

Capitol Connection

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

March 2011



Aloha,

We have passed the halfway point of the 2011 Session and are currently reviewing the House bills that were passed to the Senate during the First Crossover. For those who are tracking bills, this is an important time to prepare and submit public testimony for input in issues of interest.

At its meeting on March 10, 2011, the Council on Revenues reported that Hawaii's economy is not doing as well as predicted and reduced its forecast for State General Fund tax revenue growth in fiscal year 2011 from 3.0 percent to 0.5 percent. This General Fund revenue projection increases the deficit by an additional \$253.5 million. Due to recent events, including last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Governor has requested the Council on Revenue to reconvene to consider revising their projections.

As chair of the Ways and Means Committee, some of the more high-profile measures that deal with taxation have come before the committee. We have been in discussions with the Governor and are exploring options to address the shortfall. In the weeks ahead, we will be dealing with these bills as well as working to balance the State Budget.

I would like to thank my budget, bills, and front office staff for their many hours of hard work and dedication. They have devoted many evenings and weekends in their commitment to the Committee and the legislative process.

This week, the Senate is observing National Education Week by honoring outstanding teachers, principals and schools and celebrating their many accomplishments. We are fortunate to have many outstanding educators serving the students of our district.

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

Senate Education Week

Students, teachers and media professionals who played a role in the launch of the "Hiki No" Student News Network program were honored during Senate Education Week. "Hiki No" is the nation's first statewide news network and allows students from all over the state to display their skills and talents in a weekly news broadcast format. Leslie Wilcox, President and CEO of PBS, was honored for her role in providing the resources and the medium for these students to display their hard work. Also recognized were "Hiki No" production team members, Robert Pennybacker, Executive Producer, and Susan Yim, Managing Editor. Honored for supporting the Roosevelt Student News Team was media educator Charleen Ego. Lastly, Chris Lee, founder of the University of Hawaii Academy of Creative Media, was acknowledged for his commitment to create quality jobs for Hawaii's youth in the global entertainment industry.



Irmagard Pickard (middle) with Sen. Ige (left) and Sen. Nishihara (right)

Irmagard Pickard, Library Technician at Pearl City Public Library was presented the 2010 Library's Excellence in Service Award. The award was created by the Friends of the Library to honor support staff at the State Libraries who have worked for the Hawaii State Public Library System at least four years. Winners are selected on the criteria of dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to the job, community service, and promotion of public libraries in the community. Also receiving this award was Jean Ann Flaherty, Library Technician at Princeville Public Library. Frances "Fran" Corcoran, Branch Manager of Kahuku Public and School Library, received the award for 2010 Librarian of the Year.



Pictured above (left to right) Sen. Chun Oakland, Sen. Fukunaga, Leslie Wilcox, Robert Pennybacker, Susan Yim, Sen. Wakai, Charleen Ego, Chris Lee, Sen. Ige.

Special events on Monday of Senate Education Week included presentations and demonstrations by the University of Hawaii Culinary Arts; Sustainable, Carpentry, Tropical Conservation and Biology, and Plant and Biotechnology Programs.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

On Tuesday, there were presentations on the Early Learning Council Framework, University of Hawaii Medicine and Nursing, Science, Solar Decathlon, Veterinary Assisting and Digital Media Programs. Also, robotics demonstrations were given by several high school teams.

Wednesday's events included displays by the 31 Public Charter Schools. Students from Connections, a Hilo public charter school, entertained with the legendary Cyril Pahinui, on steel guitars that they made under his instruction and guidance. There was a presentation by the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs/21st Century Schools.

Campbell High and Washington Middle students shared their experiences with the AVID (Advancement Vis Individual Determination) Program on Thursday. This internationally recognized program helps kids "in the middle" be better prepared with organizing their school work, focusing on their studies, planning for tests, and thinking about the future.

Friday's activities included an open house by Hawaii Education Matters, focusing on healthy meals and healthy foods in schools; and a Legislative Training Session and High School Hearing Day.

Next week, University of Hawaii students will be paired with a senator to shadow the legislator for a day.



Senator David Ige with students from Aiea High School on March 2nd

Meet the Staff



Front Office:

Joanne, Kyle, Gail, Sen. Ige, Joyce, Kanoe, Megan



Budget Staff:

Rod, Daniel, Mark, Susan, Nicole, Michelle, Amy, Will



Bills Staff:

Tony, Sohala, Melissa, Corie, Daniel, Alan



Capitol Artist Program

The Capitol Artist Program is designed to provide schools in the 16th Senatorial District with an opportunity to display their students' artwork in the State Capitol. The Program was initiated by Senator Ige in 1996 to spotlight the work of our students and has also helped to educate the public about art education and its positive results. This has resulted in greater public awareness of the breadth and depth of student achievement through the medium of art.



Currently on display at the capitol is artwork created by the students from Pearl Ridge Elementary School and Highlands Intermediate School. Artwork is on display in the Chamber level.



First Friday - Art at the Capitol

The State Capitol will be participating in the First Friday Activities on April 1st from 5-7pm to showcase the Art in Public Places Collection. Works of art created by local artists are displayed in state buildings and rotated throughout Hawai'i in order for all people to have access to visual arts in various styles, techniques and media. There are almost 200 works on display in the Senate offices.



Town Meeting Dates

Here is a list of our upcoming Town Meetings and Locations:

- 5/19 UH Athletics/Admissions**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 7/21 Going Green/Sustainability**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 8/18 Education**
Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria
- 9/17 Senior Fair**
Pearlridge Shopping Center, Uptown
- 10/22 Keiki ID**
Pearl Kai McDonalds

Senator Ige Appearing Live on PBS Insights

Senator David Ige will be appearing on the PBS program, *Insights*, on Thursday March 24th at 7:30 p.m. The topic of the roundtable discussion will be the state budget. Also on the panel will be House Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro, House Minority Leader Gene Ward, and Budget and Finance Director Kalbert Young. Viewers will have the opportunity to call in questions. Tune in to Oceanic channel 10 to view the program.

Office of Senator David Y. Ige
 Representing Aiea, Aiea Heights, Momiiani, Newtown, Pacific Palisades, Pearl City, Upper Pearlridge, Waiolu and Waimalu



STATE CAPITOL
 415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
 PHONE: 808-586-6230
 FAX: 808-586-6231
 E-MAIL: sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov

