

SENATOR
Ronald D. Kouchi

DISTRICT 7 – KAUA'I & NI'HAU

Message from Senator

Aloha,

As we enter the home stretch of the 2012 legislative session, I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to represent Kauai and Niihau and to give you a brief overview of this current session.

As the 2012 session began, it became clear that on the heels of last year's huge budget shortfall our primary focus needed to be stimulation of the economy. As the Senate Majority Caucus Leader, I worked with the Senate majority leadership and my Senate colleagues to address this concern and SB 2012 was introduced. This bill, with the Administration's large bond restructuring and sale, will place an emphasis on smaller governmental repair and maintenance projects. These repair and maintenance projects will fix aging infrastructure, extend the useful life of our state-owned assets, and boost our economy through job creation.

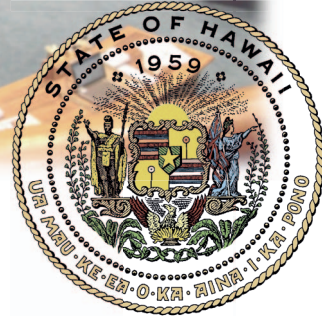
The need for an emphasis on governmental repair and maintenance projects for our aging infrastructure were magnified during the recent heavy rains and resulting landslides, flooding, and road closures. With both Governor Neil Abercrombie and Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. issuing disaster proclamations, it is imperative that we not only repair damaged infrastructure, but we must also retrofit or replace outdated, obsolete, and archaic state assets.

R. D. Kouchi



IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Message from Senator... pg 1*
- *Spotlight on Legislation... pg 2*
- *The Youth of District 7... pg 3*
- *District 7 Honorees... pg 4*
- *March Storms on Kauai... pg 5*
- *Thank You... pg 6*
- *Flashback to Interim... pg 6*



2012 Mid-Session Legislative Timetable

APRIL
MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Second Decking	6 GOOD FRIDAY	7
8	9 Recess #6	10	11 Recess #7	12 Second Crossover (Bills) & Disagree	13 First Crossover (Conc. Reso)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Constitutional Amendments	21
22	23 Second Crossover (Conc. Resos.)	24	25	26 Final Decking (Non-Fiscal Bills)	27 Final Decking (Fiscal Bills)	28
29	30 Recess #8					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Recess #9	3 ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE	4	5
			59	60		

Spotlight on Legislation

SB 2986

The Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee passed Senate Bill (SB) 2986 on Thursday, February 23, 2012, extending the sunset date on Act 198 of 2009 from three years to five years from 2012 through 2017. SB 2986 recognized and affirmed the Senate's belief that utilities like Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) that use environmentally cleaner naphtha fuel for power generation should continue to realize reduced tax requirements.

After the hearing, Senator Kouchi stated that, "I would like to thank Senate Ways and Means Chair David Y. Ige for taking the time to visit Kauai during the interim period to get a firsthand look at our concerns and problems. The extension of the sunset date from three years to five years will ensure that KIUC's lower tax rate will provide substantial savings of approximately five million dollars a year to Kauai cooperative members, allowing KIUC to pass these savings on to businesses and to the community as our residents are paying one of the highest kilo watt cost in the state."

The Hawaii State Senate passed SB 2986 and the bill has crossed over to the House of Representatives where it was referred to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) and Finance (FIN).

SB 2967

The Hawaii State Senate passed SB 2967 SD1, which seeks to establish a separate collective bargaining unit for Ocean and Water Safety Officers, at a floor vote during Session on March 6, 2012. SB 2967 SD1 would create Bargaining Unit 14 representing ocean safety and water safety officers.

Upon passage of SB 2967, Senator Kouchi commented, "Ocean safety personnel and water safety officers are an integral part of our first line of emergency responders. Kauai has some of the most beautiful, but also dangerous beaches in the world, and our water safety officers put their lives on the line everyday as part of their job. By having their own bargaining unit, they will now have the chance to represent themselves collectively and have their unique issues and concerns addressed. I am greatly pleased with the passage of this bill since it reflects our understanding and appreciation for the service that ocean safety personnel provide."

SB 2967 has crossed over to the House of Representatives and referred to the House Committee on Finance (FIN).



The Senate unanimously voted to pass Senate Bill 2012 (S.B. 2012), also known as "The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012". Senate Bill 2012 is in the House of Representatives Finance Committee (FIN) for its consideration.

During his floor speech prior to voting to pass the bill, Senator Kouchi stated, "We have a harmonic convergence of events that greatly favor utilization of 'The Invest in Hawaii Act.' Not only will half a billion dollars for repairs and maintenance get our citizens back to work and stimulate the economy, we have the opportunity to utilize historically low interest rates, low materials cost, and a strong competitive bidding environment that will allow us to greatly extend the useful life of our State buildings and infrastructure. This will prevent the need to build or rebuild replacement structures and will allow more efficient use of existing structures. For example on Kauai, renovations to the vacant Lihue Courthouse will allow state agencies to move into state owned buildings, resulting in rental savings that will more than pay for the renovations. We have an obligation to future generations in Hawaii. We have direct control over energy costs and the repair and maintenance projects scheduled will utilize energy efficient materials, and sustainable and renewable energy strategies, reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. Furthermore, repairs and maintenance for schools will result in a better learning environment for our children."

Departments scheduled to receive appropriations in SB 2012 include:

- Department of Education \$153,000,000;
- University of Hawaii \$127,000,000;
- Department of Accounting and General Services \$60,000,000;
- Department of Agriculture \$5,000,000;
- Department of Defense \$5,000,000;
- Department of Health \$70,000,000;
- Department of Human Services \$40,000,000;
- Department of Land and Natural Resources \$20,000,000;
- Department of Public Safety \$15,000,000; and
- Judiciary \$5,000,000.

SB 2012 has crossed over to the House of Representatives and referred to the House Committee on Finance (FIN).



FOR BILL STATUS

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Youth of District 7



Wilcox Elementary School

Mr. Lynn Heusinkveld and students from Wilcox Elementary School interviewed Senator Kouchi for Kids Voting Hawaii. ☐



Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School

Thirteen students from Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School (CKMS) won first and second places in the SkillsUSA Convention Technology Challenge Contest held on February 22, 2012, on Oahu. SkillsUSA is a non-profit educational association, which serves high school and post-secondary school students by providing quality educational experiences in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.



Kiana Pigao

Kiana Pigao, Kauai District Representative for the Hawaii State Student Council and a sophomore at Waimea High School, met with Senator Kouchi during Education Week at the State Capitol. ☐

KAUAIBOTS

The KAUAIBOTS Team (Team #2465), comprised of students from Kapaa High School, Island School, Kauai High School, and

Waimea High School, competed in the 2012 First in Hawaii Regional Robotics Competition. This was the 5th consecutive year that a Kauai team participated in the three-day tournament held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Stan Sherriff Center.



Kauai District Science Fair Winners

Fifteen Kauai students comprised of Waimea Canyon Middle School, Kapaa Middle School, Kapaa High School, Kauai High School and Waimea High School, winners of their divisions in the Kauai District Island-wide Science Fair, participated in the 2012 Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair (HSSEF) held at the Hawaii Convention Center from April 2 – 4, 2012. The HSSEF, now in its 55th year, is the oldest and largest science fair held in Hawaii. Each year, more than 7,000 students participate in science fair programs throughout the State, with approximately 500 of these students qualifying to compete in the HSSEF.



District 7 Honorees

It was an honor and privilege for Senator Ronald D. Kouchi and the Hawaii State Legislature to recognize District 7's outstanding individuals. Here are a few of our honorees:



DESIREE VEA
White House Champions of Change Honoree



CHANCE BUKOSKI
2011 Daktronics NCAA Division II All-American First Team Honoree



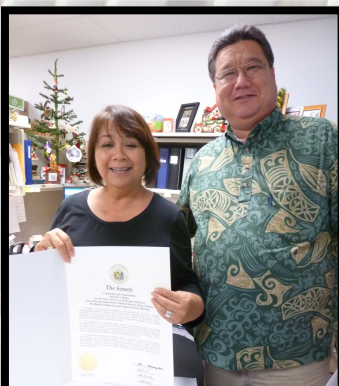
LEI U'I KAHOLOKULA
Miss Kauai 2012



REEF MCINTOSH
2012 Da Hui Backdoor Shootout Surf Champion



LIANE ANCAJAS
Miss Garden Isle 2012



PRISCILLA BADUA
*40 Years of Service
Dept of Human Services, BESSD*



TEDDY BLAKE
Holo Holo Koloa Scenic Byway



KAREN IKEMOTO
2011 Librarian of the Year

March Storms on Kauai



I want to express my mahalo and gratitude for your patience and sense of ohana in the aftermath of the devastating March storms that wreaked havoc to our island.

Governor Neil Abercrombie and Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. both issued disaster declarations for Kauai to allow for emergency repairs. Additionally, your Kauai legislators reached out to our respective legislative Senate and House leaderships and have secured some 12 million dollars for emergency storm recovery to be included in the budgets of the DLNR and Transportation.

While recovery efforts by State and County employees and private individuals have been exemplary, it is the countless stories of

residents working tirelessly to restore Kauai that reveal an indomitable spirit to do what is pono and to fight through adversity for the betterment of the community that is remarkable and inspiring.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STORM DAMAGE UPDATE

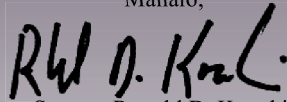
- State Route 5600 at mile marker 1.0, Kapaa Temporary Bypass-*Repair work to the headwalls and road;*
- State Route 56 at mile marker 22.5, Kuhio Highway at Kilauea- *Culvert and road work repair;*
- State Route 56 at mile marker 25.0, Kuhio Highway at Kalihiwai- *Landslide cleaning, removal of debris and unstable vegetation;*
- State Route 560 at mile marker 1.0, Kuhio Highway at Hanalei-*Hill slope failure, repair and removal of debris;*
- State Route 560 at mile marker 4.3, Kuhio Highway at Waikoko- *Landslide cleaning, removal of debris;*
- State Route 560 at mile marker 5.1, Kuhio Highway at Lumahai- *Landslide cleaning, removal of debris; and*
- State Route 560 at mile marker 8.3, Kuhio Highway at Haena- *Highway flooding, removal of debris.*

Mahalo

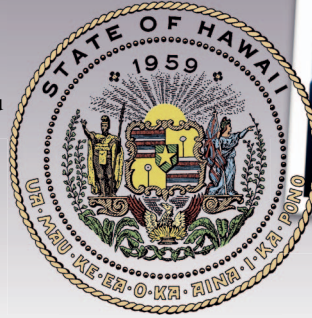
As your State Senator, I will do my best to represent the people of Kauai and Niihau. It is important for me to be aware of the issues facing our community, so I welcome your feedback and consider it a privilege to represent you.

Thank you again for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or should you need my assistance.

Mahalo,



Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
Majority Caucus Leader
7th Senatorial District, Kaua'i & Ni'ihau



**STATE SENATOR
RONALD D. KOUCHI**
District 7
Kaua'i & Ni'ihau

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Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture

Member, Senate Committee on
Transportation and International Affairs

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Visit Senator Kouchi's Senate Webpage
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Flashback to Interim

During the interim period before this session began, Senator Kouchi was fortunate to have many Senators and cabinet members visit Kauai. The Senate Ways and Means Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, Senate Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs Chair Will Espero, Senate Water, Land and Housing Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, and Senate President Shan Tsutsui visited Kauai to see and learn firsthand, the concerns and issues facing Kauai residents.



Chair William Aila of the Department of Land and Natural Resources brought his Honolulu department heads to our island for two listening sessions, one each in Kilauea and Lihue. Transportation Director Glenn Okimoto held a listening session in Hanamaulu with his first deputy and Kauai branch managers. These listening sessions were invaluable for residents to meet department members and to air pressing issues and concerns.