

Capitol Connection

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At a time when there is a lot happening that is unsettling, we have chosen to focus this issue on the many positive accomplishments of the people of our district and our State. It is with a special pride that we can feature the "apparently ordinary" people who were stimulated by good teaching and coaching into becoming winners. These are the success stories that are worthy of attention.

We are especially grateful for the work done by the two organizations that were honored in the Senate. The Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has worked tirelessly to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this crime, and prevent underage drinking. Likewise, the presentation on National Doctors' Day honored Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group on its 50 years of medical care and service and called attention to this group of essential health care professionals.

The many other accomplishments by students, teachers, administrators and constituents is a reminder that ordinary people, individually and collectively, can and do strive for and achieve goals, given the opportunities and timely assistance from their mentors.

I am also very proud of Team Ige that planned and executed the many events in behalf of the Hawai'i Foodbank. They worked at night and on weekends to shop, chop, bake and package the many items we sold to raise funds to help feed the hungry.

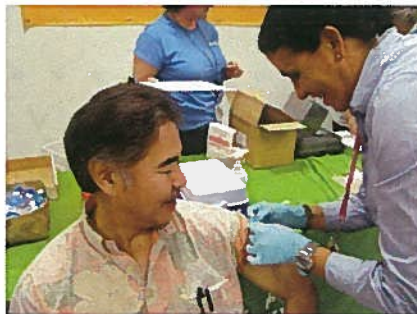
David Y. Ige

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

The Senate is Doing Its Share to Feed the Hungry

For the past few years, the entire Senate has worked tirelessly to raise funds and collect nonperishable food items for the Hawai'i Foodbank. Last year, we donated a total of 615 pounds of food and \$14,336.23. Each office "competes" for points by sponsoring sales or collections.

In line with Senator Ige's focus on Health, our office sponsored an H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic when staff from both HMSA and Kaiser Permanente Health Corporation provided shots for those who met the age and ID requirements. Donations of canned goods or cash were accepted. Pictured below is Senator Ige receiving his "shot in the arm" to help prevent the epidemic of hunger.



Senator Ige gets shot in the arm during the H1N1 Flu shot clinic.

Prior to the shot clinic, we sponsored a snack and dessert food sale featuring chocolate covered strawberries, Red Velvet Cupcakes, strawberry ice cake – things to remind us that while we were still "In the Red," we could still be generous to those less fortunate.



Various goodies from "In the Red" fund raiser.

To celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, we had a "Going Green" event and remind us all that we in the Senate are spearheading efforts to reduce our waste. We sold green goodies and salads for green cash or the equivalent in recyclable cans and plastic bottles (i.e., 20 cans = \$1). This was followed by a "Spring Is Here" event which featured an "egg hunt" in which numbers qualified for various prizes and a sale of various desserts.



Various goodies from "Going Green" fund raiser.

Our last fund raiser to raise awareness for the need for people to support the Hawaii Food Bank's efforts, was a "Soup Kitchen." Corn chowder and Tomato Barley Soups were sold in cups or bread bowls, and a 24 hour Salad was also sold. All food items were homemade and prepared by the office staff members.



Staffer Lauren Wright prepares bread bowls for the "Soup Kitchen" fundraiser

All of these efforts are helping to increase the total amount being raised to help the Hawai'i Foodbank feed the many who are in need of help in these tough times.

Area Schools and Teachers Honored during Education Week

Under the leadership of Senator Norman Sakamoto, chair of the Senate Education committee, the Senate celebrated National Education Week by honoring outstanding teachers, principals and schools. On March 16, the Hawaii State and District Teachers of the Year were honored with certificates presented during the Senate session. Among those honored were Julia Rose LoPresti, drama teacher at Aiea Intermediate School and Kathy Lin, science teacher at Highlands Intermediate.



Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Kathy Lin, Julia Rose LoPresti, and Senator David Y. Ige



Senator Ige with Tom Kurashige

The following day, Tom Kurashige, principal of Aiea Intermediate School, was honored as the 2009 Middle School Principal of the Year. Momilani Elementary School, which has been named a 2010 Hawaii Blue Ribbon School, was also recognized. Present to receive their recognition were Principal, Doreen Higa, PTSA President Dave Masaki, teachers, Maile Yasui and Todd Tashiro, and students, Daylen Masaki, Tiara Tashiro, and Kaile Yasui. This school has been named a Blue Ribbon School twice before and is presently undergoing the scrutiny of the national judging panel and will not know until later this year if it has been designated a National Blue Ribbon School.



Senator Ige, PTSA President Dave Masaki, Principal Doreen Higa, teachers Todd Tashiro and Maile Yasui, and students, Tiara Tashiro, Kaile Yasui, and Daylen Masaki, and Senator Nishihara

Also honored during Education Week was Liane Tanigawa, Mathematics and Science Coach at Pearl Ridge Elementary, who was awarded \$10,000 and a trip to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) from President Barack Obama in a ceremony at the White House.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many outstanding educators serving the students of our district.

Aiea Residents Shine in the 58th Cherry Blossom Pageant

Marissa Nicole Machida, a Newtown resident, was chosen to reign as the 58th Cherry Blossom Queen in addition to winning the Miss Popularity contest. Marissa attended Waimalu Elementary School and graduated from Punahou School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Television Production and Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University and a Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law. She firmly believes in the Japanese adage, "Nana korobi, ya oki (fall down seven times, get up eight)" because this attitude enabled the Japanese immigrants to endure and overcome the many hardships they faced and gave her the perseverance to attain her goal of becoming a licensed attorney.

Andrea Mie Hiura, daughter of Arnold and Amy Hiura, was chosen Miss Congeniality in the Cherry Blossom Pageant. She is a graduate of Aiea High School and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and is presently working on a doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She sees "ganbaru (striving to do one's best)" as the most valuable trait and hopes to share it with everyone so we can all work together to improve our schools, community, economy – and the overall quality of our lives.

Congratulations to these young women who exemplify the best and brightest of our younger generation.

Pearl City Teen Band in Top 10 of National Competition

"Semi Sweet," a band formed by five Pearl City High School students, used their creativity to write and record original music to address the number one killer of their generation: vehicle crashes. Ford Driving Skills for Life, an award winning teen driving program developed by Ford Motor Company Fund and the Governors Highway Safety Association, created the "Belt It Out: Sing for Safety" safe driving campaign to encourage teens to compose songs with safe driving messages. The Pearl City band is one of the ten finalists vying for prizes of up to \$5,000 in US savings bonds. Members of the public can help select the winners by voting online for their favorite songs by going to www.drivingskillsforlife.com April 1 – April 30.

Please check out the Semi Sweet song and vote to help them advance to the final round. The top five finishers will progress to the final round on May 1 and Kate Voegelé (popular singer, songwriter and actress) will select the top three entries which will be announced on June 1.

Area Schools Welcome New Principals

Waimalu Elementary School welcomed its new principal, Keith Hui, at the start of the present school year after its previous principal, Sheldon Oshio, was promoted to Complex Superintendent. Mr. Hui is a "local boy" with a wealth of experience in special education and school administration. He graduated from Kalani High School and taught special education at Makaha Elementary before serving as a District Resource Teacher. He then went into school administration and has served at Kaimiloa and Maili Elementary Schools before coming to Waimalu, initially as its vice principal and now as its top administrator. He is excited about the deep sense of community he has found at Waimalu, a community that encompasses not only parents, students and staff, but also significant numbers of business partners who have contributed time, labor and resources toward making Waimalu a better place for its students.

Following the retirement of Leroy Ching, long time principal of Pearl City Highlands Elementary School (PEACHES), in December, Hanh Nguyen served as interim principal until February 22 when Michael Nakasato was appointed and took office.

After helping to open Keone'ula Elementary School as its first vice principal three and a half years ago, Mr. Nakasato is returning to his roots. He was raised in Palisades, attended Highlands Intermediate and graduated from Pearl City High School. In addition, while working on his degree in education at the University of Hawai'i, he did his observation-participation work at PEACHES where he also helped to inaugurate its first A+ after-school program.

Mr. Nakasato brings a broad background to his new responsibilities. He was first assigned to Leihoku Elementary School where he taught 2nd, 5th, and 6th grades as well as serving as the school's Technology Coordinator, Math and Science Curriculum Coordinator, and teacher for the Gifted and Talented. These responsibilities, as well as those at Keone'ula, have enriched the experiential background Mr. Nakasato brings to his new position.

We extend our warmest welcome to these new administrators and look forward to working with them for the benefit of their students and staff.

Excellence in Sports

Aiea and Pearl City High School Teams Earn Berths in State Championship Competition

The Charger Girls basketball team faced tough competition and lost in the first round, but rebounded and ended in 7th place by defeating Mililani.

The boys charger team placed 8th in the Swimming and Diving Championships. Sophomore Darren Choi took 1st place in the 100 yard backstroke and 2nd in the 50 yard freestyle.

In the Soccer state Championships, the charger Girls took 6th place while the Charger men ended tied for 7th along with Aiea's Boys team.

In the recently held OIA Western Division Track and Field Championships, Aiea's Lawrence Lagafuaina broke the 38-year-old divisional mark in the boys shot put with a throw of 55 feet, 4 inches, breaking the previous record set by another Aiea player in 1972.

In a season that is nearing its end, the Pearl City Baseball team has cinched the OIA Red West title with an undefeated 10-0 record as of the date of this newsletter.

Coaches Select Area Athletes to All-Star Teams

Pearl City High senior Jordan Ahakuelo was selected as the Oahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) Red West girls Basketball Player of the Year and her Coach, Mike Morton, was named the league's Coach of the Year for their roles in helping the Chargers win the OIA Red West title and a Berth in the state tournament. Fellow Chargers, Keshia Manning and Glacen Florita, were names to the Second Team. Given Honorable Mention were Leina Basques, Alana Kaili, Sabrina Anglecand Adrienne Jean Sylva of Pearl City, and Kaala Leopoldo, Kauai Kuehu, Kori Nishi, Celeste Fong, and Ashlei'ili'I of Aiea.

Mid fielder Gavin Dela Cruz of Pearl City High was named a Co-Red West Player of the Year for Boys Soccer. Also named to the First Team were teammate, Nicholas Kapua, and Aiea High's Sean Chang and Dylan Daguay. Named to the Second Team were Beau Hirata, Edward Jones and Sean Ching of Pearl City and Aiea's Nick Hiraoka, with teammates, Colin Honeker, Tayler Sonobe-Morita, and Ezra White given Honorable Mention.

In Girls Soccer, Aiea's twin sisters, Natalie and Marissa Fukuhara were named to the First Team in the OIA Red West along with Pearl City's Kristy Iwahashi and Jillian Seminara. Chosen for the Second Team were Alysa Dixon and Kori Nishi of Aiea and Kristen Maeno and Courtney Ajimine of Pearl City, with Jazlin Ching, Mapuana Tauala, Kristen Munar of Aiea and Makenzie Maurer of Pearl City given Honorable Mention.

“Art at the Capitol” Features the Art in Public Places Collection in Legislative Offices

As a gathering place for the people of Hawai‘i, the State Capitol serves as a showcase for the Art in Public Places Collection which was authorized by the Art-in-State-Buildings Law signed by then Governor John A. Burns in 1967. Through this law, Hawai‘i became the first state to set aside one percent of the cost of state buildings to commission and purchase works of visual art, some of which are site specific and others are relocatable. This has created a statewide “museum without walls” and enables people of all communities on each island to view art in various styles, techniques and media.

Relocatable two- and three-dimensional works of art can be seen throughout the Capitol in all offices of the Representatives and Senators as well as in the Chambers of both houses.

As a way of reminding the public of this valuable asset which is the people’s art, Art at the Capitol has been held for the last two years in conjunction with the First Friday event held at the Hawai‘i State Art Museum. This year’s event was held on March 5, 2010 and featured 31 artists, the Hawai‘i Youth Symphony string quartets, tours of the House and Senate Chambers, and access to 45 legislators’ offices.

In addition, student art from Aiea Intermediate was on display in Senator Ige’s office and on the walls of the hallway outside the Senate Chamber along with the “Youth Art Month” 2010 exhibit of art from schools throughout the State. Pictured below are some of the ceramic pieces done by students of Roy Chang and TIME Magazine mock-ups done in Arne Applegate’s Graphic Arts classes at Aiea Intermediate School. Also pictured are the pieces of art by students from area schools that were chosen for the Youth Art Month exhibit.

A collection of student art done by students in the art program of Highlands Intermediate School is now on display in the hallway outside of the Senate chamber. There are self-portraits and abstracts created by the students of instructor, Jonathan Fong. Also on display are pieces done by the members of the Manga Club of Aiea Intermediate School under the advisorship of Roy Chang. These pieces depict many characters and situations taken from anime and manga stories.

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate Roy Chang who is well known for his editorial cartoons that appear weekly in Mid-Week. He was recently awarded a Pa‘i Award by the Hawai‘i Publishers Association for his cartoon, “Gnaws,” which was chosen as the best editorial cartoon of 2009.



Two dimensional artwork on display during the month of April from Highlands Intermediate Students

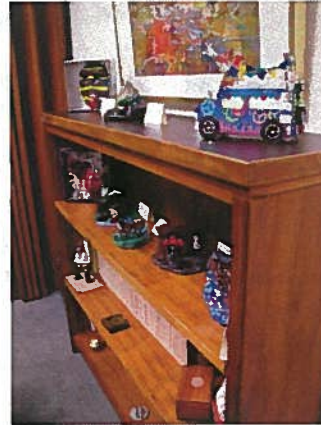


Artwork on display from Aiea Intermediate School's Anime Club





Two dimensional artwork previously on display during the month of March from Aiea Intermediate Students



Three dimensional artwork from Aiea Intermediate School on display in Senator David Ige's office



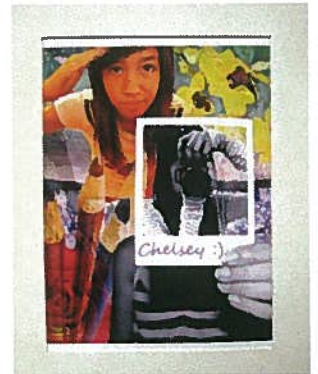
A Hawaii Youth Symphony string Quartet featuring Senator Ige's daughter Amy



Chelsey Dale
Grade 11
Smile (below) and
Graveyard (left)
Aiea High



Victoria El Swaify
Grade 12
Friday Nights (left)
and Harlequin
(right)
Aiea High



Graphic artwork from the Aiea Intermediate School Graphics program led by teacher Arne Aplegate. Twenty-six students designed their own TIME Magazine cover which included a photo of themselves on it.

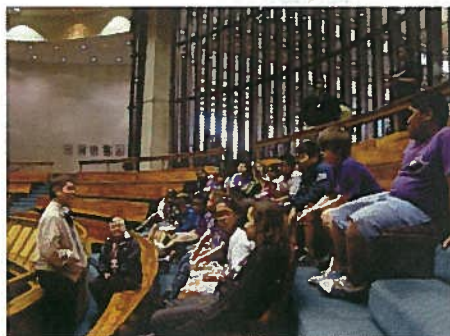
Makaella Cameron
Grade 8
Portrait (right)
Highlands Intermediate



Special Visitors at the Capitol



Invocation given by Sterling Lee



Pearl City Elementary students discuss legislation with Senator Ige and Senator Nishihara



Kaiser Floor Presentation on National Doctor Day
Senator Ige, Dr. Geoffrey Sewell, Janet Liang, Representative Yamane



Mothers Against Drunk Driving commended for 25 years of community service



Pastor Ricky Hirakawa delivering the Invocation

Office of Senator David Y. Ige
Representing Aiea, Aiea Heights, Momiānā, Newtown, Pacific Palisades, Pearl City, Upper Pearlridge, Waiālu and Waimālu



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