



Community Update

Representative Linda Ichiyama

House District 31: Moanalua, Salt Lake, Aliamanu

Room 426 • Phone # 586-6220

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFO

SPRING 2011

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“Women are an influential force in Hawaii.

[It] is important that Hawaii women feel that their voices are being heard by assuring them that they have a say in meaningful issues that impact their lives and their families.”

-Rep. Ichiyama, *Civil Beat*

Aloha from the State Capitol!

Dear Neighbor:

As the Legislature reaches the midpoint of the 2011 Session, I would like to offer you these “Mid-Session Highlights” as a guide to the key bills that have been passed by the House of Representatives and are now being considered by the Senate.

We will continue to discuss ways to improve these measures and fully address the diverse issues that are important to the people of our State. I encourage you to share your thoughts with me about proposed legislation and any other issues that are of concern to you. Please feel free to send me an e-mail at repichiyama@capitol.hawaii.gov or call my office at 586-6220.

I hope these highlights are informative and useful. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue our work this session.

Mahalo and Aloha!

Representative Linda Ichiyama

Principal of the Year



Rep. Ichiyama presented Moanalua High School Principal, Mr. Darrel Galera, a certificate honoring him as the 2010 MetLife/NASSP High School Principal of the Year.

Women’s Legislative Caucus



Rep. Ichiyama speaking at the dedication of the 2011 Women's Legislative Caucus package to Dr. Tricia Wright, founder of the PATH Clinic.

Moanalua Lions Club Adopt a Highway



The Moanalua Lions Club volunteered on a Saturday morning to pick up trash on Puuloa Road and paint out graffiti in our neighborhood. Reps. Ichiyama and Johanson helped to paint an area by Moanalua Gardens.

Stimulating the Economy

The State Budget (HB 200)

The House passed a budget bill that cuts approximately \$120 million in each year of the biennium from the administration's budget plan, with the greatest amounts coming from state agencies with the largest budgets – education, higher education, health and human services. This bill now goes to the Senate for review.

The House draft of the State Budget represents about a 10.2% growth from the FY11 base budget. This is a decrease from the budget proposed by the Abercrombie administration, which represented a 15.3% growth from FY 11.

Much of the increase is due to the cost of ending furloughs for state workers which, under present collective bargaining agreements, are set to end on June 30, 2011. If the Governor achieves salary savings in new collec-

tive bargaining agreements, the Finance committee will make adjustments to the budget accordingly.

While no one wants to raise fees and taxes, the House's revenue generating measures are aimed at protecting low to middle income residents who can least afford higher expenses. If passed, these bills will generate an estimated \$300 million per year.

Pension Income Tax (HB1092)

Hawaii remains one of a handful of states that does not tax pension income. This bill proposes to apply income tax on those who have a federal adjusted gross income of \$200,000 if filing jointly or as a surviving spouse, \$150,000 if filing as a head of household, and over \$100,000 if filing individually. The threshold of the pension income is very high and will affect less than 1% of all Hawaii tax filers.

Mortgage Foreclosure Moratorium (HB894, HD1)

Hawaii homeowners are facing monumental problems with mortgage foreclosures, an issue impacting many areas across the country. As a temporary "time-out", this bill establishes a five month moratorium on non-judicial foreclosures only, so that homeowners can be protected from lender violations while the legislature and industry review the consumer protection statutes and foreclosure laws.

Non-judicial Mortgage Foreclosure Process (HB1411, HD2)

This bill improves the non-judicial mortgage foreclosure process. It protects homeowners facing foreclosures from possible lender abuse by establishing a new system for nonjudicial mortgage foreclosures and mandatory mortgage foreclosure dispute resolution at the election of the homeowner.



House members reviewing bills in session.

THE LEGISLATURE'S FIRST PRIORITY AND GREAT CHALLENGE WILL BE TO PRESERVE ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC WHILE BALANCING THE STATE BUDGET, AS REQUIRED BY LAW.



The House Committee on Finance and Senate Committee on Ways and Means listened to a budget briefing by the Abercrombie administration.

Cutting Government Spending

Saving Medicaid funds (HB 561, HD 1)

Requires Medicaid vendors to notify the Department of Human Services when Medicaid enrollees are also covered by private health insurance plans. The intent is to save Medicaid funds by designating the private insurance as "primary." This designation effectively requires the private insurance

to be the first payer of the health care cost of the enrollee rather than Medicaid.

Revisions to the public employees' retirement system (HB 1038, HD 2)

Makes comprehensive revisions to the public employees' retirement system for new public employees (those hired after June 30, 2012).

This bill is intended to limit the unfunded liability of the system, the amount owed to future retirees, and to moderate the annual contribution by the State to pay for future retirement benefits.

Salary cuts (HB 575, HD 1)

Extends the 5% salary decrease for legislators, elected and appointed executive branch officers, and justices and judges.

Investing in Education



Rep Ichiyama with Mrs. Arai-Shiraishi's 1st grade class at Moanalua Elementary School.

Appointed School Board (SB8, SD1, HD2)

In November 2010, voters ratified a constitutional amendment changing the Board of Education from an elected board to one appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. This bill allows the Governor to directly nominate candidates but requires that they meet certain qualifications.

Public School Lands Trust (HB952, HD1)

As our communities grow and change and as our public school

facilities get older, the Department of Education has been considering the future of certain schools to better meet the educational needs of school districts. This bill establishes a way to generate income to construct, repair and retrofit public schools to meet current and future needs. All public school lands would be transferred into the Trust, and a Public School Lands Trust Commission would be established within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to manage, administer and control the Trust.

Improving Healthcare

Health benefit exchange (HB 1201, HD 1)

Establishes the Hawaii health benefit exchange in compliance with the federal health care law. The intent of the exchange is to increase competition among health insurance plans by providing consumers with comprehensive information about plans available on the market.

Prepaid Health Care Act (HB 1134, HD 1)

Amends Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act to ensure preservation after the federal health care law takes effect. In effect since 1974, Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act provides better benefits than the federal law and is accepted as a part of life and business in Hawaii.

Tobacco Settlement Funds/ Health and Social Service Appropriations (HB1267, HD1)

Ensures the continuation of critical services and health programs by taking surplus funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund for Medicaid programs, the Pre-School Open Doors Program, Kupuna Care Program, substance

abuse programs, HOPE probation program, and to match the federal disproportionate share hospital allowance allocated to the State.

Domestic violence penalties (HB 1003, HD 2)

Provides greater protection for domestic violence victims by enhancing penalties when such victims are harmed or threatened by their abusers.

Promoting Public Safety

Disaster Preparedness (HB 314, HD 1)

Establishes the office of disaster preparedness and a disaster preparedness commission to develop a disaster preparedness plan, including an identification of natural hazard zones in the State.



Ignition Interlock/ Drunk Driving (HB 1435, HD 2)

Enacts amendments to the Hawaii ignition interlock law which imposes restrictions on persons convicted of driving under the influence.



The House Committee on Transportation hears a bill regarding vehicle audio systems. Rep. Ichiyama is Vice-Chair of Transportation.

Community Events

SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Presents

The Salt Lake Elementary Fun Fair

Food, Rides, Games, Entertainment

Salt Lake Elementary Fairgrounds

Saturday, April 9

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Food Scrip prices \$1-\$2 • Game Scrip prices \$1 per game
Advance sale wristbands for unlimited rides \$17 or \$20 day of the Fun Fair

Questions??? Want to help???

Contact Wendell Nunes or Patti Inoue at 831-7870 or SLESFunfair@gmail.com.



Public Access Room

The Legislature's Website ...

It keeps getting better!

www.capitol.hawaii.gov

- A new link has appeared on the bill status page that allows you to easily submit testimony for that measure.
- There's also a link on the home page for submitting testimony – click it and enter the bill or resolution number.
- House events that have been broadcast are now available on demand! Just follow the link to "Webcasts" on the House page. (Senate events that have been broadcast are also available on demand – just follow the link on the Senate page.)

Suggestions for future improvements? Let the webmasters know – email them at webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov.

This law shall take effect on...

January 1, 2050!?

Don't panic if you see what looks like a crazy date at the end of a bill. Often legislators will amend a bill's effective date to a so-called "**defective date**." It's an effective date that is far in the future and is inserted as a "**placeholder**" to ensure that there will be further discussion on the measure. Although not intended to be enacted with this far future date in place, if it does pass, it would not render the measure invalid – it would simply prevent the measure from taking effect for a long time.

Want to find out more? Check out an article about defective dates that appeared in the April 2009 PAR Newsletter (online at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>).



Mahalo!

My staff and I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Please feel free to contact my office at 586-6220.

(Left to Right)

Jeanette Matsumoto, Chace Shigemasa, Cu Ri Lee and
Melanie Kuroiwa-Steiner (office manager).