Safety Pilot Program

Food grown in school gardens and farms cannot be served in the school cafeteria because they do not meet food safety standards. To address this concern and to determine

our ability to administer a food safety program in the school, we are working with the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health. The bill will propose to establish a pilot program demonstrating the ability of high school farm programs to meet the necessary food safety standards and to allow the serving of food grown

on the campus in the school's cafeteria.

Improve Government

Kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) Procurement Incentives

With the adoption of Act 195 last year, the legislature recognized that Native Hawaiians are the only indigenous,

aboriginal maoli people of Hawaii. This bill would provide for a 5% advantage in seeking state bids to promote the success of Native Hawaiian owned businesses.

State Standards and Accountability

There is very little accountability

2012 Bill Introductions

and standard of performance in state employment. To address the need for accountability of state services, I am proposing the establishment of an Office of Standards and Improvement within the Department of Human Resource Development that will work with other agencies in the development of standards for the provision of state services and accountability.

Middle School Testing Pilot

The State of Hawaii has adopted the national common core standards as the basis for education in the state. Among other things, these standards will focus on what we teach our children and how we teach it to insure a greater mastery of the subject. This is critical in math and science so that it

becomes a more in-depth learning experience and not just a cursory overview. To help assess this learning, and to provide a system of individual student centered planning, I am introducing a bill that would provide additional funds for schools to establish a pilot program and to evaluate its effectiveness.

The House Higher Education Committee visited the Gemini Observatory on the Big Island. They also toured UH Hilo, HCC West Hawaii, Palama Nui, North Hawaii Education and Research Center, and College of Pharmacy. From left to right: Reps. Scott Nishimoto, Jerry Chang, Aaron Johanson, Jessica Wooley and Mark Nakashima.



Please watch for notices of my upcoming meetings with the community and our senior citizens. My newsletter discussing these bills and other legislative priorities as well as my 2012 Legislative Survey is available on my member website at

www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

As always you can call me at 974-4000 extension x6-6680 or email me at

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2012 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE