



Community Report

A newsletter from State Representative Calvin Say

20th District - St. Louis Heights, Palolo Valley, Maunalani Heights, Wilhelmina Rise, Kaimuki



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the 26th Legislature, Regular Session of 2012. The work of the Legislature resulted in legislation that responds to the people's needs as we slowly begin to emerge from the Great Recession of the past few years. The Legislature's focus included measures aimed at revitalizing Hawaii's economy, creating jobs, restoring funding for public education, strengthening the foundation for economic diversification and renewable energy, and avoiding tax increases.

The attached Highlights of the 2012 Legislative Session feature brief descriptions of some of the more significant measures that passed this session. It does not take into account any vetoes by the Governor after the Legislature adjourned.

I urge you to keep in touch with me about your concerns. Please feel free to email me at repsay@capitol.hawaii.gov, call me at 586-6100, or fax me at 586-6101. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Calvin K.Y. Say
 Representative
 Calvin K.Y. Say
 District 20

Highlights of the 2012 Hawaii State Legislative Session

The economy is still the number one concern of Hawaii residents. The legislature's priorities in 2012 included economic recovery, assisting new industry and job creation. For the first time in four years, the legislature was not faced with a revenue shortfall in excess of a billion dollars. Lawmakers were able to balance the state budget without major revenue enhancements and support programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people.

Economic Recovery

HB2873 PISCES. HB2873 transfers the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) from the University of Hawaii to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's Office of Aerospace Development, and establishes a PISCES board of directors.

Broadband Initiatives. **HB2526** and **SB2236** are initiatives to prepare Hawaii for an upgrade of its broadband infrastructure. HB2526 requires telecommunication and cable television providers to submit to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs data necessary to assess and evaluate broadband infrastructure and services in the State. SB2236 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenues to a private entity for the purpose of planning, permitting, designing, constructing, equipping, and operating broadband infrastructure throughout the State.

Health

HB608 Kidney and Liver Transplant Facility. One of the first bills passed this year and signed into law was HB608, which responds to the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center and appropriates emergency funds, subject to dollar-for-dollar private matching funds, to be expended by the Department of Health for grants to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program.

SB2958 Bone Marrow Transplantation Program. SB2958 establishes a stem cell collection program and appropriates \$500,000 to support pediatric bone marrow transplantation to serve all young children to adulthood.



Speaker Say and Representative Har congratulate Jennifer Wong for her outstanding academic achievements and groundbreaking discovery of a chemical precursor to the common liver disease, Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH).

Overview of the 2012 Legislature

HB2012 – The State Budget Bill

In 2012, the legislature passed a state budget that responsibly supports the state's core functions, recognizing that while the economy is improving, normal levels are still years away.

The appropriation for operations totals \$11.2 billion in all means of financing. Of the total, \$5.6 billion is comprised of general funds.

Funding for capital improvement project appropriations amount to \$3.2 billion for all means of financing. Of that total, \$827 million is comprised of general obli-

gation and reimbursable general obligation bonds.

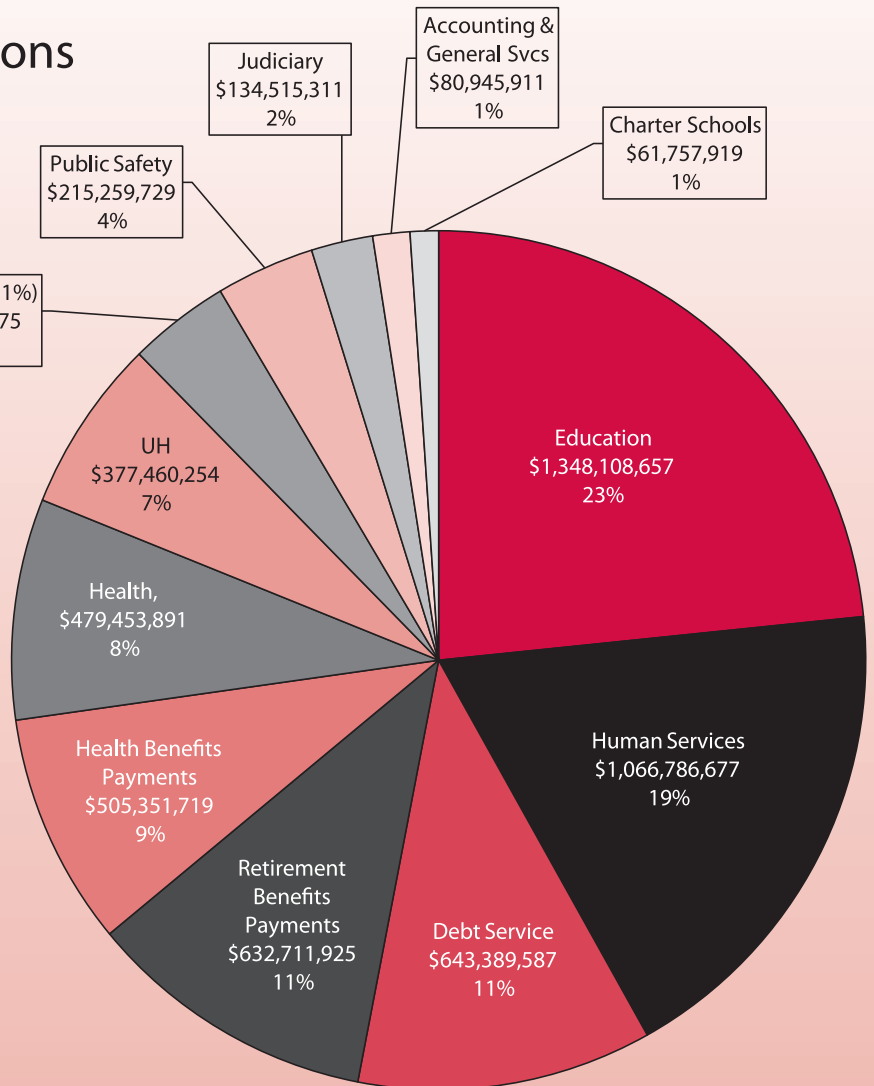
In addition to giving priority to “shovel-ready” projects, the legislature considered projects that addressed critical health, safety, and code requirement needs; reduced the current repair and maintenance backlog; and provided jobs for unemployed and underemployed residents.

Highlights of the budget appropriations, capital improvements and the state's fiscal outlook can be found in the HB2012 Conference Committee report: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/CommReports/HB2012_CD1_CCR131-12_.HTM

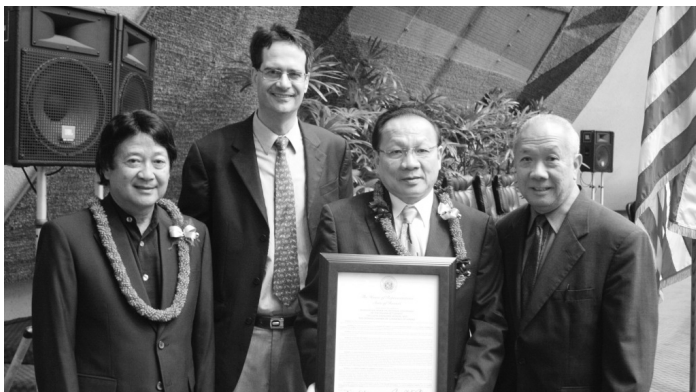
Business

HB2096 Unemployment Insurance. HB2096 was purposefully fast-tracked to go into effect before a significant increase in employer contributions was scheduled to take place. Already signed into law as Act 6, the bill sets the employer contribution rate at schedule F for calendar year 2012. Without the bill, the employer contribution rate would have increased to schedule H, resulting in higher contribution payments by employers to the detriment of businesses. HB2096 also maintains during calendar year 2012 the maximum weekly benefit amount for an unemployed person at seventy-five per cent of average weekly wages.

General Fund Appropriations Fiscal Year 2013 \$ 5,766,612,155



All Others (<1%)		
Legislature	\$ 31,831,052	0.55%
Libraries	\$ 28,070,484	0.49%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 25,738,532	0.45%
Budget & Finance	\$ 23,229,913	0.40%
Attorney General	\$ 22,816,779	0.40%
Taxation	\$ 21,711,148	0.38%
Defense	\$ 17,250,929	0.30%
Human Resources Development	\$ 14,218,165	0.25%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 12,270,160	0.21%
Agriculture	\$ 10,297,218	0.18%
Bus., Econ Dev. & Tourism	\$ 7,123,263	0.12%
Governor	\$ 2,921,286	0.05%
OHA	\$ 2,370,872	0.04%
Lt. Governor	\$ 1,020,774	0.02%



Speaker Say (far right) and Representative Rhoads (2nd from left) congratulate the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii on their Centennial Anniversary.



Speaker Say joins Governor Abercrombie in congratulating the 2012 NFL Flag Football National Champions, Palolo's "808 Boyz".

Natural Resources

Appropriation for Watershed Protection. For watershed protection, HB2012, the state budget bill, includes appropriations of \$3.0 million in general obligation bonds and \$2.5 million in special funds.

Renewable Energy

SB2785 Interisland Renewable Energy Cable Regulatory Framework. SB2785 establishes a regulatory framework for the review of proposals to construct an interisland cable to transmit renewable energy between the islands of Hawaii. The bill establishes procedures, terms, and conditions for the selection of a company to construct the cable if the proposal is viable.

SB2001 and SB 3003 Promoting Geothermal Energy. SB2001 amends the Hawaii State Planning Act to include promoting the development of indigenous geothermal energy resources that are located on public trust land as a source of firm power. SB 3003 amends various land use and permitting laws to facilitate the exploration for geothermal resources.

Lower Education

SB2115 Charter School Reform. SB2115 establishes a new charter school law that creates

a solid governance structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability that will foster improved student outcomes.

SB2545 Early learning. SB2545 establishes the executive office on early learning and early learning advisory board. The major duty of the executive office, with the advice of the board, is to plan for the implementation of the keiki first steps program in the 2014-15 school year as a replacement for junior kindergarten.

Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects. HB2012 also includes the following in general obligation bond appropriations for the Department of Education:

- (1) \$116.5 million for school renovation and improvement;
- (2) \$10.0 million for electrical upgrades; and
- (3) \$30.0 million to health, safety, ADA, and special education needs.

Higher Education

SB239 John A. Burns School of Medicine. SB239, already signed into law as Act 2, extends the subsidy of the School of Medicine with tobacco settlement funds.

SB809 UH Revenue Bond Authorization. SB809, already signed into law as Act 3, authorizes

the University of Hawaii to issue \$100 million in revenue bonds. The revenue bonds are intended to fund University projects that will create jobs as well as much needed facilities.

Appropriation for Repair and Maintenance. HB2012, the state budget bill, includes an appropriation of \$80.0 million for capital renewal, deferred maintenance, and health, safety, and code compliance.

Transportation

HB2030 Highway Safety. HB2030 requires motorists to "move over" when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway, and requires drivers to slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe under the circumstances when an emergency road situation exists ahead of the driver.

HB1666 Vulnerable Highway Users. HB1666 amends the offenses of negligent homicide in the first degree, negligent homicide in the second degree, and negligent injury in the first degree to include provisions for incidents in which vulnerable highway users are involved in order to promote highway safety and increase driver awareness. A vulnerable highway user includes pedestrians, bicyclists, moped riders, roadway workers, police, fire and emergency responders.

Contact Representative Calvin Say

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Overview of the 2012 Legislature

Human Services

SB2320 Kupuna Care. SB2320 provides essential home and community-based services for Hawaii's elderly population. It codifies the authorization for the establishment of the kupuna care program and appropriates \$4.9 million to support the needs of Hawaii's older adults and elderly individuals.

SB2779 Aging and Disability Resource Centers. SB2779 authorizes the establishment of and appropriates \$1.4 million for aging and disability resource centers in each county. The centers are intended to streamline access to services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers.

Hawaiian Affairs

SB2783 OHA Settlement, Kakaako Makai Lands Transfer. This session marked an historic milestone for the Native Hawaiian community in the

passage of SB2783. Senate Bill 2783 transfers approximately 25 acres of land in Kakaako Makai valued at \$200 million resolving all disputes and controversies relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' portion of income and proceeds from the Public Trust Lands between November 7, 1978 and June 30, 2012. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law on April 11 as Act 015.

Some Important Capital Improvement Projects

District 20

Hokulani Elementary School -- \$150,000

Design and construction of covered lanais, ground and site improvements, equipment and appurtenances.

Palolo Chinese Home -- \$750,000

Construction and renovation of the dining hall and care home building.

Economic Development

Transpacific Cable Project -- \$2,200,000

This project is intended to improve the broadband infrastructure in Hawaii, which is necessary for high speed, high capacity information distribution and sharing with the world.

Agricultural Inspection Facilities Statewide -- \$2,000,000

This project is necessary to promote the export of agricultural commodities grown in Hawaii and prevent the introduction of invasive species that could damage local farm crops.

Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) -- \$1,840,000

This project is intended to promote the development of a space exploration industry in Hawaii.

Other Project Of Interest

Japan Tsunami Debris Mitigation -- \$10,000,000

This project is intended to mitigate the anticipated arrival of debris from the March 11, 2011 tsunami in Japan.



OHA Chairwoman Machado, Speaker Say, and Representative Mele Carroll at the bill signing ceremony enacting into law SB 2783, Relating to the Public Trust Lands, which resolves a long-standing dispute between the State and OHA over ceded-lands.