

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE
DISTRICT 2 - HILO, KA`U & PUNA



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Aloha,

I was honored and humbled to be selected by Gov. Abercrombie to become the Senator for District 2 on the Big Island.

I will certainly do my best to represent my district, our island and the entire state at the legislature. Stepping in for Russell Kokubun is not an easy feat, however it is a challenge that I accept and am confident that we will continue to build upon the foundation that he has left.

The 2011 Legislative Session has so far been an interesting ride and a learning experience for me. I look forward to continuing this journey and the many others that come before me.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

Senator Gil Kahele

MEASURES CURRENTLY IN LEGISLATION

SB 1154:
RELATING TO
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

This measure will ensure that the South Kona Wilderness area, rich with cultural, biological, and historical significance, remains in perpetuity for the future generations of Hawaii's people. This measure provides a mechanism to address both the community's interests in utilizing the area for recreational purposes and protecting the vast amounts of archaeological sites, native plants, and native animals that exist in the preserve.

SB 283:
RELATING TO
SUSTAINABILITY

This measure updates the Hawaii State Plan (State Plan), codified in HRS § 226, by incorporating the important collaborative work of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force. The purpose of the State Plan is to provide a guide for the future long-range development of our State. It identifies priorities and objectives for policy makers to render informed decisions that are consistent with the preferred direction outlined in the State Plan.

When the 1978 Legislature first adopted the State Plan, they did so with the intention that it would **not** remain a static document.

Although it provides significant policy directives that affect Hawaii's long-range planning for a variety of significant subject matter areas, many of the objectives are outdated or no longer feasible. Given Hawaii's growing population and the subsequent increased demands placed on our limited natural and financial resources, an up to date long-range plan is absolutely critical. The work of the 2050 Task Force provided significant opportunity for public participation to compose the State's first long-range plan in over 30 years, providing the much needed update to the policy objectives and priorities outlined in HRS § 226. This is truly the people's plan.

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- > SB1154:
South Kona
Wilderness
Bill
- > CIP
- > HWY 130



Former Sen. Russell
Kokubun and
Sen. Gil Kahele

OPENING DAY AT THE
CAPITOL



The Senator's
Ohana



Gov. Abercrombie and
Sen. Kahele

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Gilbert Kahele
District 2 - Hilo, Ka'u & Puna

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

HWY 130— Infrastructure Improvements:

- Open up the top of Kahakai to improve circulation through the Woodlands Development area and Malama Market areas – finalizing construction
- Kea`au Pahoia Road and Kahakai Blvd intersection safety improvements – construction award anticipated for February 2011
- Kea`au-Pahoia Road shoulder lane conversion – convert the existing northbound shoulder lane into a permanent lane and provide a new shoulder lane – construction expected for October 2011.

Ka'u Irrigation: \$4M

In addition to the \$1.5m that was appropriated last year, this \$2.5m would ensure that improvements are made to the older, existing irrigation system to enable access to water for the communities in the Ka'u area. Water is a vital component of agriculture and improving access to water moves Hawai'i towards a goal of greater food security and self-sustainable living.

Volcano School of Arts and Sciences: \$6.79M

The project will relocate the present Volcano School of Arts and Sciences (VSAS) from rented property to the site of Keakealani School, in Volcano Village, Hawaii. This 3.5 acre site presently has the 1933 historic school building in place, which is in good repair. The effort is to

create an energy self-sufficient campus, concentrate upon sustainable construction and operations, and thus serve as an example to the students and the community at large of such an approach. Involved will be the plans, design, and construction of seven new structures, including classrooms, the administrative offices and a multi-purpose building that can serve for indoor play, school gatherings, a cafeteria and other large group activities. On site parking and traffic circulation will alleviate congestion on the public roads. Having been chartered in 2001 and serving students beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, the school is well established, well-managed, in strong financial

condition and has scored well on the Annual Yearly Progress tests - it is in the upper 1/4 of school performance state-wide. Presently, the school serves students from Mountain View, through Volcano, and into Ka'u. Approximately 30% of the students are Native Hawaiian.

Pahoia Elementary Cafeteria: \$9M

Plans, design, and construction for a new cafeteria, ground and site improvements and equipment and appurtenances. Facility to include a raised stage, bathrooms and multi-purpose meeting room.

Kua O Ka La PCS: \$500,000

The school has secured the DLNR state property that used to house the Opihikao Elementary School. They have purchased two used modular portables and need to get them permitted, placed and renovated.



Sen. Kahele with Native Hawaiian Caucus Day honoree Louis Hao and his Ohana.