



# Community Report

March 2011



## Senator Donna Mercado Kim

District 14

Aiea Halawa Kalihi Moanalua Red Hill

Aloha Friends and Neighbors:

The Legislature is in full swing. The first deadline for crossover of bills from the Senate to the House is March 10<sup>th</sup>, meaning we are one-third of the way through this legislative session. More than 3,000 bills have been introduced.

**Senate Bill 232** which extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union was signed into law by the Governor on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will take effect on January 1, 2012.

**Senate Bill 8** which sets up the process for appointing a Board of Education will be voted on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This measure gives the Governor power to appoint BOE members without candidates first being vetted by an advisory council. Appointees will still need to be confirmed by the Senate.

The Governor recently submitted his proposed Budget with his proposals on how to close the budget gap. Two of the issues that have hit home for many are his proposals to tax retirement income and to eliminate the reimbursement of Medicare Part B payments.

I am aware that although Hawaii is only one of ten states which excludes all federal, state and local pension income from taxation, the cost of living expenses here are much higher than for many other states. I will be giving this bill serious consideration with regards to its impacts on seniors.

Along with Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland and Glenn Wakai, I co-introduced **Senate Concurrent Resolution 43** "urging the Board of Education to defer decision-making on the closure of **Puuhale** and **Kalihi Elementary Schools** until the new members of the Board of Education are appointed by the Governor and seated."

However, with the recent vote by the Board of Education that recommends both Puuhale Elementary and Kalihi Elementary remain open, both schools appear to be saved.

I also introduced **Senate Concurrent Resolution 33** requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the City and County of Honolulu to agree to a final determination regarding ownership and jurisdiction of an unimproved section of **Kaimakani Street** (formerly Aiea-Halawa Boundary Road). SCR 33 will clarify a long-standing dispute over the responsibility for ongoing maintenance of Kaimakani Street.

I encourage you to stay informed of the status and discussions on the many bills circulating at the Legislature by going online to [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov). You can also view select committee hearings and sessions on Olelo.

### Full House at Town Hall Meeting

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, approximately 200 people attended a Community Town Hall meeting featuring Governor Neil Abercrombie and Lt. Governor Brian Schatz. It was a lively gathering, peppered with a variety of questions. I commend all who attended and those who stood up to let the Governor know of their strong concerns over some of his proposals.



*On hand to meet with constituents were (front row) Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, Rep. Blake Oshiro, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Sen. David Ige, (back row) Rep. Aaron Johansson, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Councilmember Breene Harimoto and Rep. Roy Takumi.*

**Aiea/ Pearl City Town Hall Meeting**  
**Traffic and Transportation Issues**

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

Pearl Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria  
7:00- 8:30 p.m.

Speakers: Wayne Yoshioka (DTS)  
Glenn Okimoto (DOT)

**Moanalua /Salt Lake Town Hall Meeting**  
**Come and "Talk Story"**

Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Moanalua Middle School Cafeteria  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: *Senators Donna Mercado Kim,*  
*Glenn Wakai, Representatives Aaron*  
*Johansson, Linda Ichiyama and*  
*Councilmember Breene Harimoto*  
Enjoy dinner and conversation with  
your legislators!



*U.S. Senator Inouye, Senator Kim, and Dr. Derauf  
at groundbreaking ceremonies marking  
Kokua Kalihi Valley's new Health and Wellness Center  
February 24, 2011*

**Capital Improvement Project Funds Released**

In February, funds for Capital Improvement  
Projects were released for work at **Kalihi-Waena  
Elementary School** and **Moanalua Elementary  
School**. These funds will be used to address  
temporary facility needs at Kalihi-Waena  
Elementary School and ongoing electrical system  
improvements at Moanalua Elementary School.

**Congratulations, Buzzy!**



*Senator Kim congratulated "Buzzy" Hong on his  
retirement as Executive Director of the Building and  
Construction Trade Council*

**ALOHA `AINA EARTH DAY**

Recycling Community Clean-Up/Fundraiser

**Farrington High School**

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bring your recyclable waste, help our environment,  
and turn trash into cash for our school!

**Schedule of Community Meetings**

*Neighborhood Board Meetings*

**Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20**

Monday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Aiea Library Conference Room

**Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16**

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Sakima Recreational Center

**Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15**

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Kalihi Union Church

*Community Association Meetings*

**Moanalua Gardens Community Association**

Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Middle School

**Moanalua Valley Community Association**

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Golf Course

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Chair, Committee on Tourism  
Chair, Committee on Accountability  
Member, Ways & Means  
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