

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

September 2011



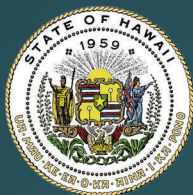
Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 2

Encompassing the
following
communities:

Hilo,

Puna,

Ka'u



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

On the Scene

- July 30-August 2: Participated in the Council of State Governments-WEST annual conference to discuss issues with legislators from the western states
- August 9: Attended the Puna Community Development Plan Action Committee meeting
- August 15: Paid respects at the memorial of the passing of former Mayor Herbert Matayoshi
- August 24: Attended the Big Island Beekeepers Association Meeting
- August 31-September 1: Special Legislative Session held to vet and approve the nomination of Karen Nakasone as First District Court Judge
- August 31: "Talk story" with the Volcano community held at the Cooper Center to discuss issues and potential solutions and legislation for next session
- September 3: Radio interview with Wendell Kaehuaea of KAHU radio
- September 3: Presented senate certificates to James Bradley, Nick Mason and Dr. John Uohara at the UH Hilo Vulcan Athletic Club Hall of Fame Banquet

Council of State Governments-West Annual Conference

From July 30 to August 2, legislators from the 13 western states gathered together at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel for their annual conference to discuss similar issues that they are facing in today's ever-changing world, and exchange ideas for potential solutions.

The mission statement of the Council of State Governments-WEST is to provide a nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation and collaboration by creating opportunities for legislators and staff to share ideas and experiences. More information can be found at their website: www.csgwest.org.

This year's conference brought together guest speakers and experts to discuss topics ranging from: economic development, education, energy &

public lands, fiscal affairs, international trade, and water & environment.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for our legislators to interact with fellow legislators who are also dealing with the difficulties of a strained economy and trying to provide needed support services in the face of shrinking budgets. Having open discussions about these key issues created new ideas for potential solutions and legislation for the



Senator Kahele greeting CSG-West legislators

Cooper Center “Talk Story” Forum

In the evening of August 31, 2011, Senator Kahele hosted the first of a series of “talk story” forums that he plans to have in different communities throughout his district. It is his hope that through these forums he will be able to get a better grasp of the issues each community is grappling with and work to find solutions to these issues. If no solutions present themselves then possible legislation might be needed for the 2012 Legislative Session.



Senator Kahele and Representative Herkes answer questions



Senator Kahele listening to opinions expressed by attendee

Senator Kahele would like to express a big Mahalo to all those from the Volcano community who came out and participated in the talk story forum. Also a big Mahalo to Representative Bob Herkes who attended as well. A number of questions were brought forward and a good discussion was generated that will help provide direction for the Senator and his office for the upcoming Legislative Session.

Schedule for Upcoming Forums

Pahoa “Talk Story” Forum
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
@ Pahoa Neighborhood Facility
(Rooms 3 and 4)
15-2710 Kauhale Rd., Pahoa

Infrastructure and Transportation Townhall Meeting
Thursday, September 22, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
@ Kea'au Elementary School Cafeteria
16-680 Kea'au-Pahoa Road, Kea'au

Ocean View “Talk Story” Forum
Friday, October 14, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
@ Ocean View Community Center
92-8924 Leilani Circle, Ocean View

Pahala “Talk Story” Forum
Wednesday, October 26, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
@ Pahala Community Center
96-1149 Kamani Street, Pahala

Hilo “Talk Story” Forum
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
@ Waiakea High School Cafeteria
155 W. Kawili Street

E Komo Mai! See you there!