



Senator Norman Sakamoto
 415 S. Beretania Street
 State Capitol Room 230
 Honolulu, HI 96813

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2009

Aloha Neighbors,

The 2009 Legislative and Special Sessions proved to be quite challenging due to the current economic situation.

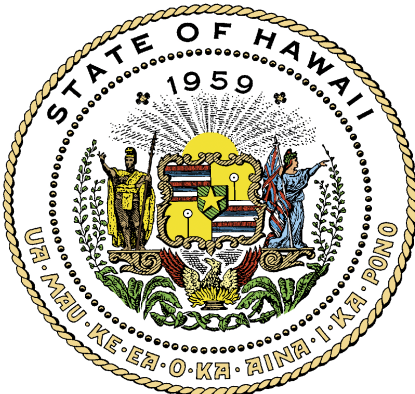
Thank you for your input and support throughout the year. We will continue to be sensible and responsive to our community. Mahalo for allowing me to serve you.

May the spirit of the holiday season be with you today and throughout the new year. From our families to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Aloha and God Bless You,

Norman Sakamoto

Senator Norman Sakamoto



**Opening Day of the
 2010 Hawaii State Legislature
 Wednesday, January 20**

Visitors are welcome to stop by. However, due to our economic situation, activities will be scaled down.

We are approaching the new year with economic challenges before us. I am thankful that the Governor has proposed utilizing \$50 million to address the Furlough Friday problem. As I write this, I am optimistic that there will be an agreement to help our students and their families. We all need to work together to face the economic realities.

Looking back on over a decade of serving in Hawaii's Senate, much of it as chair of the Committee on Education, we take pride and a sense of accomplishment in improving our Hawaii. For public schools, we have established a per pupil funding for schools, empowered school community councils, expanded opportunities for charter schools, and supported programs to develop, recruit, and retain teachers. Community efforts lead to the creation of The Early Learning Council. We are well on our way to getting our school buildings and campuses up to par.

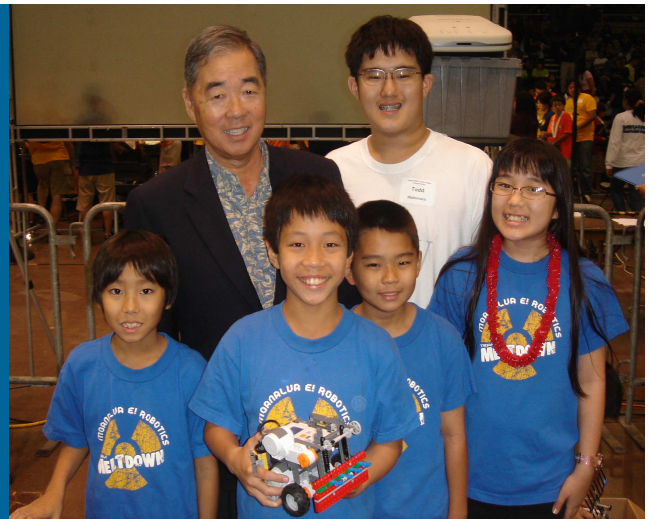
The University of Hawaii system was granted a high degree of governance and funding autonomy. Ground has been broken for the campus of UH West Oahu in Kapolei and community colleges are growing and serving more students.

We know that Hawaii's economy will eventually recover and two things need to be in place to best create a brighter future. First, each person needs to have the opportunity to have an excellent education to maximize their potential. Second, we need to support our businesses that provide good jobs here in Hawaii. Workforce and workplaces-we need both.

Hawaii's future depends on us continuing to work together today for a brighter tomorrow. The 2010 session needs to address educational reforms, economic incentives, protection of the Hawaii we love and securing a future that preserves our aloha and provides for all of our people.

Moanalua Elementary Students at FIRST LEGO League

**Sean Takafuji,
 Jordan Ng,
 Jantzen Nakai,
 Stacie Nishimura and
 Todd Nishimura.**



2009 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The following represents some of the highlights of the 2009 legislative and special session:

Balancing the Budget

- Increases the **hotel-room tax** over two years from 7.25% to 9.25%.
- Raises the **state income taxes** on higher-income residents (**single \$150,000 and joint \$300,000**) and in two years **increases the standard deduction and personal exemption**, which would provide breaks for some taxpayers.
- Raises the tax on **sales of property and second home purchases (2 million or more)**.
- Raises wholesale taxes on **tobacco products other than cigarettes**.

Health

- Extends the **Children's Health Care Program** to June 30, 2012 for uninsured children in the state.

Transportation

- Allows all motor vehicles, regardless of number of persons on board, to use **HOV or zipper lanes** when one or more lanes have been closed by emergency responders.

Protection & Safety

- Based upon recommendations of the implementation task force monitoring the interlock device law, makes amendments to the law enacted in 2008 which requires drivers arrested for driving under the influence to install **ignition interlock devices** in their vehicles.
- Protects individuals against **harassment** via all forms of **electronic communication**.
- Prohibits employers from using a **person's credit history** as a discriminating factor in the hiring or termination process.
- **Expands the ability of the state insurance division's fraud investigations unit** to prevent, investigate, and prosecute insurance fraud in all forms (except workers' compensation)

Sustainability & Change for the Better

- Permits civil defense workers to access private property to **mitigate hazardous conditions**, such as overhanging trees and potential landslide areas, which are neglected by landowners.
- Helps local farmers to provide locally

grown produce to hotels and restaurants through the development of **agricultural cooperatives**.

- **Provides and encourages renewable energy use and development** by establishing energy efficiency portfolio standards, requiring energy efficient state buildings, requiring sellers to provide electricity-cost information and appropriating funds from the Renewable Energy Facility Siting Special Fund.

Education

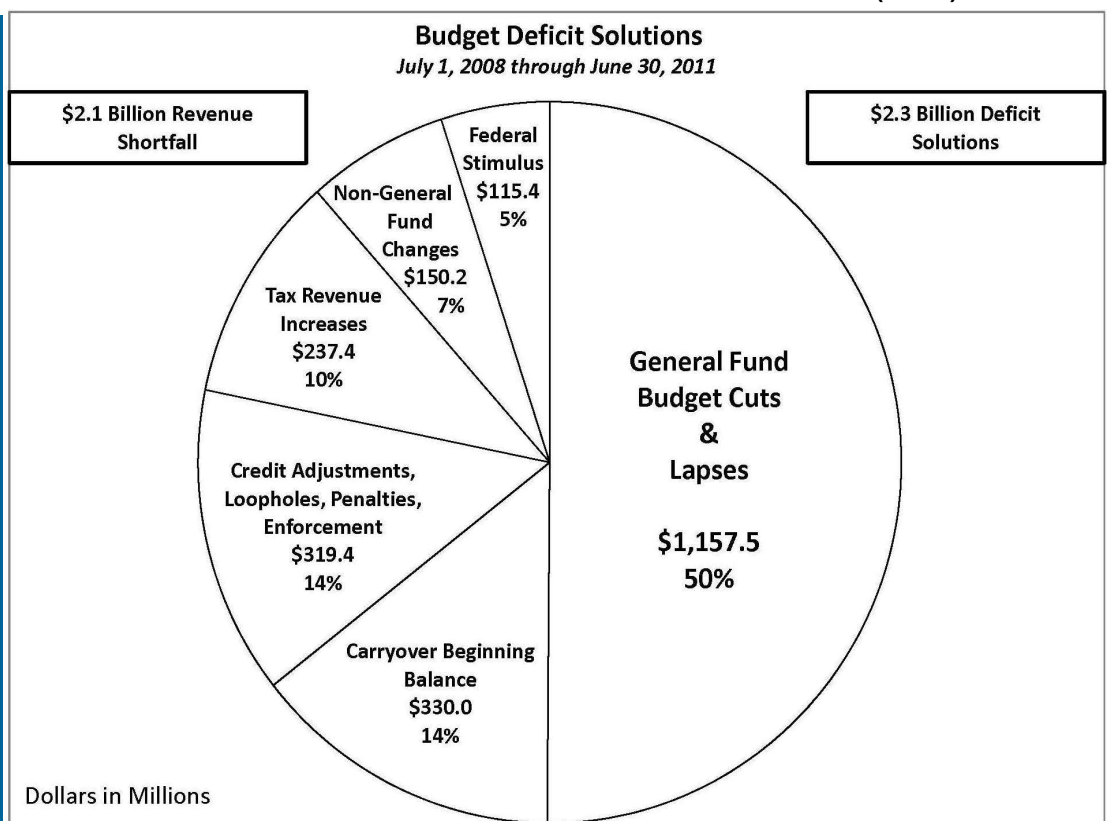
The 2009 Legislature continued our aim to support and improve Hawaii's education system from pre-kindergarten through college.

- Enhances the workforce development capacity of Hawaii's community colleges by establishing a **skilled worker and business development center** to provide workforce training to meet the rapidly evolving needs of both employers and employees.
- Enacts the **interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children** due to frequent moves and deployment of parents.
- Makes changes to improve the efficiency of the **Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB)**.

Given our weak economy, the 2009 Legislature took on the challenge of cutting government costs while **protecting much needed public services**.

The diagram on the right shows that half of the deficit was made up of **budget cuts and restrictions to expenditures**.

Other solutions include reducing salaries, eliminating vacant and filled State positions and cutting services. **Tax increases composed of only 10% of the shortfall.**



EDUCATION & HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

DOE Repair and Maintenance Projects/ Capital Improvement Projects

** Indicates Capital Improvement Projects (amounts are listed). R & M projects less than \$100,000 are not listed.

Moanalua Complex

Moanalua High

Funding for initial phase - Performing Arts Center

Replace science lab M-101/104/202

Replace Library A/C

Replace varsity lockers

Replace girls lockers

Moanalua Middle

**Upgrade campus wide electrical system \$450,000

Resurface parking

Reroof building B

Moanalua Elementary

**Resurface, repaint, repair existing basketball/volleyball court \$132,000

Reroof buildings C & D

Resurface driveway/parking

Red Hill Elementary

**Campus wide electrical upgrades \$465,000

Replace A/C unit building A

Salt Lake Elementary

**Renovate interior rooms-bldg F10 \$1,000,000

Reroof building C

Shafter Elementary

Reroof building C

Radford Complex

Radford High

**Design and construction of all

weather track \$1,350,000

**Replace gym floor \$155,000

Funding for initial phase -Multipurpose Center

Repair 2nd floor railing

Reroof building J & R

Aliamanu Middle

**Installation of split air conditioning units (3) in room S-1 \$35,000

Reroof building A & B

Aliamanu Elementary

Reroof building F

Hickam Elementary

Renovate restrooms building K

Reroof building E

Makalapa Elementary

Resurface parking lot and improve drainage

Mokulele Elementary

Reroof building E

Fire alarm upgrades

Nimitz Elementary

Replace campus walkways

Pearl Harbor Elementary

Reroof dining room gable

Replace concrete courtyard building L & M

Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary

Replace campus waterlines

Reroof building C

Aiea Complex (partial list)

Aiea Public Library

**Relocation: design & construction \$10,000,000

Aiea High

Replace campus waterlines

Reroof building A

Replace concrete rails buildings

B & C

Aiea Intermediate

Structural repairs building A

Aiea Elementary

Reroof building F

**Construction of covered walkway from Building C to Cafeteria \$100,000

Alvah Scott Elementary

Reroof building F

Pearl Ridge Elementary

Reroof building C, P0426 & P0436

Farrington Complex (partial list)

Farrington High

Reroof building I, J, G and N

Replace A/C in buildings G, L, N & O

Replace soffit building A

Kalakaua Middle

Reroof Admin building

Reroof building S

Puuahale Elementary

Replace A/C in building A & G

HOUSING

HCR 94 Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Audit

Requesting the Auditor to

conduct a review of the

performance of the management

of the **Puuwai Momi** and **West**

Oahu Management projects to

compare the performance of

state operated and privately

operated public housing

properties; determine the

contributions of funding levels,

mismangement and tenant and

visitor actions to the failure to

meet performance standards for

these properties.

SCR31 HPHA Maintenance

Audit Requesting the Auditor to

conduct a management and

financial audit of HPHA's

Maintenance contracts.

For more information, please visit:

www.capitol.hawaii.gov



Read Aloud America

Ms. Christin Dung's class of **Makalapa Elementary School**

WORKING TOGETHER.....

Recycling



Helping the community clean up while raising money for **Moanalua and Radford High Schools, Alvah Scott Elementary and Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center**

Community Clean Up



Removing trash and debris under the Viaduct from **Valkenburg Street to Aolele Street**

Environment



Analysis study of sediment run-off and maintenance dredging of **Salt Lake Waterway**

Landslides



Removal of large boulders from **Moanalua Valley** hillsides & installation of landslide-prevention netting

Workforce



Assisting those who support our future employees such as HCC's Construction Academy in **Kalihi**

Conservation



Purchase of upper **Moanalua Valley** (3,716 acres) for hiking, hunting, culture resources, educational activities and wildlife protection

Community Events



Prince Lot Hula Festival at **Moanalua Gardens**

Community Parks



Moanalua Dog Park—Supporting ongoing efforts in keeping it a success

THROUGH THE YEARS

Preserving Our Historic Sites



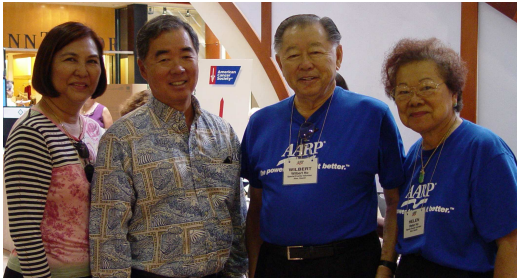
Funding projects such as the **Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center**. Another partnership effort was the signage project to guide locals and visitors alike to the **historic attractions**.

Caring for our Veterans



Completion of Oahu Veterans Center in **Foster Village**. The center is also utilized by other community groups.

Caring for our Elders



Supporting **Senior Fairs** at **Pearlridge Shopping Center**

Transportation & Road Improvements



Completion of improvements to **Arizona Road**, including sidewalks, road shoulders, guard rails and street lights.

Building and Enhancing our Community



Painting **Momilani Recreation Center**



Clean up at **Rainbow Bay Park**



Supporting our **local charities** such as **Ronald McDonald House**

Supporting our Schools



Moanalua HS Student Center



Honoring district companies such as **Coca-Cola Bottling Co** for their **mentorship** efforts in our schools

Wiping out Graffiti



Encouraging community members efforts in cleaning up **graffiti**

AT OUR SCHOOLS

Pearl Harbor Elem



Groundbreaking of new playground

Aliamanu Middle



Boys & Girls Club Multimedia Center Grand Opening

Pearl Harbor Kai Elem



Read Aloud Program

Mokulele Elem



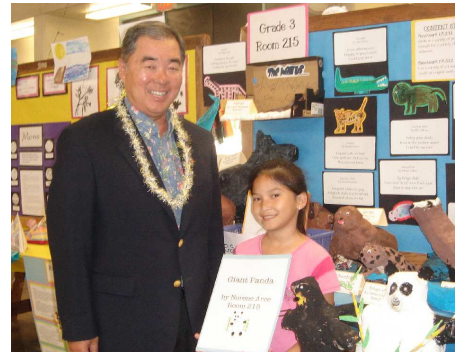
Legislator's Back to School Program

Alvah Scott Elem



School Visit

Nimitz Elem



Curriculum Fair

Aiea Elem



Planting and Irrigation

Salt Lake Elem



Civic Responsibility Presentation

Aliamanu Elem



May Day Festivities

Radford High



FIRST Robotics Regional Competition

Hickam Elem



Read Across America Program

Moanalua Middle



X-Treme Reading Challenge

IN THE COMMUNITY

PUULOLO ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Puuloa Road Improvement Project began in December 2003, but did not break ground until 2005 due to undergrounding utilities. It was completed in **January 2009**. The road officially reopened on February 10, 2009.

Improvements include additions of:

- exclusive turning lanes at the side streets
- paved shoulder lanes for bus stops
- planned landscaping along both sides
- organized parking areas
- ADA provisions of sidewalks, bike lanes, and street lights
- proper signalization of intersections at Mokumoa Road, Mapunapuna Road, Mapunapuna Place and Kilihau Street

These improvements, which totaled **\$15,863,511**, helps to significantly reduce potentially hazardous conditions for pedestrians and motorists alike.



Kahu Kelekona Bishaw, DOT Director, Brennon Morioka, Project Engineer, Maria Rivera of Goodfellow Brothers, Inc., Senator Norman Sakamoto, Rep. Lynn Finnegan, Rep. Glenn Wakai, and DOT Highways Deputy Director, Jiro Sumada

Honoring our Heroes



Claude Ortiz along with other shipyard workers saved 32 trapped sailors aboard the *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor

Promoting Safety



Hawaii Quarter Launch



US Mint employee **Aaron Johanson** is a proud graduate of Moanalua HS. Parents **Lawrence and Cynthia** live in Moanalua Gardens

Head Start



Toys for Tots'



Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under Served, Elderly and Disabled (PHOCUSED)



Catholic Charities Hawaii were among those at the State Capitol rally



Our Enthusiastic 2009 Session Staff

Front Row (Seated) L->R: Kevin Cheney, UH Legislative Intern; Senator Norman Sakamoto; Erin Conner, Assistant Committee Clerk

Back Row (Standing) L->R: Kiana Kauwe, Legislative Aide; Joanne Swearingen, Volunteer; Leatrice Galicinao, Administrative Assistant; Jacob Ng, Senior Legislative Aide; Allen Awaya, Committee Clerk; Cherry Torres, Office Manager; Christin Wehrsig, Legislative Aide; and Lillian Miyao, Volunteer. Missing: Robert Arakaki, Volunteer.

SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

Majority Floor Leader
Hawaii State Senate
15th District

Chair, Committee on Education and Housing

Vice-Chair, Committee on Higher Education

Member, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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CONGRATULATIONS

- * 2008 National Board Certified Teachers: **Marilou Bulagay, Mae Masuda-Kop, Lori-Ann Takeguchi**, and **Traci Takehara** of Salt Lake Elementary, **Evangaline Casinas, Natalie Immings**, and **Arnold Martinez** of Moanalua High and **Vanessa Hong** of Aiea Elementary
- * Retirement of Moanalua Middle School Principal **Caroline Wong**
- * Nomination of Principal **Elynn Chung**, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary, for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award.
- * 2009 Oceanic Cable Educator of the Year from Radford High, **Lane Yokoyama**
- * Jefferson Award for Public Service winners: **Kawai "Sunny" Young**, USS Arizona Memorial
- * Participation in the 4th Annual Hawaii FIRST LEGO League Championships: **Aliamanu Intermediate, Pearl Harbor Elementary, Makalapa Elementary, Moanalua Elementary, Moanalua Middle, and Pearl Harbor Kai Elem**
- * **Edward Ruan** and **Joana Choy** of Moanalua High, and **Sierra Carter** of Radford High, received the Pacific Asian Affairs Council scholarship to participate in the 2009 Punahou School's Summer Study Abroad Program to South Korea.

- * 2009 Citizenship Award Winners: **Alyssa Nii** - Aiea High, **Yvonne Jacinto** - Farrington High, **Tyler Oshiro** - Moanalua High and **Demetria Woods** - Radford High
- * Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation Scholarship Awards: **Natasha Fong** - Aiea High, **Timothy Le** - Farrington High, **Edward Ruan** - Moanalua High and **Oscar Chang** - Radford High

Senator Sakamoto congratulates the 5th Annual Menehune Kina'ole Award winners **Glorianne and Raymond Young, Dr. Alan Serikawa, Stan Tamashiro, and Dara Fukuhara** who are outstanding graduates, educators, and community supporters from the Moanalua High School community.

