

SENATOR BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA

May
2011

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- ~
- Palama



Balancing the State Budget

As the 2011 legislative session adjourns sine die (*without assigning a day for a further meeting*), lawmakers have passed a balanced budget and a financial plan to close a projected \$1.3 billion deficit. As reported last in March, the state Council on Revenues lowered its forecast for this fiscal year to a 1.6% decline in revenues instead of the .5% growth that they had projected previously.

While keeping the projections of the Council of Revenues and the Abercrombie-Schatz Administration in mind, lawmakers explored and considered various cost saving and revenue generating options of ensuring that we passed a balanced budget. Among the various cost-saving measures, lawmakers made \$616 million in cuts to the governor's budget and adjusted rental car surcharges. A more detailed account of how the state budget was balanced will be provided shortly.

I along with area lawmakers will be hosting two town hall meetings this month, more details are below. I hope you'll be able to join me.

Save the Date!

Governor Neil Abercrombie will be joining area lawmakers as we provide a legislative update to the community. Please join us!

Downtown Community
Monday, May 23rd
5:30-7pm
Location To Be Determined

Waikiki Community
Tuesday, May 31st
6pm - 7:30pm
Location To Be Determined



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WAIKIKI



KAKA'AKO/ALA MOANA



DOWNTOWN



CHINATOWN



PALAMA



**WHAT A DIVERSE
COMMUNITY!**

Historic Moment: Passage of State Recognition Bill

The 2011 Legislative Session was particularly historic for the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. The most noteworthy piece of legislation that passed out of Committee and, subsequently, the full Legislature was Senate Bill 1520, which formally recognizes Native Hawaiians as the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli people of Hawaii. The bill further establishes a five member roll commission, selected by the Governor, to prepare and maintain a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians.

This legislation is significant for several reasons. First, there has never been a formal declaration by the State of Hawaii that Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawaii. Instead, this unique status has had to be "reasonably inferred" through legislative and judicial actions on the State and Federal levels. Second, the establishment of a certified roll of Native Hawaiians is the first step in the process towards the creation of a Native Hawaiian governing entity, which is envisioned to be the entity that manages the land, financial and cultural assets of the Native Hawaiian people and engage in a government to government relationship with the State of Hawaii. Finally, this legislation sends a clear message to the U.S. Congress of the Hawaii State Legislature's support of Native Hawaiian self-determination efforts and the efforts of Senator Daniel Akaka to pass legislation to recognize Native Hawaiians at the federal level.



On April 8, 2011, the Legislature and Governor Neil Abercrombie honored Agnes Kalanihookaha Cope as one of Hawaii's living treasures.

For Your Information

Bill Status and Documents

You may view the measures that passed this 2011 legislative session at www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011

Hawaii Senate Majority

To follow along with what the Senate Majority Caucus is doing this session, please log onto www.hawaiisenatemajority.com