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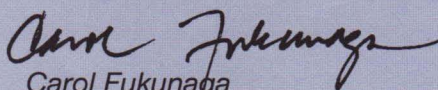
Dear Neighbors,

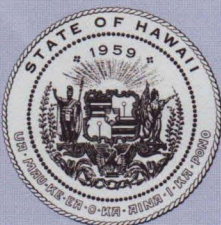
Mahalo for the privilege of serving as your State Senator (District 11, Makiki/Tantalus, Ala Moana-McCully). This post-session newsletter provides a brief recap of the year's challenges and accomplishments.

As you might imagine, this year's accomplishments would not have been possible without extensive input and support from constituents. As we prepare for the 2009 session, I welcome your continued involvement in developing good public policy for our community.

For more information or to fill out our mid-August survey on transit/neighborhood priorities, please go to [www.carolfukunaga.com](http://www.carolfukunaga.com).

Mahalo!

  
Carol Fukunaga



## Legislative Update

### *Lean times require creative solutions*

In the wake of rising gas prices and falling state revenues, we can't rely solely on traditional approaches to meet our needs. Besides providing a means of stretching scarce dollars, coalition-building and collaborating are essential to solve a diverse range of statewide economic and community priorities:

- **Assist small companies that are developing business applications for both military and commercial markets (Act 267, SLH 2007).** Starting from an idea advanced by a small, dual-use business in 2007, we passed legislation to establish a fund to leverage private/federal support to help small businesses with innovative technologies succeed in competitive global markets.

After months of lobbying by dedicated dual-use leaders, the administration released \$5 million to Pacific International Center for Technology Research (PICHTR) in June 2008. For information, see <http://www.hitdv.com/>

- **\$5.6 million in legislative funds to expand Science, Tech, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs in public schools (Act 111, SLH 2007).** With funding now released for the 2008-09 school year, College of Engineering will expand its "Research Experiences for Teachers" (RET) program to over 20 middle schools for 2008-09. It also received an AT&T grant of \$25,000 to support wireless technology in RET projects.
- **McKinley High's FIRST robotics teams up with Project EAST (Act 271, SLH 2007).** With McKinley facing reductions in its weighted student formula allocation, it's great news that EAST's expansion includes funds for McKinley High for 2008-09.



District legislators Fukunaga, Brower and Rhoads with 'Kika Mana' (Tiger Power) team at State Capitol.



# Highlights and Accomplishments

*The measures adopted this session are a starting point for a wide range of creative ways of harnessing Hawaii's renewable resources and retooling our state's operations to be energy-efficient. Highlights of bills that will help residents and businesses save money and reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel included:*

## Sustainability

- **Solar water heating required** for all new residential homes starting in 2010 (Act 204).
- **Net energy metering** requirement for the PUC to reserve a percentage of the total rated generating capacity for **electricity produced by eligible residential or small commercial customer-generators** (Act 150). This encourages installation of renewable energy systems like photovoltaics that generate excess energy to sell back to the utility.
- **Recycling electronic device waste** - manufacturers will now be required to collect and recycle

computers and other electronic devices (Act 13, Sp Session).

- **\$205 million in special purpose revenue bonds to speed renewable energy development** in hydrogen generation (Act 116), plasma municipal solid waste processing (Act 104), ocean wave energy (Act 103) and solar power (Act 105).
- **Expanding the state's biosecurity program**, increasing protection from importation of invasive species (Act 236).

State senators participated in a 2008 pilot "paperless" project to reduce the use of paper by millions of pages. As a result, all public documents - including all bill testimonies - are now available online at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>.

## Education

*The 2008 legislature committed to support and improve Hawaii's education system from pre-kindergarten through college.*

- Address the teacher shortage by

providing funds for **tutorials and preparation for for No Child Left Behind exams/certification** (SB 3252, vetoed).

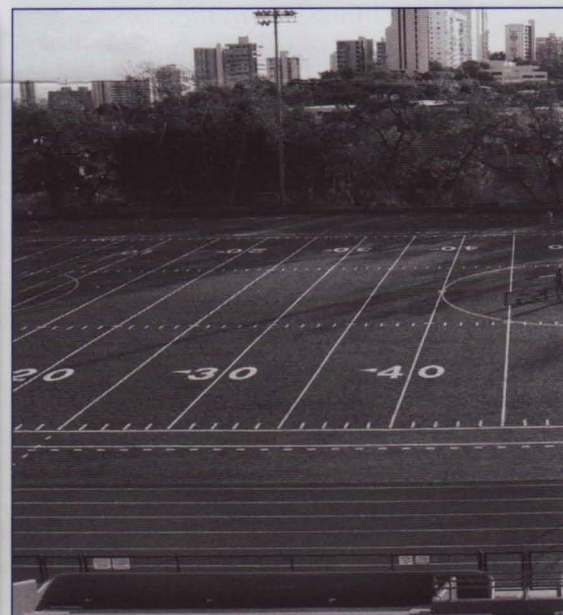
- Launching of a new statewide early **learning preschool system** (Act 14, Sp Session).
- **\$58 million for repairs/new construction on UH campuses** (Act 158).
- **Over \$310 million for repairs/new construction in public schools** (Act 158).

## Affordable Housing

- Requires that any **public housing** project constructed/managed with state or county funds shall remain "affordable" in perpetuity (HB 2238; vetoed).
- Reduced occupancy/transfer restrictions for new privately-owned and financed multi-family condo housing developments of 75 or more to **encourage private development of affordable housing** (Act 123).



RHS media teacher Steve Mun-Takata with OLELO video competition awardees.



Newly-dedicated Ticky Vasconcellos Sports Field



# ments of the 2008 Legislature

- Auditor review of **impact of condominium/co-op housing lease expirations** through 2030 (affects over 8,000 leasehold units) on availability of replacement and affordable housing units (**HCR 125**).

## Procurement Reforms

The Senate created a special committee in 2008 to investigate the state's award of a 2007 \$8.7 million contract for renewable energy, and concluded that the award did not conform to procurement laws. As a result, the Legislature adopted new initiatives designed to ensure greater **accountability in future state procurements**.

- **Fines on state procurement officers** failing to take corrective action in 30 days (**SB 2825, vetoed**).
- Requirements for **timely posting of information on state contract awards** (**SB 2827, vetoed**).
- Annual random audits of purchas-

ing agencies, as well as **audits of agencies that show a history of noncompliance** (**SB 2824, vetoed**). DBEDT and several attached agencies are now the subject of an audit (**SCR 212**).

## Community Needs

- Funding to augment the state's **Kupuna Care** program, which helps Hawai'i's elders to live as independently as possible

(**Act 243**) and establishment of a **Long Term Care Commission** to identify needed reforms in long-term care (**Act 224**).

- Legislation to adopt **safe-guards for personal information** in government records (**Act 10, Sp Session**).
- **Protections from burdensome procedures through Small Business "Bill of Rights"** (**Act 230**).

## RHS Carter Auditorium and Ticky Vasconcellos Stadium Re-open

Roosevelt's new sports stadium and state-of-the-art performing arts center re-opened with a flourish in July. Sold-out concerts headlined by entertainer Willie K. raised both awareness about Roosevelt's "crown jewels," and much-needed funds for the school. For information on public use policies for the new facilities, contact RHS Principal Ann Mahi at 587-4600, extension 233.



Stadium is ready for its 2008-09 season.



Legislators salute President Bill Thompson and 442nd veterans on their 65th Anniversary celebration.



# 2007-2008 Items Approved for District 11

## School Improvements

- **\$940,000 – Lincoln Elementary**  
*Repair of rock wall and drainage improvements.*
- **\$450,000 – McKinley High School**  
*Funding for McKinley High School Athletic Complex Master Plan environmental studies. This year's Master Plan combines prior appropriations of \$2 million for design, construction and equipment for a girls' athletic locker room and site improvements, and improvements to the baseball/softball fields.*
- **\$280,000 - Queen Kaahumanu Elementary**  
*Paving and fencing around expanded teacher parking area.*
- **\$635,000 – Roosevelt High School**  
*2008 R&M funds for Roosevelt High include renovations to RHS Gym (\$485,000), renovations to coaches' restrooms (\$60,000) and screen replacements in existing gym (\$90,000).*
- **\$9.25 million – Stevenson Middle School**  
*Master Plan development and design funds (2007); construction and equipment for additions to Building A's multi-purpose educational facilities (2008); plans and design for a multipurpose recreational facility including classrooms, gym, locker rooms and meeting spaces (2008).*
- **\$100 million (Lump Sum Classroom Renovations) – Kaahumanu Elementary, Royal School and Lunalilo Elementary**  
*Act 158, SLH 2008 includes funding to complete classroom renovations for those schools that weren't completed in the first round of "whole school renovations" between 1999-2001.*

## Community Needs

- **\$922,000 – Catholic Charities Hawaii**  
*Planning and design for renovations to house Catholic Charities' social services community center on Nehoa/Keeaumoku Streets.*
- **\$125,000 – Central Union Church**  
*Partial funding for construction of preschool/church improvements.*
- **\$1.6 million – Kalakaua Homes Complex**  
*Elevator repairs for two elevators at Kalakaua Homes main office (\$700,000), two elevators at Makua Ali'i (\$485,000), and two elevators at Paoakalani (\$490,000). Construction is expected to start in February 2009.*
- **\$248,925 – Papakolea Community Development Corporation**  
*Operations of Papakolea Community Park and full-service Center.*
- **\$250,000 – Shriners' Hospital for Children**  
*Planning and design of expanded hospital facilities.*

## Roads/Transportation

- **\$1 million – Tantalus and Round Top Drive Boundary ID Study**  
*Approved by OMPO's Policy Committee in 2007, the project's work products include a right-of-way study, topographic map and traffic control map of Tantalus and Round Top Drives to increase safety along both roads. The project is estimated for completion in February 2010.*

## Spotlight on Washington Middle and McKinley High Schools



Washington Middle School  
Principal  
Michael Harano

**Washington Middle School** – rated by *Honolulu Magazine* as “the most improved public school” in its ratings, rising 66 spots to #133 in May 2008. Led by **Principal Michael Harano** (nominated for an Excellence in School Leadership Award), WMS teachers rebuilt their lessons around state standards, and worked in interdisciplinary teams to help students exceed statewide averages for reading and math.

**McKinley High School's** FIRST robotics team, “**Kika Mana**” (**Tiger Power**) now ranks among the top 24 teams among 1,5000 FIRST teams worldwide after competing and leading in three regional competitions in

2008. The team mentored about 20 new Hawaii robotics teams this year, which led to Hawaii's having the second largest number of FIRST competition teams in the United States.

