

Community Newsletter

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN
HOUSE DISTRICT 45 · WAIANAЕ, MAKАHА, MAKUА · SUMMER 2011

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ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

After completing my first legislative session, I'm learning that the work has just begun as I turn my attention to reaching out to all of you to share what was accomplished and how we can do better. Since the legislature adjourned on May 5, I have focused on communicating with you through this newsletter; visiting your home; my new program on 'Olelo called Jordan's Journal which can also be viewed on Vimeo; my legislative website; Facebook page; and Town Hall meetings on the Budget featuring House Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro on June 15, and on Traffic & Transportation Issues featuring State and City Transportation officials on June 30.

In my first newsletter, I included a community survey. Based on the feedback I received, the most important issue that concerned most of you was education. In response to your interest, this newsletter will focus on education. I have met with principals of the schools in the district and other DOE officials and appreciate the time everyone has given to inform me of the needs of each school in order to better serve the children in our community. I will also focus on education in upcoming episodes of Jordan's Journal and conduct a Town Hall meeting on this issue.

As a proud Searider and graduate of Waianae High, I'm a product of our public education system and would like to see that our children and future generations receive a quality education and the opportunity for higher education. I'm honored to serve you. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

MAHALO,

JO JORDAN,
DISTRICT 45 REPRESENTATIVE

School improvement projects for our community total over \$6 million

Although recent news reports have highlighted the need for the Department of Education to tackle budget reductions as I shared in the May 2011 update that the critical challenge faced by the Legislature this year was balancing the state's budget in light of a \$1.3 billion budget shortfall on top of the past two years combined \$3.3 billion shortfall, our district is in one of the two zones of innovation that will receive some of the initial \$75 million in Race to the Top (RTTT) money awarded to Hawaii by the U.S. Department of Education. I have highlighted the over \$1 million in miscellaneous Repairs & Maintenance for our schools for Race to the Top. Additionally, the other noted repairs & funding were identified as priorities including the fiscal year 2012-2013 funds for Kamaile Academy for electrical upgrades that appropriately follow Governor Abercrombie's release of nearly \$15 million of CIP funds for various schools including Leihoku Elementary, Makaha Elementary, Waianae Elementary, Waianae Intermediate, and Waianae High Schools.

Miscellaneous Repairs & Maintenance for RTTT Zone of Innovation

Kamaile Academy	\$42,000
Leihoku Elementary	\$26,000
Makaha Elementary	\$37,000
Waianae Elementary	\$109,000
Waianae Intermediate	\$209,000
Waianae High	\$635,000
TOTAL	\$1,058,000

Additional Funding

New roof for Makaha Elementary	\$13,339
Architectural Barrier Removal for ADA compliance at Waianae High	\$1,300,000
Electrical Upgrades at Kamaile Academy (FY 2012-2013)	\$800,000
Leeward Community College Waianae Education Center	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$6,171,339.00

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Check out my online newsletter at <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/members/house/memberpage.aspx?member=jordan> or e-mail me at repjordan@capitol.hawaii.gov and title the e-mail, "Send me your e-newsletter". I'll add you to my e-mail list and you'll get all future newsletters sent straight to your e-mail, not to your mailbox. Be sure to like my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/repjordan> for periodic updates.

Thanks for doing your part to save the trees.

Community Spotlight

In this newsletter, I will be featuring a community member who is an active resident bringing positive change to the Waianae Coast. Like the first episode of *Jordan's Journal* with Chairperson William Aila, Jr. and Senator Maile Shimabukuro, this column will explore the backgrounds of members of our community who are making a difference.



This edition of my newsletter features Mark Dannog, who was elected the 32nd Student Member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) in 2010, representing the interests and protecting the welfare of Hawaii's more than 178,000 public school students. He served on both the elected and appointed BOE during its transition in 2011. An alumnus of Waianae Elementary, Intermediate, and High Schools and former Leeward District Representative on the Hawaii State Student Council, the official representative body of the public school students, Mark is an advocate for improving our education system.

Mark was officially sworn in as the BOE student member on July 14, 2010. Although actively engaged prior to his official start on the BOE, I was impressed with Mark from his first BOE report to the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board (WCNB) in September 2010. Mark distributed a 21 page report on creating a more student-centered system within the Department of Education (DOE) by identifying priorities including student involvement and transparency, system accountability and better security. Mark formally introduced his education plan to the BOE following his distribution of the plan to the WCNB. Mark noted that many of the proposals and strategies in his plan are aligned with President Barack Obama's Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2010. Mark continued to advocate for the BOE and DOE to solicit more input from principals and students on BOE policies.

Mark advocated on behalf of students on issues ranging from improving restroom facilities to addressing bullying and harassment

and even sustainability. On the issue of the Senior Project and the graduation requirements in general, Mark directed the DOE to review Board Policy 4540 and the implementation guidelines for the Senior Project.

Another issue that Mark led earlier this year was to get the Legislature to pass a bill which would grant voting rights for the BOE student member. Mark not only stood in support of a motion passed by the BOE to support the bill, he also met with State Legislators and testified on the bill. Although the bill failed to pass the Legislature this year, he and his fellow students will continue to fight for voting rights for the BOE student member.

Mark was a staunch advocate for education to be made a priority by opposing further budget reductions to the DOE. In March 2011, he testified before the Senate Ways and Means Committee against further cuts to the DOE budget. He also spoke against a BOE motion to cut more than \$7 million from the Weighted Student Formula (WSF).

Finally, I must personally acknowledge Mark on the proposed resolutions he recommended for introduction relating to education. Due to his efforts, I introduced HCR 169, which requested the DOE to convene a task force to identify and assess the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiatives and programs in public schools. This bill was introduced after Mark requested the DOE submit a presentation to the BOE on STEM initiatives and programs. Although this resolution failed to pass the legislature this year, I know that this will be an ongoing initiative as we work to improve public education and increase workforce development.

Although one chapter in Mark's life is ending with his graduation from Waianae High School and completion of his term as BOE student member, it is truly just the beginning for Mark who plans to attend St. John's University in Queens, New York in the Fall and major in Government & Politics with a potential minor in Business. Mark intends to have a career in law or education and continue his commitment to public service. If you are interested in reading more about Mark and what he has to say about how we can improve our education system, check out his blog at <http://mdannog.tumblr.com>.

Education Highlights

APPOINTED BOE, SB 8 (ACT 5) — Strengthens educational governance by providing implementing legislation for the constitutional amendment ratified by voters in November 2010, requiring that the BOE consist of members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

To learn more about the BOE, see:

<http://hawaii.gov/gov/newsroom/in-the-news/meet-your-board-of-education-1>

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, SB 1503 (ACT 128) — Requires accreditation within a certain time for certain private schools or programs that accept students with disabilities who receive state funding.

CHARTER SCHOOLS, SB 1174 (ACT 130) — Requires charter school budget requests for facilities funding to include a detailed explanation as to the formula used and the funding request breakdown by school. The bill also requires charter schools and their local school boards to develop internal policies and procedures consistent with ethical standards of conduct. The bill further establishes a task force to address issues on charter school governance, accountability, and authority.

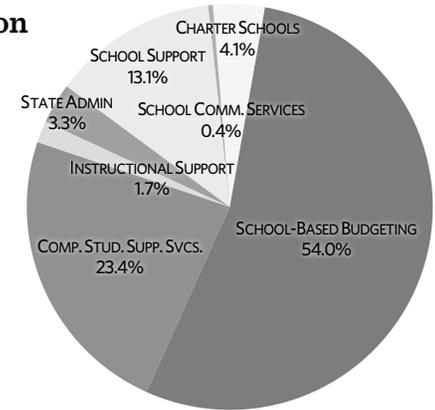
SCHOOL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, SB 1383 (ACT 150) — Supports continuation of the Hawaii 3R's Program, which was created to tackle a backlog of repair and maintenance projects at public schools in the state, by allowing the program to receive moneys from the School-level Minor Repairs and Maintenance Special Fund to which Hawaii taxpayers have been contributing through an opt-in box on their tax form that seeks a \$2 donation.

HCR 167 — Finally, a resolution I introduced, HCR 167, requests the Department of Agriculture to convene a working group to determine an appropriate geographic preference to be used by the DOE to encourage the purchase of local produce. The application of a geographic preference for local farmers will help them bid competitively on Child Nutrition Program contracts to the benefit of schoolchildren and the State economy as a whole.

THE BUDGET

General Funds Appropriations for Education

	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
EDN100: School-Based Budgeting	\$705,256,507	\$775,148,488	\$775,148,488
EDN150: Comprehensive Student Support Services	\$306,472,682	\$322,144,665	\$324,266,356
EDN200: Instructional Support	\$22,430,453	\$45,745,674	\$45,745,674
EDN300: State Administration	\$42,517,962	\$43,344,985	\$43,344,985
EDN400: School Support	\$171,837,016	\$174,109,976	\$154,109,976
EDN500: School Community Services	\$4,918,832	\$5,072,889	\$5,072,889
EDN600: Charter Schools	\$53,761,508	\$59,680,071	\$63,007,613
TOTAL	\$1,307,194,960	\$1,425,246,748	\$1,410,695,981



The State Department of Education's General Fund Budget for this past Fiscal Year (FY 2010-2011) as provided for in Act 180 (2010) and for the next biennium (FY 2011-2013) as provided for in Act 164 (2011) is reflected in the table above. The Legislature in passing the State Budget this year noted that the furlough restoration this past fiscal year and moving forward will allow the continuation of the current level of instructional school days at public schools. The legislature also added three positions to aid the Department of Education (DOE) in internal audits and investigation in the hope that the DOE will work with the newly appointed Board of Education (BOE) to identify troublesome issues and provide viable solutions.

As reflected in the table and pie chart above, as well as detailed in the table on the next page, over 77% (EDN 100: School-Based Budgeting and EDN 150: Comprehensive Student Support Services) of the DOE General Funds budget is allocated for schools. The next category—EDN 400 at 13% of the DOE General Funds budget—is allocated largely for food and facilities services, utilities, and student transportation.

Student Transportation Costs Cause Concern

The Legislature expressed concern with the significant student transportation contract costs reflected in the DOE's budget request. The estimated cost to provide student transportation has risen to about \$1,000 per regular education rider; whereas, the approximate general fund cost to educate a student is about \$5,500. Even with continued requests from the Legislature to the DOE to

address the exorbitant contract costs, the DOE has allowed the student transportation program to run at a significant deficit, simply utilizing funds from other sources rather than make concerted efforts to bring down costs. The Legislature believes that a thorough evaluation of the student transportation program is necessary. As such, the Legislature did not support the DOE's request for student transportation contract costs for fiscal year 2012-2013. The Legislature disapproved the requested \$19.6 million and has further reduced the DOE's transportation budget by an additional \$20 million for these costs. The remaining appropriation for FY 2012-2013 will allow for the continuation of mandated transportation for qualifying special education students. The Legislature requested that the DOE complete a comprehensive alternatives analysis to assess various options and evaluate needed service levels to provide meaningful data to address this issue. The Legislature intends to revisit this issue once the DOE provides sufficient justification for transportation services.

Reallocation of Resources Under Scrutiny

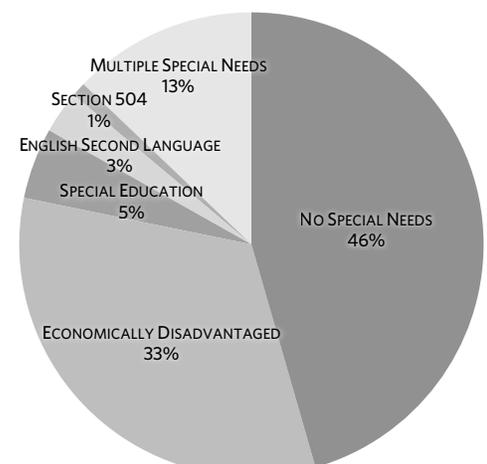
The Legislature also noted that while the DOE's statutory authority to transfer funds between programs was granted to provide a certain level of flexibility to cope with pressing issues, this authority does not allow it to circumvent the Legislature's authority to allocate resources. The Legislature expects that, prospectively, the DOE will submit requests to the Legislature to appropriate or reallocate resources where they are needed, especially when transferring resources from schools

(EDN 100 and EDN 150) to administrative offices (EDN 200 and EDN 300).

Alignment of DOE Funding with Student Needs

As reflected in the pie chart below, of the 54% of Hawaii's students who require additional resources, the largest need as indicated is for economically disadvantaged students at 33%. In light of these requirements, the Legislature, along with the BOE and DOE must ensure that appropriate funding is provided in line with student needs. For example, 5% of students are identified as special education students and yet the table on the next page indicates that about 14% of DOE General Funds are budgeted for special education in regular schools. A proper alignment of funding with student needs while operating in accordance with State and Federal mandates should be considered.

Percentage of Students with Special Needs, 2010



Source: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education.

BUDGET DETAILS

The Road Ahead

AS WE MOVE FORWARD, it's important to keep in mind the road behind us. In reviewing the DOE's general fund budget for the past fiscal year and a review of the details as provided in the table to the right, the Legislature, BOE, and DOE must ensure that the available resources are being maximized. There are areas that can be improved. At the same time, there are many opportunities that lie ahead. The designation of the Nanakuli—Waianae Complex area as a Race to the Top Zone of Innovation should bring resources and support in order to improve school and student performance.

In the process of meeting with the principals of the schools within the Waianae district and area administrators, the principals didn't focus their attention on the limited resources, instead they focused on the many accomplishments of the students and teachers and had recommendations that could improve not only their school but other schools as well. For example, one principal noted that the DOE should have a better plan of action for special needs children. The budget details and student demographic reflected in the pie chart on the bottom of page 3 evidence this need for an improved plan. A second principal made a recommendation that could decrease transportation costs, which I will forward to the DOE. Another principal shared how parents must also be a partner in students' education and ensure that attending school is a priority on rainy days and above extra-curricular activities. Nanakuli—Waianae Complex Area Superintendent Lisa DeLong sums it up best when she stated that she "believes with adequate resources and support, Zones for School Innovation could see dramatic improvement in three to five years, or even sooner with robust family and community support."

We have an opportunity to make this vision of an improved public education system a reality by working together. By keeping our focus on the children within our community, a few of whom are pictured below, we can focus resources and support on student needs.



Above: On June 3, students from Waianae Elementary School came to the Capitol and learned about Rep. Jordan and her work as State Representative.

PROGRAM TITLE	POSITIONS (PERMANENT)	POSITIONS (TEMPORARY)	AMOUNT OF MONEY (\$)
Weighted Student Formula	12,036.10	563.00	\$661,828,143.00
Vocational Tech Education	80.00	-	\$5,611,105.00
At Risk Programs	73.50	17.00	\$4,752,201.00
Student Activities	-	-	\$89,080.00
Athletics	75.00	-	\$8,679,955.00
Peer Education Program	-	15.00	\$700,585.00
Learning Centers	-	14.50	\$1,458,568.00
Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps	10.00	44.00	\$1,927,095.00
Hawaiian Language Immersion Program	8.00	34.00	\$2,335,033.00
Other Instructional Services	15.00	6.50	\$659,239.00
School Administration (Categorical)	69.50	5.00	\$3,809,082.00
Hawaiian Studies	-	3.00	\$2,612,921.00
Employee Benefits Program	-	-	\$9,700,467.00
Haw Content/Performance Standards	1.00	-	\$860,792.00
Hale O'ulu (POS)	-	-	\$190,000.00
Reconcile EDN100 to Act 180/10	-	-	\$42,241.00
EDN100 TOTAL			\$705,256,507.00
Special Ed in Regular Schools	4,186.00	1,229.00	\$185,981,086.00
Special Schools	90.00	4.00	\$3,037,106.00
Extended School Year	-	-	\$2,712,541.00
Other Special Education Services	2.00	-	\$3,265,610.00
CSSS Resource Teachers	47.00	-	\$2,219,963.00
Primary Prevention/Intervention	7.00	-	\$427,152.00
Home/Hospital Instruction	-	-	\$1,035,334.00
Special Olympics (POS)	-	-	\$110,231.00
Reconcile EDN150 to Act 180/10	-	-	-\$162,770.00
Educational Assessment/Prescriptive Services	481.50	7.00	\$26,736,057.00
Training & Retention	-	-	\$769,774.00
Student Support Services	31.50	5.00	\$2,413,316.00
Integrated Special Ed Database	2.00	-	\$193,366.00
School Based Behavioral Health	417.50	107.50	\$31,305,155.00
Targeted Technical Assistance	-	4.00	\$332,265.00
Technical Support — Maui Dist.	-	-	\$390,779.00
Services for Children w/Autism	117.00	25.00	\$40,135,675.00
Other Related Services	253.00	17.80	\$5,570,042.00
EDN150 TOTAL			\$304,059,366.00
Instructional Development-Adm. Services	2.00	-	\$256,405.00
Curriculum & Instruction Branch	25.00	2.00	\$1,595,442.00
Sch. Leadership & Improvement	6.00	1.00	\$810,093.00
Advanced Technology Research	7.00	-	\$446,875.00
Teacher Improvement Services	6.00	-	\$723,085.00
Leadership Development	19.00	26.00	\$3,000,483.00
Technology Education	14.00	-	\$1,311,850.00
School Complex Resource Services	95.50	29.00	\$6,991,964.00
Systems Accountability	21.00	2.00	\$6,316,877.00
Homeless Concerns	2.00	-	\$503,114.00
Reconcile EDN200 to Act 180/10	-	-	\$474,265.00
EDN200 TOTAL			\$22,430,453.00
Board of Education	8.00	-	\$530,934.00
Office of the Superintendent	17.00	2.00	\$1,270,633.00
Fiscal Services	89.00	-	\$4,195,636.00
Civil Rights Compliance Office	4.00	-	\$287,141.00
Personnel Services	189.00	0.50	\$13,924,499.00
Complex Area Administration	53.00	-	\$3,966,939.00
Info & Telecommunication Services	149.00	5.00	\$18,748,407.00
Reconcile EDN300 to Act 180/10	-	-	-\$406,227.00
EDN300 TOTAL			\$42,517,962.00
Food Service Administration	7.00	-	\$506,468.00
Office/Haw Child Nutrition Program	-	2.00	\$170,527.00
Food Services	315.00	-	\$29,641,245.00
Business Services Administration	18.00	-	\$1,244,811.00
Facilities Services	269.50	-	\$23,724,632.00
School Custodial Centralized Services	10.00	-	\$525,597.00
Utilities	-	-	\$56,108,608.00
Repair & Maintenance of School Facilities	0.50	1.00	\$10,338,808.00
Environmental Services	-	-	\$296,644.00
Student Transportation	21.00	-	\$49,284,062.00
Reconcile EDN400 to Act 180/10	-	-	-\$4,386.00
EDN400 TOTAL			\$171,837,016.00
State Admin Services - Adult Ed	1.00	1.00	\$90,975.00
Adult Community Education	34.50	19.50	\$4,770,980.00
Reconcile EDN500 to Act 180/10	-	-	\$56,877.00
EDN500 TOTAL			\$4,918,832.00
Charter Schools	-	-	\$53,761,508.00
EDN600 TOTAL			\$53,761,508.00
TOTAL			\$1,304,781,644.00