

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

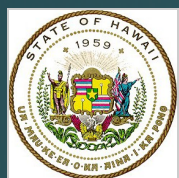
APRIL 2011



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*For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's page
at www.capitol.hawaii.gov*

PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN SESSION!



In his first go-round at the Capitol, Senator Kahele has been present at every floor session to date! He joins fellow Hawai'i Island Senators Green and Solomon on the perfect attendance list.

Unlike the House, the state Senate does not post its attendance online, but the Senate Clerk and Senate Communications helped us out with this information.

THE RICE BRIGADE!!

Senator Kahele joined many of his colleagues, including Governor Abercrombie, at the Kupuna Care Rally held at the Capitol's rotunda.

Legislators loaded nearly 2000lbs of brown rice onto a truck headed for the Lanakila Meals on Wheels Program. The Senator also took some time to meet new friends.



BOOK OF CONDOLENCES

On March 22, Senator Kahele took a trip to the Japanese Consulate on O'ahu. While there, the Senator signed a "Book of Condolences." The "Book of Condolences" is meant to offer condolences and sympathy to the Japanese Government and their people in light of the tragedies and devastation caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami. Senator Kahele, having lived through two tsunami's on the Big Island, thought that it would be a good gesture to sign the book on behalf of District 2. He wrote a note expressing his deepest empathy and compassion for all of the people of Japan.

MEASURES OF INTEREST CURRENTLY MOVING THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE

SB 1154: Relating to Historic Preservation

SB 283: Relating to Sustainability

SB 145: Relating to Irrigation

SB 285: Relating to Health

SB 1153: Relating to Agricultural Loans

SB 1342: Relating to Parking for the Disabled

SB 281: Relating to the Animal Industry

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS DAY

As the Vice Chair for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Senator Kahele and his staff participated in Agricultural Awareness Day at the Legislature. The event was held on Wednesday, March 30th on the 4th floor of the Capitol and attracted a crowd of close to 500 people. The 4th floor lanai was lined with over 50 vendors promoting their local products and sustainability in Hawai'i. Some of the participants included the Department of Agriculture, Meadow Gold, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Ka'u County Farm Bureau, Kalei Eggs, HiSAM, Hawai'i Ag Foundation, 4-H, Ho Farms, Aloun Farms, Kaua'i County Farm Bureau, Na Ono, Maui County Farm Bureau, Naked Cow Dairy and the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council.

In addition to the vendors, the offices of Senators Kahele and Nishihara and Representatives Tsuji and Hashem sold fresh produce donated from local farmers at a "Farmers Market." All proceeds collected from Ag Awareness Day will be donated to the Food Basket on the Big Island and the Hawai'i Food Bank.



The Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, hosted Ag Day at the Hawai'i State Capitol on Wednesday, March 30.

HAWAI'I STEPS CLOSER TO AN APPOINTED BOE



Hawai'i is steps closer to a change in its Board of Education members. Governor Neil Abercrombie helped kick off the Senate's Education Week by signing Senate Bill 8 into law on March 14th, 2011. This landmark legislation establishes the appointment process of the Board of Education members. In November 2010, voters approved a Constitutional Amendment that would change the Board of Education from an elected board to an appointed board.

Act 5 (Senate Bill 8), gives the governor the authority to appoint nine members, which would consist of: one member from the county of Hawai'i, one member from the county of Maui, one member from the county of Kaua'i, 3 members from the city and county of Honolulu, and three at-large-members; provided that the governor select an at-large member as the chairperson.

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The appointees are:

- Don Horner**, chief executive officer and chairman of First Hawaiian Bank. Governor Abercrombie chose Horner to serve on the elected BOE to fill a vacancy on Feb. 9.
- Wesley Lo**, chief executive officer at Maui Memorial Medical Center.
- Brian De Lima**, attorney and former Hawai'i County Council Member
- Nancy Budd**, attorney and a member of the Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance Public Education Action Team
- Jim Williams**, administrator and CEO of the Hawai'i Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund (retired)
- Charlene Cuaresma**, associate director of the UH Manoa Graduate Professional Access Program
- Cheryl Kauhane Lupenui**, former chief executive officer of the YWCA on O'ahu
- Keith Anemiya**, executive administrator and secretary of the Board of Regents
- Kim Gennaula**, philanthropy director at the Kapi'olani Health Foundation

The appointees are subject to senate confirmation. The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Jill Tokuda, will hold hearings and make their recommendations to the Senate. A floor vote to confirm the appointees is expected to take place in April.

SESSION PRESENTATIONS



The Hawai'i State Senate celebrated Education Week from March 14-19. On March 21st, Sen. Kahele hosted Blesson Allen, a student from UH-Hilo.



State Legislators honored 16 fallen heroes with Hawai'i ties with the Hawai'i Medal of Honor on March 29th. Nine families of service members killed in action attended the event. Senator Kahele spent some time with Patrick and Deirdre, the father and sister of the late United States Army Corporal Sean M. Collins.



The Senators honored the cast and crew of the hit CBS series Hawaii Five-O.