

SENATOR SHAN S. TSUTSUI

February 2012



Serving Hawai'i's
4th Senatorial
District

Encompassing the
following
communities:

*Wailuku
Waihee
Kahului
Paia
Lower Paia*



Aloha,

The 2012 Legislative Session is well under way with many promising bills that aim to improve your quality of life in the islands.

One of those bills, Senate Bill No. 2012, "The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012," marked a significant milestone today, Tuesday, February 21, 2012, when the Senate voted to pass this aggressive \$500 million general obligation bond-funded Capital Improvement Program package. This bipartisan initiative could create or sustain more than 5,000 jobs and stimulate our local economy from all corners of the State.

Projects under consideration will focus on repair and maintenance needs to address aging infrastructure concerns and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities, such as: Maui Memorial Medical Center, Lanai Community Hospital, Kula Hospital, University of Hawaii Maui College, and other public schools and libraries throughout all of the counties. Another priority of the bill is to develop sustainable and renewable energy resources, such as photovoltaic technology, resulting in cost savings and reducing the State's carbon footprint.

"The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012" continues to be the Senate's major initiative. Its passage symbolizes an important step in getting our economy back on track and immediately putting Hawaii's residents back to work. The measure now moves to the House of Representatives for further discussion and consideration for passage.

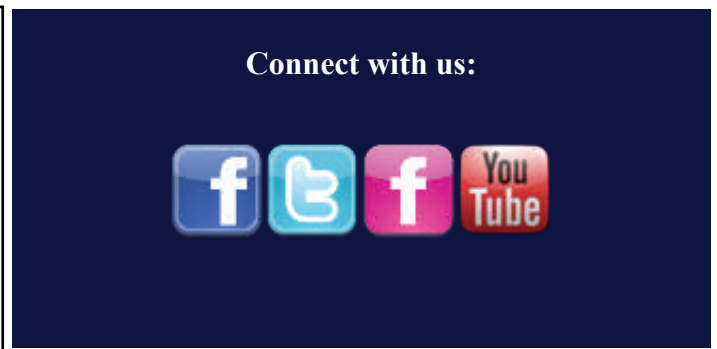


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Mahalo for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Tsutsui".



Get Informed, Get Involved

The Hawaii State Senate is encouraging citizens to get informed and involved. There are many resources available on the web that provide citizens with the ability to get information right at their fingertips.

Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

The Hawaii State Legislature's website is the key portal for those wishing to get informed and involved in the legislative process. Some of the information and features of the site include:

- Contact information for current members of the Senate and House of Representatives
- Bill and resolution text and current status information
- Upcoming committee hearings
- Daily downloads of bills, resolutions, committee reports, and other documents
- Online testimony submittal

Create an Account

You can also create an account with the Legislature, and, as a registered

user, you can track your own personalized list of bills and get e-mail notifications for legislative committee hearings.

Video Streams

The Legislature will be streaming selected committee hearings and the daily Senate and House floor sessions live over the Internet. Links to the live and archived audio and video streams are accessible from the website.

www.hawaiiisenatemajority.com

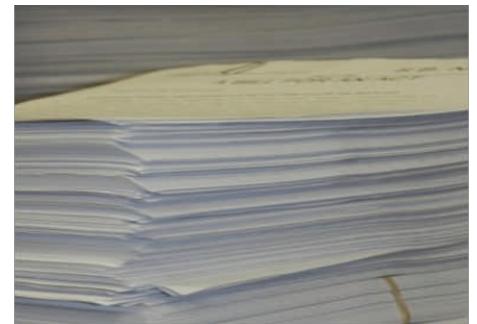
A link to the Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus website can be found on the Senate page of the Hawaii State Legislature's website. You can stay abreast of Senate Majority messages, press releases, and activities.

Public Access Room

The Legislature's Public Access Room (PAR) is located on the fourth floor of the State Capitol building, with knowledgeable and friendly staff to assist and educate citizens about participating in the legislative process. Staff assistance is available in person (Room 401, State Capitol Building), by phone (808) 587-0478, and by email (par@capitol.hawaii.gov).

You can also tune in and watch selected committee hearings and floor sessions on community television channels statewide. For the schedule, you can go to the broadcast link found on the Hawaii State Legislature's website.

Hawaii State Senate Introduces More Than One Thousand Bills



1,072 bills were introduced in the Hawaii State Senate during this second year of the 26th Legislative biennium. Wednesday, January 25, 2012 was the deadline for bill introductions. During the 2011 Session, Senators introduced 1,558 bills, many of which were carried over to the 2012 session.

For more information on the bills and on the Legislature, go to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

Hawaii State Senate Majority Caucus Priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session

The Senate Majority, whose members are Democrats, are committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

As the Senate moves forward in the second year of the 26th Legislative Session, the overarching themes and priorities set forth align with Governor Abercrombie's "A New Day in Hawaii" plan. The Senate Majority has identified the following priorities:

Job Creation & Creating a Sustainable Economy

Creating jobs and putting people back to work will be critically important. The Senate Majority introduced Senate Bill No. 2012, which includes an aggressive \$500 million general-obligation bond-funded Capital Improvement Program (CIP) package aimed at investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the state, from Hilo to Hanalei. The bill aims to create shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants, and will help to put money in workers' pockets and give companies confidence to begin hiring again.

"The purpose of this package is simple. It will put more people back to work and stimulate the economy. The investment we make today will provide a better future for the people of Hawaii," said Senate President Shan Tsutsui.

Projects to be considered will focus on smaller repair and maintenance projects to address aging infrastructures and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities. Projects will also include those that address health and safety code concerns. These are not new identified projects, rather it's a plan to eliminate projects that have

The permitting, approval and procurement processes in both the private and public sectors would be streamlined and/or simplified to facilitate expedient movement and to ensure that government is able to provide services to the public in the most efficient manner possible.

With this aggressive approach at stimulating our economy, SB2012 acts to support Hawaii's small businesses, where most new jobs begin. The bill solidifies the Senate's commitment to supporting the entrepreneurial and creative spirit of Hawaii's people. Investing in citizens will amount to contributions to our State that far outweigh the investment. With this jolt in the economy, the safety net would be improved, a wide range of social and educational services would be provided and, as result, the following initiatives would be supported:

Sustainability and Renewable Energy

When it comes to sustainability and renewable energy, SB2012 will continue to strive to make Hawaii a model for the rest of the country by continuing the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. The bill will make it a priority to develop sustainable and renewable energy strategies and initiatives throughout our state facilities. The measure will allow the State to strive to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption at state facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and state office buildings.

Retooling Government

In the area of technology, the SB2012 calls for investing in the State's information technology infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient.

People and Children

As a result of strengthening the economy and putting more people back to work, the safety net would be secured and all basic needs of all citizens would be met. The Senate will also continue its strong support for education. From Hawaii's youngest keiki to wisest kupuna, ensuring access to the highest quality educational opportunities will remain a top priority, which will make them competitive in the global economy.

Hawaii State Senate Introduces Bipartisan Bill Aimed at Stimulating Economy

The Hawaii State Senate is united in support of Senate Bill 2012. Garnering bipartisan support, Senate Bill 2012, also known as "The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012," is an aggressive general obligation bond-funded \$500 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) package aimed at creating jobs by investing and stimulating our local economy from all corners of the state, from Hilo to Hanalei.

With Hawaii experiencing the lowest interest rates on record and significant savings made from the State's most recent bond authorization and issuance, now is the time to invest in our State. The program will create shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants. According to conservative estimates by the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) job multiplier, this measure could create or sustain more than 5,000 jobs.

It is important to invest now in necessary CIP projects because interest rates are at an historic low. Additionally, this will not only result in improved state facilities but also cost savings over future investments.

Projects to be considered will focus on repair and maintenance needs to address aging infrastructures and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities.

Projects also include those that address health and safety code concerns. State departments that have been identified as part of the Program are: the Department of Education, including the State Public Library System; the University of Hawaii, including athletic facilities; the Department of Accounting and General Services; the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Defense; the Department of Health, and health care facilities of the Hawaii Health Systems, the Department of Human Services; the Department of Land and Natural Resources; the Department of Public Safety and the Judiciary. Funding will be distributed depending on the individual department's needs and ability to commence work immediately.

Another priority of the bill is to develop sustainable and renewable energy resources, such as photovoltaic technology. Investing in renewable energy and upgrades to information technology initiatives throughout schools, hospitals, and office buildings will ultimately lead to cost savings and a reduction of the State's carbon footprint.

In order to expedite the backlogged repair and maintenance projects, SB2012 would make revisions to the State's permitting, approval and procurement processes. As a result, the accelerated processes would get workers off the bench and on the job immediately, putting more money in workers' pockets. With this jolt in the economy, the safety net would be improved and a wide range of social and educational services would be provided.

For more information on SB2012 go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

Legislature Passes Several Conference Bills

In a united effort, the Hawaii State Senate and the House of Representatives have worked together to pass several "fast track" measures that were carried over from the 2011 session.

The following bills passed in both the Senate and House Chambers and were enacted by the Governor:

Act 1 (House Bill No. 608)- appropriates state funds to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. The sum appropriated, which are subject to dollar-for-dollar private matching funds include: \$1.5 million to the Queens Medical Center to support services to perform kidney and liver transplants in Hawaii and \$300,000 to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law, Act 1, on February 11, 2012.

Act 2 (Senate Bill No. 239)- allows the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to continue using the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund for the school's operational expenses. Extending the life of the fund would result in supporting the school's mission of training physicians. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law, Act 2, on February 13, 2012.

Act 3 (Senate Bill No. 809)- increases University of Hawaii's (UH) authorization to issue revenue bonds from a total principal amount not to exceed \$200 million to a total amount not to exceed \$300 million to fund UH construction projects, which would stimulate the economy and generate construction jobs.

Upon passage of the bill, UH will query the campuses to compile a listing for the use of the appropriation and plans to start projects no later than Spring 2012. One of the projects that will benefit is the Culinary Institute at Kapiolani Community College, which will finally be able to begin construction. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law, Act 3, on February 13, 2012.

Act 4 (House Bill No. 905)- authorizes a state agency to require a provider to participate in health and human services delivery planning as a condition to the provider's contract. The purpose of this measure is to increase efficiencies in the delivery of health and human services and to eliminate gaps in services by requiring the Director of Health and the Director of Human Services to collaborate with contracted health and human services providers to develop and update annual a health and human services delivery plan.

This measure also furthers health and wellness initiatives in the State by requiring the Department of Health to create a workplace wellness pilot program. Governor Abercrombie signed the bill into law, Act 4, on February 15, 2012.

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