

# From the Office SENATOR SUZANNE N.J. CHUN OAKLAND

#### Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226

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Dear Family and Friends,

The New Year brings hope and much to be thankful for. It has been a very difficult time for all of us these past few years. Yet, even with the worries and great challenges in our personal and professional lives, we still find it within ourselves to care for each other, share what we do have with others, and find the time to do acts of kindness.

Each day, I meet people in our community who are doing such wonderful and amazing work that makes our economy stronger, public education better, and provides public services that touch the lives of so many people in life saving and life changing ways. I meet people whose efforts bring Hawaii closer to becoming more food and energy self-reliant. I work with people who inspire us, dedicating their lives to improving the well-being of our keiki, kupuna and families.



The small acts of kindness and gratitude are what I appreciate the most. It warms my heart to see people saying "thank you" when a motorist let's

them cross safely in the crosswalk, when someone waves "Mahalo" or does a "shaka" for someone letting them enter another lane of traffic, when a person who helps someone that has fallen to get up and makes sure they are alright, when someone offers a seat to someone on the bus or opens the door and there is a "thank you" given in return to this kind and respectful gesture and when people share their gifts of time, food and flowers from their yards and a smile or "hello" is given as we pass each other. Truly, that is the Hawaii I grew up in and the Aloha spirit that I hope will always be a part of our way of life in these islands. Mahalo for all that you do.

Best wishes for a new year filled with happiness, good health and much love.

Aloha.

Thranne Chun leakenne

Susie Chun Oakland State Senator District 13

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# Hawaii State Legislature Stays the Course in 2012 Legislative Session

After a very successful session, the Hawaii State Legislature adjourned on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Throughout this second year of the legislative biennium, the overarching themes of the Senate aligned well with Governor Abercrombie's platform of "A New Day in Hawaii". Job creation, education, shoring up the Safety Net and Improving IT Infrastructure were consistently touted and, ultimately, supported by the Senate and House.

#### Job Creation & Creating a Sustainable Economy

Although Hawaii is experiencing a steady economic recovery, many people are still unemployed or under-employed, especially in the construction and trade industries. Realizing this reality, the Legislature made job creation and creating a sustainable economy top priorities through its flagship initiative, The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012. To accomplish this goal, the Legislature included over of \$414M for repair and maintenance projects in the Capital Improvement Program portion of the budget for fiscal year 2013, pursuant to **House Bill 2012**. The funding will allow for the creation of more than 4-thousand shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants, and help put money in workers' pockets and give companies confidence to begin hiring again.

The projects will focus on smaller repairs and maintenance to address aging infrastructure and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities, energy conservation and sustainable improvements, and health, safety and code requirements. Not only the state departments, but everyone in the State will benefit from this funding. All trades in the construction industry will prosper as well as businesses that provide goods and services to the industry.

#### *Highlights of the funding are provided as follows:*

The Department of Education will receive \$296M in FY13, including \$116M that has been appropriated for classroom renovations and school building improvements to address the department's repair and maintenance backlog, \$10M for electrical upgrades to support the rapidly evolving technology that is imperative to keep students competitive in the global economy, and \$30M in various lump sum appropriations for schools throughout the State to address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, health and safety and special education needs.

For the University of Hawaii, over \$80M was appropriated for capital renewal and deferred maintenance as well as health, safety, and building code requirements, system wide. Additionally, to address significant growth in student enrollment at the community colleges, an additional \$27.5M was provided to the community colleges as well as \$10M for Kapiolani Community College to begin construction of the Culinary Institute of the Pacific.

Additionally, over \$60M has been provided for Hawaii Public Housing Authority to continue to upgrade its units and help to shelter low-income families; \$35M has been appropriated for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to help tackle the repair and maintenance needs at community hospitals statewide, including Maluhia Hospital; \$26M has been provided to the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources to allow them to continue their efforts to maintain the State's irrigation systems.

Finally, to shore up our safety net, many community programs run by non-profit organizations were provided a total of \$20M to assist them in the continuation of services and programs such as including senior centers, kupuna care, services for people with disabilities, health care, child welfare programs, youth programs and more throughout the State.

To further continue supporting our top industry, strategic investment was made in our tourism industry through **Senate Bill 490**. The measure develops and implements new initiatives to significantly increase travel and tourism in the State, taking advantage of an executive order signed by President Obama to ease access for international travelers. The expanded visa programs will help provide up to an estimated 154,000 jobs in Hawaii. China in particular is a rising market for Hawaii's tourism industry, with unprecedented growth potential.

Looking ahead into the future of tourism, the Legislature supports an emerging market, such as space tourism, which has the potential of being a billion dollar global industry that could significantly increase state revenues, provide new aerospace jobs, and rejuvenate economic development in the Kalaeloa area. The ground work for the industry is established through **Senate Bill 112**, which appropriates funds for the application for a spaceport license from the Federal Aviation Administration.

#### Children and Youth, Elders, and Families

#### Kupuna Services

The Legislature, this session, passed some historic pieces of legislation that codifies the Kupuna Care Program and the Aging and Disability Resource Center into State law.

With the passage of **Senate Bill 2320, CD1**, starting on July 1, 2012, \$9 million will be made available to the four counties' Offices of Elderly Affairs for kupna care services. These services are available to elders across the State to help them with home delivered meals, transportation services, chore services, personal care, respite services for caregivers, home modifications and assistance to manage financial affairs.

SB 2320, CD1, also funds the Executive Office on Aging to purchase the service of a Wanderer's Registry, in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii, so that if someone with dementia, Alzheimer's Disease or other memory loss conditions are lost or missing due to their circumstances, the registry will be an additional tool to help first responders and others in the community to assist in locating the person's home and reunite them with their families or other caregivers.

**Senate Bill 2779, CD1**, officially establishes the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) statewide. Every county will have such a center and the bill provides funding to support the establishment of these centers. The ADRCs will be one-stop resource centers where people can seek help to address their or their loved ones long term care needs, connecting people with important community resources to support them to live independently and continue to lead active lives to the greatest extent possible.

House Bill 304 was passed by the Legislature to support many essential community services. Some of the programs funded in this bill were the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Palama Settlement, Kalihi-Palama Health Center, and Susannah Wesley Community Center in partnership with Kalihi YMCA and PACT the Pacific Gateway Center. Thank you to all the senior citizens and advocates who helped educate and lobby for this critical funding and all the bills that were passed this session for kupuna. It was a historic year for seniors!

#### **Early Learning**

A child's earliest life experiences are critical in the development of that child into adulthood. Investing in early learning is sound public policy and will impact positively many generations to come.

#### **Senate Bill 2545** does the following:

- Establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) in the Office of the Governor;
- Establishes the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) to replace the Early Learning Council;
- Repeals junior kindergarten programs at the end of the 2013-2014 school year; and
- Requires that students, in order to enter kindergarten, be at least five years of age on July 31 of the same year (beginning with the 2014-2015 school year).

Terry Lock, the current State Early Childhood Coordinator, will head the EOEL.

With the signing of this bill, Hawai'i joins the rest of the nation, where students start kindergarten at age 5. The bill also states that the EOEL will be responsible for developing an implementation plan for an early learning program, targeting late born five year olds and 4 year olds. The plan is due to the Legislature 20 days prior to the start of the 2013 legislative session. The vision is to have a universal network of child care and preschool support for every 4 year old in the State.

The Governor and the Legislature clearly recognizes that high quality early learning programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are critically important for ensuring the success of Hawai'i's keiki. The 2013 legislative session will be key to implementing the steps and resources necessary to achieve this goal.

One of the goals of EOEL is to ensure that government services among Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, Judiciary and other agencies are coordinated, well implemented, continuously improved, and consistently meeting needs. The ELAB, with five more members than the original 14-member Council, will advise the Office on how best to meet the educational and developmental needs of young children, prenatal to age 5, and how to improve the quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood programs.

As a result of our State's steady economic recovery, the safety net continues to need strengthening. There are many who still suffer job loss and significant wage and benefit reductions. The Legislature is mindful of the struggles of Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens and supports efforts to assist them. Child welfare, domestic violence shelters, MedQuest, and various shortfalls across the Department of Human Services were addressed in the State Budget, **House Bill 2012.** 

Additionally, since the closure of Hawaii Medical Center, East and West, hospitals on Oahu are faced with an increased volume in patient admittance and uncompensated care. The Legislature provides support for the hospital system through **House Bill 2275**. This measure would match state funds with federal match, bringing in an additional \$8.4 million to the State, \$17.5 million to State-run community hospitals and \$21.5 million in new Federal funds to private hospitals.

Similarly, **Senate Bill 2466** will bring in \$16 million new federal funds to support long-term care nursing facilities to support and care for loved ones.

**Senate Bill 2939** supports a special revenue purpose bond for the St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii for their Liliha facility, formerly known as Hawaii Medical Center-East, to improve its facilities

in the interest of the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

The Legislature also continues its strong support for education, notably underscoring education as a top priority. Through the State Budget, key areas of investment were made in the student weighted formula, student meals, Community Schools for Adults and student transportation.

To strengthen Hawaii's Charter School system, **Senate Bills 2115 and 2116** increase accountability in the governance of Hawaii's Charter schools that will foster improved student outcomes. Senate Bill 2115 establishes clear lines of authority and clarifies the relationships, responsibilities, and lines of accountability among stakeholders of Hawaii's Charter School System. Senate Bill 2116 appropriates funds to help with the transition.

#### **Renewable Energy and Sustainability**

The Legislature strives to make Hawaii a model for the rest of the country by continuing the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. Reducing electricity costs depends in part on diversifying the energy sources within the State. Geothermal energy is a solid source of indigenous, renewable energy that could be made available at low costs. **Senate Bill 2001** requires consultation and input from the Native Hawaiian community and general public when developing geothermal projects on public trust lands. Meanwhile, **Senate Bill 3003** allows geothermal resources exploration and development in all state land use districts and all zones of the conservation districts. Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 3003 into law in April.

With our State's dependence on imported foods and threat to our food security, **Senate Bill 2695** establishes a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to help address the rising cost of feed and explore ways to increase the sustainability of our local protein sources. Self-sufficiency is critical to Hawaii's food security and ability to respond effectively in the event of natural disasters or disruptions in transportation.

#### **Retooling Government**

In the area of technology, the Legislature calls for investing in the State's information technology (IT) infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient. The State Supplemental Budget, **House Bill 2012**, makes significant investments in software upgrades, integration in information technology, and modernization of databases and records, to name a few. Hawaiian Homelands, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Accounting and General Services and Human Services are some of the departments that will be receiving IT upgrades.

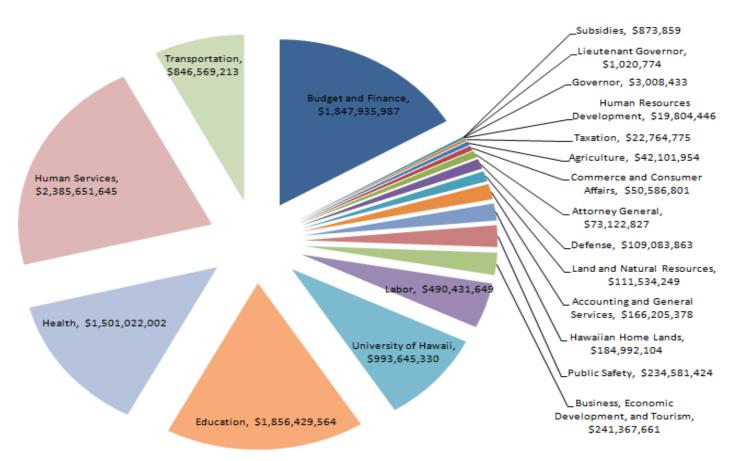
The Legislature also supports the Governor's broadband initiative to improve services and to ensure that each and every citizen has access. The initiative is supported by **Senate Bill 2236**, which assists Clearcom or a partnership headed by Clearcom, Inc., with the planning, designing, constructing, and operating of broadband infrastructure throughout the State.

#### **2012 Supplemental State Budget**

This year the Legislature passed an \$11.2 billion supplemental budget for the State of Hawaii, House Bill 2012. Following three years of budget cuts totaling more than a billion dollars each year, this year's budget provided the Legislature with a refreshing opportunity to reinforce the safety net where needed, reinstitute core services that have been decimated over the past three years, and make strategic investments in key areas that can help us grow the economy and sustain a more prosperous future for Hawaii. The chart below depicts funding allocation by department.

#### Breakdown of funding allocations by Department:

(developed by Senate Communications)



#### Other Notable Bills:

• House Bill 608, Relating to Health, Act 1 (2012)

Governor Abercrombie signed **House Bill 608** (Act 1) into law in February. The measure appropriates state funds to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawai'i to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. Act 1 helps ensure that organ transplant patients are able to remain in the islands and receive efficient and timely care.

#### • Senate Bill 2783, Relating to the Public Trust Lands, Act 15 (2012)

Senate Bill 2783 conveys Kaka'ako Makai lands to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). The State and OHA agreed that an approximately \$200 million settlement represents a reasonable compromise of the disputed claims. To satisfy that \$200 million amount, the State is conveying contiguous and adjacent parcels in Kaka'ako Makai. Under this law, all disputes and controversies relating to OHA's portion of income and proceeds from the public trust lands will be extinguished and discharged as well as bar all claims, suits, and actions for the period November 7, 1978 through June 30, 2012. Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 2783 into law in April.

#### • Senate Bill 2776, Relating to Public Safety

After an unprecedented collaboration between the Governor, Chief Justice, Senate President, House Speaker and Director of Public Safety, a data-driven justice reinvestment strategy was created to bring out-of-state prisoners back to Hawaii, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest savings generated in strategies that would reduce recidivism and crime and increase public safety.

One of the outcomes of the Justice Reinvestment Initiatives was the passage of **Senate Bill 2776**. The measure establishes a statutory structure to improve the criminal justice system, relying on the Department of Public Safety, Hawaii Paroling Authority, and Adult Probation Services to effectively implement changes to policies and practices.

#### • Senate Bill 2247, Known as Kelsey's Law, Act 94 (2012)

Senate Bill 2247, which was signed into law by Governor Abercrombie in April, will require cell phone or communication service providers to assist law enforcement agencies in determining the location of a cell phone in emergency situations. The bill was named in honor of Kelsey Smith, an 18-year-old Kansas woman who was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2007. It is believed that if the wireless cell phone company had turned over cell phone records on the day Smith was kidnapped, she may be alive today.

#### • House Bill 2030, Relating to Emergency Vehicle; Move Over

**House Bill 2030** requires motorists to move over and slow down their vehicles when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway. If this measure becomes law, a violation against it will result in a fine, which will not impact the driver's car insurance rates.

#### • House Bill 2502, Relating to Mortgage Servicers

The Legislature continues its commitment to assist Hawaii's homeowners through the passage of **House Bill 2502**. Among other things, this measure helps the State to meet national standards for Mortgage Servicers and helps the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs monitor them. HB 2502 requires mortgage servicers that provide loan-modification services to be properly licensed. The measure also authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Institutions to require all mortgage servicers to register with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System.

#### House Bill 2595, Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Dam and Reservoir Owners

Dams and reservoirs provide many public benefits as potential resources for the agriculture industry, storage for drinking water, food control, recreation, and a myriad of other purposes. As these facilities continue to age, it is important that much-needed safety improvements are made. **House Bill 2595** authorizes the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist dam and reservoir owners with an economic means to ensure their facilities meet current safety standards.

#### • House Bill 2806, Relating to Native Hawaiians

House Bill 2806 protects Hawaii's environment, promotes sustainability, and preserves the Hawaiian culture. This measure establishes the Aha Moku Advisory committee within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Consisting of eight members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, the committee may advise the chairperson of DLNR on issues related to land and natural resources management through the aha moku system. The system consists of best practices that are based upon the indigenous resource management practices.

#### • House Bill 2848, Relating to Public Safety

Many studies conducted both nationally and statewide show native Hawaiians to be at particularly high risk for substance abuse. **House Bill 2848** aims to reduce regression for criminal offenders by employing native Hawaiian cultural practices and other innovations into their rehabilitation. The measure also creates a work release pilot program on the Big Island to allow certain incarcerated individuals to work on projects that benefit the local community and the State. A report is due to the Legislature prior to the 2013 legislative session

#### • Senate Bill 2228, Relating to Pseudoephedrine

**Senate Bill 2228** establishes an electronic tracking system for the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine as a base and requires the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Enforcement Division to implement the electronic tracking system.

The establishment of the system will assist the State in tracking retail pseudoephedrine sales, with the intent of decreasing the production of methamphetamine. By permitting a retailer to check a computerized database prior to sale, it will improve the retailer's ability to safely sell products containing pseudoephedrine to consumers.

#### Senate Bill 2804, Relating Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex and multifaceted issue. Locally, many government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other private sector organizations have worked diligently and successfully to assist homeless persons in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii is now seeing a slight decrease in the number of homeless individuals and families this year.

Senate Bill 2804 allows Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, temporarily established by Governor Neil Abercrombie in 2011, to continue to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives that would mitigate homelessness as well as ensure that the homeless persons obtain permanent housing to become reintegrated into the community. This measure requires the Department of Human Services conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing safe havens in Hawaii and to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session.

#### • Senate Bill 2871, Relating to Commercial Driver's License

**Senate Bill 2871** prohibits a person from using a mobile electronic device; including using the device for texting, while operating a commercial motor vehicle. This measure exempts certain drivers and calling "911".

# Capital Improvement, Repair and Maintenance and Other Project Funding that Directly Supports District 13 Residents

### **SCHOOLS & EDUCATION**

Kalihi Kai Elementary School		Kalakaua Middle School	
Converged Network Infrastructure	\$115,000	Campus Walkway Repavements	\$100,000
Replace Electrical Cabinet	\$46,000	Converged Network Infrastructure	\$345,000
Reroofing	\$385,000	Reroofing	\$201,000
Kauluwela Elementary School	<b>0.1.0.0.0.0.0</b>	Kawananakoa Middle School	<b>#</b> 10.000
Building Q, Reroof	\$190,000	Auditorium Renovations	\$18,000
		Building C, Replace AC	\$18,000
Lanakila Elementary School	<b>4.50</b> 000	Building J, Reroofing	\$280,000
Hazardous Materials Removal	\$50,000	Performing Arts Center	\$5,000,000
Replace Campus Bell System	\$100,000		
Replace Sewer Lines	\$110,000	Stevenson Middle School	
Replace Water Line	\$50,000	Construction of Multi-Purpose Science Lea	
			\$7,200,000
Likelike Elementary School			
Install Perimeter Retaining Wall	\$75,000	Farrington High School	
Program Bell Replacement	\$100,000	Building B, Replace AC	\$29,000
Reroofing	\$97,000	Fire Safety Improvements	\$22,000
		Rehabilitation	\$5,000,000
Ma'ema'e Elementary School		(Entire School, Phase 1)	
Converged Network Infrastructure	\$115,000	Replace Concrete Ramp	\$160,000
Install Insect Screens	\$30,000	Reroofing	\$381,000
Install Perimeter Fence	\$35,000		
Install Step Nosing	\$53,000	McKinley High School	
		Electrical Upgrades and	\$997,000
Nuuanu Elementary School		Ground & Site Improvements	
Converged Network Infrastructure	\$115,000	Replace AC	\$272,000
Recoat Walkway Roof	\$10,000	Reroofing	\$569,000
Refurbishments	\$126,000		
Repair Restrooms	\$58,000		
Reroof Covered Walkways	\$90,000	Roosevelt High School	
Resurfacing of Gym Floor	\$25,000	ADA Compliance	\$200,000
		Bell Tower Restoration	\$215,000
Pu'uhale Elementary School		Gym Repair and Recoat Roof	\$110,000
Campus Irrigation	\$108,000	Health & Safety Improvements	\$457,000
Energy Conservation Improvements	\$95,000	Locker Room Refurbishments	\$30,000
Reroofing	\$100,000	Refurbishments	\$107,000
-		Repair Walkway	\$63,000
Royal Elementary School			
Energy Conservation Improvements	\$120,000	Hawaii Public Television Foundation	
Replace Fire Alarm	\$49,000	Construction of new building for PBS Haw	vaii
		-	\$4,000,000
Central Middle School			
Building D, Reroof	\$145,000		
<b>5</b> ·	•		

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING**

**Site and Building Improvements** 

Kuhio Park Terrace

\$2,750,000

Hauiki Homes, Kailihi Valley Homes & Puahala Homes 1-IV

\$3,105,000

Kaahumanu Homes, Kamehameha Homes &Kalakaua Homes

\$250,000

Kalanihuia Homes, Makamae Homes, Pumehana Homes, Punchbowl Homes & Spencer House

\$4,600,000

**NATURAL RESOURCES** 

**Anuenue Fisheries Research Center** 

\$370,000

Maintenance and Electrical Upgrades

\$1,200,000

Tsunami Damage Response at DLNR Facilities,

Keehi Small Boat Harbor Pier 300 Replacement

\$7,800,000

Including Ke'ehi Small Boat Harbor

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** 

Ho'opono Vocational Rehab Division/DHS

\$497,000

Various Maintenance Projects

**Pacific Gateway Center** 

\$1,000,000

Construct the Ke'ehi Community Resource Center

**Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific Foundation** 

\$2,500,000

**General Improvements** 

**TRANSPORTATION** 

**Interstate Route H-1** 

\$800,000

Kapalama Canal Bridge Rehabilitation

NDWP-Kapalama Military Reservation

\$50,000,000

New Container Facility Improvements, Honolulu Harbor

## Stay Informed, Stay Involved

The Hawaii State Senate is encouraging citizens to continuously stay informed and involved. There are many resources available on the web that citizens can get information right at their fingertips.

The Hawaii State Legislature's website is the key portal for those wishing to get informed and involved in the legislative process. Some of the information and features of the site include:

- Contact information for current members of the Senate and House of Representatives
- Bill and Resolution text with current status information
- List of upcoming committee hearings and informational briefings
- Daily updates of bills, resolutions, committee reports, vetoes, acts, and other documents
- Way to submit testimony online

#### Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

#### Public Access Room (PAR), Room 401, State Capitol Building

PAR, a division of the Legislative Reference Bureau serves the citizen's of Hawaii by providing facilities, services and equipment to enhance their ability to participate in the legislative process. You are welcome here to track and affect legislation pending before the Hawaii State Legislature. Knowledgeable and friendly staff are ready to assist in person, by telephone and by e-mail.

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Email: par@capitol.hawaii.gov Website: hawaii.gov/lrb/par/

#### Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus Website: www.hawaiisenatemajority.com

A link to the Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus website can be found on the Senate page of the Hawaii State Legislature's website. You can stay abreast of Senate Majority messages, press releases, and activities.

#### ALL things social media... Ways to connect with the Hawaii State Senate Majority Caucus:



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Goodwill 3

Please save your recyclable waste for this date and help turn trash into cash for community programs. Please bring canned goods to support the Hawaii Food Bank.

#### Acceptable Items:

- Scrap metal, bicycles, appliances
- Shredding, 2 boxes max.- 9 am-12 noon
- Computers, printers, scanners, no limit
- 1 TV per car
- · HI-5 beverage containers
- Cooking oil
- Cell phones, printer cartridges, PDAs, etc.
- Batteries, all kinds
- Plastic playground equipment, helmets
- Cardboard-corrugated, newspaper
- Plastic bags, phone books, magazines
- Green waste
- Usable clothing and household items
- Used eye glasses and hearing aids
- Incandescent light bulbs exchange for CFLs
- Prom dresses, business suits
- Pet food, towels, blankets
- White socks, new or clean





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Mahalo to: Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland Carol Fukunaga & Brickwood Galuteria, Reps. Della Belatti, Corinne Ching & Karl Rhoads, Mayor Peter Carlisle, Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi, Romy Cachola, and Tulsi Gabbard



A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT