



Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

District 4

Wailuku, Waihe'e, Paia, Lower Paia



March 2011

2011 Hawaii State Medal of Honor Ceremony

Families and friends gathered at the State Capitol on March 29 to accept Hawaii State Medals of Honor (HMOH) on behalf of Hawaii's fallen service members. Created in 2005, Act 21 expresses the deep appreciation and gratitude Hawaii has for those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation and freedom. The Senate and House of Representatives held a joint session to honor Hawaii's military heroes with a special ceremony. After names of military members were announced, they were rendered honors of two bells while family members were presented with a plaque and certificate. This year 17 medals were presented, bringing the total number of recipients to over 200.



Observing a moment of silence following Taps and a 21 gun salute to honor fallen service members

Senate Recognizes Boys and Girls Club Maui Youth of the Year

On March 10, organizing officials and select members of the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii were honored by the Hawaii State Senate with a floor presentation recognizing their outstanding contributions to our communities. Among those recognized was 16 year old Lea Kinores, member of the Boys & Girls Clubs' Upcountry Maui Club and 2011 Youth of the Year winner. Lea competed against four other Maui teens for this distinction and was awarded \$2,500 in scholarship funds.



L to R: Senator Rosalyn Baker, B&GC Maui Youth of the Year Lea Kinores and Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a member can receive. As the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, the Youth of the Year award recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club chapter, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. The national program sponsor, Tupperware Brands, awards each state winner a \$1,000 college scholarship and each regional winner a \$10,000 scholarship. The national winner receives an additional scholarship up to \$50,000 from The Rick and Susan Goings Foundation.

Good luck to Lea as she goes on to compete against Boys & Girls Clubs members from across Hawaii for the state title and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Governor Signs Senate Bill No. 8 Relating to the Board of Education

After nearly five decades of an elected Board of Education (BOE), Hawaii voters overwhelmingly supported a Constitutional Amendment this past election in favor of a Governor appointed board. The previously elected 14-member school board hires the superintendent and oversees the Department of Education, which has a \$1.7 billion operating budget. The constitutional amendment allows the Governor to nominate and appoint the members of the Board of Education, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Early this session the Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 8 to set up the process for Governor Abercrombie to appoint 9 members of the BOE— the Chairperson, three at large members, three Oahu members and one each from Kauai, Hawai'i Island and Maui. The measure was signed into law as Act 5 on March 14, 2011.



Senate President Tsutsui and his daughter Kaylee witnessed the signing of Act held at the Governor's residence



Governor Abercrombie poses with students attending the bill signing

Legislature Pitches in to Save Lives



Volunteers waiting outside of the Bloodmobile

This session Senate President Tsutsui partnered with the Blood Bank of Hawaii to sponsor the Senate's 2011 Blood Drive. Normally held in the State Capitol, this year's drive took place in the parking lot of Iolani Palace to accommodate the Blood Bank of Hawaii's Bloodmobile. A total of 45 pints of blood were collected on March 23, giving 135 patients the chance to live and see brighter days ahead. Mahalo to Carol Kettner and the Blood Bank of Hawaii team for allowing the Legislature to participate and help make a difference!

Republic of China Celebrates its Centennial Anniversary

To celebrate their centennial anniversary and commemorate ties with Hawaii, the Government of the Republic of China chose Honolulu to host the lighting of the Torch of Peace. Held on March 29, the lighting of the torch highlights the Republic of China's progress and development during the past century and promotes the continuation of the ideals of freedom, democracy and human rights. The Torch of Peace will travel around the world and throughout Taiwan from April 1 through October 8, and will be presented to President Ma Ying-Jeou on October 9 in Taipei.



Senate President Tsutsui delivering remarks at the Torch of Peace lighting ceremony



Torch of Peace lighting ceremony at Aloha Tower Market Place - March 1, 2011

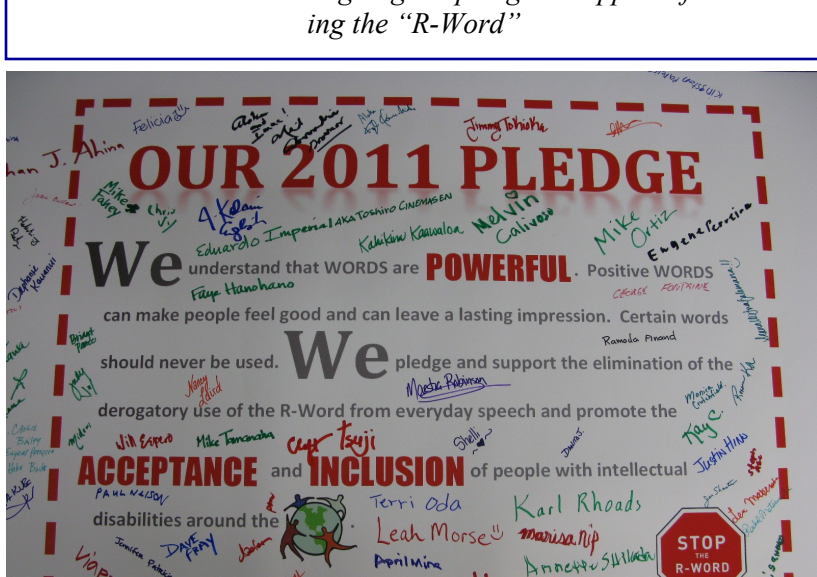
Banning the "R" Word

On March 17 Health and Social Service organizations gathered at the State Capitol to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of individuals suffering from developmental disabilities through Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. Held annually during session, providers set up booths on the Capitol lanai to educate legislators and employees on their services and goals as well as discuss current legislation and impacts on their organizations.

This year Senate President Tsutsui along with other Maui district Senators and Representatives met with the Maui Disabilities Council and signed a pledge supporting the elimination of derogatory uses of the word "retarded" in everyday speech. The pledge read: "We understand that words are powerful. Positive words can make people feel good and leave a lasting impression. Certain words should never be used. We pledge and support the elimination of the derogatory use of the R-Word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities around the world."



Senate President Tsutsui signing the pledge in support of eliminating the "R-Word"



Senators Discuss Current Issues on Maui Mana'o

Check out Tsutsui and President Shan S. Tsutsui, Senator J. Kalani English and Senator Roz Baker as they discuss issues relating to Maui, current legislation and the state budget in 'Ōlelo's current installment of Maui Mana'o.



L to R: Ala Teixeira- Office Manager Senator J. Kalani English, Senator J. Kalani English, Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui

'Ōlelo's Program Play Dates for Maui Mana'o: Episode 4

- 4/2/11 Sat 5:30 pm VIEW (Ch. 54)
- 4/3/11 Sun 11:30 am VIEW (Ch. 54)
- 4/4/11 Mon 9:30 pm VIEW (Ch. 54)
- 4/7/11 Thu 10:00 pm VIEW (Ch. 54)

For questions, comments or concerns please contact Senator Tsutsui at sentsutsui@capitol.hawaii.gov or (808) 586-7344.