



# REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE W.L. CHING

## District 27-Neighborhood Board Newsletter

LILIHA · NUUANU · PUUNUI · ALEWA HEIGHTS · PALAMA

JANUARY 2012

### Contact Our Office:

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Dear Friends:

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your Representative. We extend best wishes to all for a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2012, Year of the Dragon. As the 26th Legislative Session begins, we continue in our mission towards a safe, healthy and prosperous district. In this newsletter we outline a few our initiatives while also requesting your input and thoughts. Since Opening Day will offer abbreviated festivities, we would like to invite you all to join us on January 18th for our famous Hot Cocoa Bar. We would like to take

the opportunity to express our appreciation to all who give so generously of their time and effort to improve our community and lend a helping hand to those in need.

A community survey is on its way; we'd appreciate your thoughts. I also encourage you to contact me directly at 586-9415 regarding any issue. While our district has been presented with some profound challenges recently, it remains our goal to meet those challenges with courage and determination and work together to find the solutions.

Aloha always,

Corinne W.L. Ching  
State Representative

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### Representative Ching's 2012 Committees

- **Higher Education (HED)**
- **Tourism (TOU)**
- **Health (HLT)**
- **Human Services (HUS)**
- **Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC)**
- **Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (JLCAIP)**

## *Your 2012 Legislative Session Staff: Working for You*



### **Jessica-Leigh Bursack** **Office Manager**

Jessica is a graduate of College of Charleston, with a BA in Political Science, specializing in International Relations and Alternative Energy. She come with management experience in aerospace and medical device clinical trials.



### **Tiffany Au** **Legislative Aide, Research**

Tiffany is local resident and a graduate of Sacred Hearts Academy and Grinnell College. She is fluent in Cantonese and Spanish and was recently crowned 2012 63rd Annual Narcissus Queen.



### **Austin Benoit** **Aide**

Austin graduated with two degrees in Business Administration and Hospitality/Tourism Management. He comes with extensive work with non-profits like Habitat for Humanity and Crisis Ministries.

### **Lindsey Barrow Jr.** **Legislative Aide, Vitality**

Lindsey has two degrees in Political Science and Philosophy. He brings valued knowledge in environmentalism and specializes in sustainable farming.



### **Deborah Bossley** **Legislative Aide, Preservation**

Deborah has her Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Tennessee. Her portfolio includes managing projects for non-profit projects in the Commercial Design Senior Studio.



## Liliha-Nu'uano Heritage Tour Launched

Representative Ching, being the co-founder of the Heritage Caucus, hosted a two half-day heritage and cultural tour through the historic sites of Nuuanu and Liliha. This tour was most recently offered to APEC participants on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, where activities included a scenic walk and Hawaiian chant at the Pali Lookout, a hula lesson and tour at Queen Emma Summer Palace, lunch at Natsunoya Tea House, and so much more. The Heritage Tour was intended to provide an authentic experience of Hawaii, and to learn about the political and cultural history of the Liliha-Nu'uano neighborhood.



## Rep. Ching Addresses Diabetes

Here are few issues Rep. Ching plans to address during the 2012 Legislative Session:

- Diabetes awareness and coordination of related events
- Medicare/Medicaid services in relation to dialysis clinics
- Secondhand Smoke in Residential Facilities
- Noise levels of vehicles and modification to vehicle mufflers
- Preservation Tax Incentive for historic businesses/buildings
- Diabetes Prevention Education for our youth
- Continued revitalization efforts to the 27th District



Photo by Paul Hayashi

## District 27 Well-Represented in the 63rd Narcissus Pageant

Congratulations to the 2012 63rd Annual Narcissus Queen Pageant winners (above) sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Our 27th District was honored by Liliha residents Amanda Wong, 1st Princess (2nd to the left); Julianne Cheng, 3rd Princess (far left); and Cherie Ching, 4th Princess (far right). Stephanie Wang of the 28th District placed as 2nd Princess (2nd to the right). The Queen, Hawaii Kai resident, Tiffany Au (center), is also working as a Legislative Aide for Representative Ching. Fantastic job to all the participants in this year's Pageant!

## HMC Closure Among Top Priorities for Rep. Ching

The recent closure of the Liliha Hawaii Medical Center has definitely left a variety of questions to be addressed during this year's upcoming session. Representative Ching is deeply saddened by the closure. Her thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the closure. The following items are being researched for the 2012 Legislative Session:

- Possible tax incentives for facilities and businesses that hire qualified HMC employees recently affected by the closure
- Continued medical attention/services for HMC patients
- Possible construction of an alternative facility, offering a variety of therapeutic alternatives and premier medical attention
- Encouragement to existing practices that would ease licensure of Diabetes Care Facilities and/or dialysis centers

## COME JOIN US ON OPENING DAY

The 2012 Legislative Session will open with abbreviated festivities; however our office is pleased to offer a Hawaii-grown Cacao Bar, with hot cocoa and locally-grown fruit. We encourage our constituents to come by to share ideas, and discuss any questions, thoughts, and/or concerns within our wonderful District.

Where: Room 330, State Capitol

When: 11:30AM-1:00PM

## Keep Informed !



@RepCorinneChing



[www.facebook.com/repcorinneching](http://www.facebook.com/repcorinneching)



[repching@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repching@capitol.hawaii.gov) / (808) 586-9415



9th Annual  
I Love Liliha Festival  
August 26, 2012  
[www.iloveliliha.org](http://www.iloveliliha.org)



LILIHA™

## Representative Ching Launches the LILIHA VITALITY PROJECT

*What does the "Vitality" project mean for Liliha?* There is nothing more important than future growth and prosperity of our community and its members. The Vitality Project's goal is to add years to the lives of those in the community by encouraging them to make small changes in their daily lives. Areas shown to be home to healthiest, longest living humans were classified as "Blue Zones". These areas shared many similarities in climate and geography to Oahu and we feel by implementing certain lifestyle and community based measures that we can achieve this outcome.

The I LOVE LILIHA Town Festival shows how as a community we can come together and demonstrate our sense of place and close family ties. Vitality project initiatives include easier access to healthier foods, encouraging parents to walk their children to school, community gardens for citizens to plant their own produce and workshops. The "Vitality Compass" asks participants questions about their eating habits, sleeping habits, levels of stress and amount of daily activity. The average life expectancy for those who took the Vitality Compass at the beginning and at the end of the program increased by three years. Going forward we want to ensure we spread the word of "Vitality" in Liliha and give our keiki the healthy, active future they deserve.

### REPRESENTATIVE CHING RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT 2ND ANNUAL DIABETES TASK FORCE

Representative Ching recently received a scholarship to attend the Women in Government's 2nd Annual Diabetes Task Force in Naples, Florida on March 4-6, 2011. Women in Government is a national, non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators whose mission is to "provide leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex policy issues."

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Liliha-Nu`uanu District Candlelight Tour February 18, 2011 6:00-9:00 pm



Chiefess Kuini Liliha namesake of Liliha

Our 5th Annual Liliha-Nu`uanu District Candlelight Tour is once again be a popular opportunity for residents to take a vested interest in organizations that are operating within their own backyards, and for participants to reconnect with their heritage, as many Liliha-Nu`uanu residents are of Japanese ancestry.

With the gracious support of **Community Church of Honolulu**, attendees will be able to park and hop onboard one of two trolleys chartered for the evening. The trolleys will stop along the beautiful grounds of each participating organization, and attendees can take advantage of the rare opportunity to visit and learn valuable information about the mission, histories and values of the respective organizations in addition to enjoying light refreshments and entertainment at each stop. Attendees also will receive a commemorative Chiefess Liliha tote bag filled with information on the evening, the district, and more. This unique event will allow residents of Liliha and Nu`uanu to connect with the beautiful sites that add to the charm and historical value of this special community.

## Representative Corinne W.L. Ching

## Constituent Survey 2011

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK???

Would you like to see the proposed tax increase on alcohol and soda passed?

- In Favor  
 Opposed

Comments:

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Do you feel the proposal to treat pension income the same as regular income for tax purposes will be beneficial for our senior citizens?

- In Favor  
 Opposed  
 Unsure

Comments:

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Would you like to see gambling legalized in Hawaii?

- In Favor  
 Opposed  
 Unsure

Comments:

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Are you in favor of civil unions being held in your community?

- In Favor  
 Opposed  
 Unsure

Comments:

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Relating to the "Vitality" initiative, if you could participate in events aimed at boosting your community's health, well being and economic status. Would you?

- Yes  
 No

Comments:

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me e-mail updates from Rep. Corinne Ching.

# February Celebrates Hawaii Grown Cacao Month



(Above from L-R) Glynnis Rissmiller from Sweet Paradise Chocolatier, Rep. Ching, and Amy Hammond from Special Events Hawaii celebrate Cacao Month at the Capitol; (below) Rep. Ching addressed the members of the Agriculture committee on behalf of her cacao bill.



February kicks off Hawaii Grown Cacao Month. Cacao holds a special place in history. *Theobroma cacao*, otherwise known as chocolate and translated into English as the "Food of the Gods", was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands in 1850. Cacao was used for centuries as a medicine and cacao has high concentrations of theobromine, a purine alkaloid that has both a calming effect on the brain and an energizing effect on the nervous system. It has also been found to stimulate the appetite and to reduce fatigue.

Each year, the chocolate industry produces \$75 billion worldwide. Hawaii's environment and climate position it as the only state in the United States that can commercially grow cacao. Hawaii is ideally in close proximity to both Asia and mainland US, located to capture and prosper from the opportunities from a growing cacao market. Asia has already developed into a major chocolate market and Japan has experienced a significant increase in chocolate consumption during the past decade.

Today, the cacao industry is poised to heighten the state's economy with a broad range of job opportunities and increased revenue from diversified agriculture, production and processing, in addition to research and development with the potential to attract federal funds. Cacao possesses a propitious opportunity to develop a new industry in the growing, cultivating, processing, and shipping of Hawaii-grown cacao to the mainland United States and the rest of the world.

**The First Hawaii Chocolate Festival will be at Dole Cannery from Noon-5 pm. Visit [www.HawaiiChocolateFestival.com](http://www.HawaiiChocolateFestival.com) for more details.**



Representative Ching with participants at the Cacao Fest



Representative Ching judges the Second Annual Cacao Fest in Hale'iwa.

## TOP 10 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD SUPPORT CACAO IN HAWAII

- Cacao can provide a great employment and economic opportunity for our citizens in research, marketing, agriculture, ecotourism, retail and more.
- Cacao grows only in Hawaii out of all 50 states, due to climate requirements.
- Cacao enjoys high demand in Asia; taking advantage of Hawaii's proximity to Asian markets.
- Cacao represents quality over quantity, a niche market in which Hawaii can excel.
- Cacao, the plant, is environmentally sustainable.
- Cacao grows quickly compared to many other agricultural crops.
- Cacao can be combined successfully with many other locally-grown products thereby enhancing other crops' profits simultaneously (papaya, mango, lilikoi, pineapple, Ka'u orange, apple banana, etc.).
- Cacao is a revenue-producing crop which helps to preserve green and open space.
- Cacao has multiple uses: solid, liquid, cocoa butter (cosmetics) and more.
- Cacao thrives in Hawaii's soil thereby, like Kona Coffee, has great taste.

**HAWAII'S Sweetest Celebration**  
**Chocolate Festival**  
 A celebration of all things chocolate  
**SPOTLIGHTING HAWAIIAN GROWN CACAO!**  
**Saturday, February 26, 2011**  
**Shops at Dole Cannery from noon to 5 p.m.**

**HAWAII'S SWEETEST CELEBRATION**

- Support Hawaii's Emerging Cacao Industry
- Live Entertainment
- Guest speakers
- Learn how to pair wine with Chocolate
- Visit the Chocolate Spa, Chocolate Garden and Coco Café & Tea House
- Shop for everything Chocolate: from Chocolate Orchids to Chocolate Pearls and more...

TICKETS:  
 \$20 IN ADVANCE ONLINE  
 \$25 AT THE DOOR (LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE)  
*A benefit for Halau O Nio Pua Kahu*

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL EVENTS HAWAII  
 SPONSORED IN PART BY: