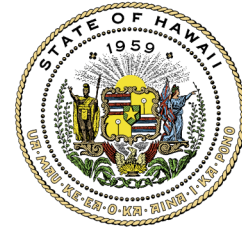




BARBARA MARUMOTO

REPRESENTATIVE 19th DISTRICT

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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

MARCH-APRIL 2011

District Concerns

Queen Lili'uokalani

It was disappointing to hear the Board of Education voted to close Queen Lili'uokalani Elementary School at the end of this school year. The Deputy Superintendent has indicated that DOE offices might be consolidated at this facility.

Kindergarten and first grade students from Queen Lili'uokalani had a happy tour of the Capitol and sat in on a session of the House of Representatives recently. So sad that it may be one of the last excursions for these youngsters as the school is slated to be closed by the Board of Education due to lack of enrollment.

Rep. Marumoto also stopped in on an ice cream social put on by the Parent Teachers Organization.



Lili'uokalani has a rich and illustrious history and students have a deep pride in their school.

The first-graders were thrilled to be photographed in the Governor's official Ceremonial Room and then posed in front of their school's namesake Queen Lili'uokalani.

(See more school news on page 4)





Marumoto Bills Legislative Update

Kahala Covenants and ATV Bills Pass the House – HB 1431 HD1 that would require the Counties to enforce covenants that run with the land has passed the House and is slated to be heard in the Senate Government & Public Safety Committee. This may help to prevent a museum on Kahala Avenue.

Rep. Marumoto originally asked for a prohibition on minors to operate ATVs (HB 18 HD1). However, it now allows 6-year-olds to operate these off-road vehicles! This bill is moving the wrong way. Please send testimony to Rep. Marumoto requesting the Senate to raise the age to at least 16. Or how about just requiring ATV users to have a drivers license? That way we know that they can handle a car.



During the Budget hearing, Rep. Marumoto questioned the taxing of pensions, especially on the elderly and pensioners solely dependent on that source of income.

Gov. Abercrombie's Pension Tax Proposal

Although he insists that only pension income is taxed, his proposal would tax AGI of \$37,500 if *any part* of it consists of pension income. Marumoto said that taxing income as low as \$37,000 is almost cruel—especially when the tax is retroactive to January 1, 2011 and folks have planned on tax-free pensions for decades. The House is moving a bill that would tax \$100,000+AGI but beware – that number could slide down as the bill moves toward session end! For more, see www.timeforbarbaramarumoto.com.

Cost of Living Rising!

House Democrats are pushing a long list of tax and fee increases plus raiding many special funds in an effort to balance the state budget. The “revenue enhancements” enable the Democrats to make fewer cuts in the budget. Some of the tax/fee increases that passed the House include:

- pensions over \$100,000 individual
- Increase fuel tax
- 75 cents/1000 lbs. on incoming freight
- increasing solid waste tipping fee
- \$20 increase on auto registration
- 1 cent/lb increase auto weight tax
- \$3/day increase on rental cars
- disabled parking registration \$1
- conveyance tax on transfer of controlling interests with real property interest
- surcharge on film permits
- \$20 surcharge on business licenses
- tax and labor service fees for DBEDT operation
- building/design review fees for ADA compliance
- GET on life settlement contracts
- make permanent physicians assessment fee
- hotel tax on time shares
- delay standard deduction
- 20% increase on liquor tax
- Increase tax on tobacco products
- suspend GET exemption on certain entities
- and add 4% GET.

Civil Defense Sirens

Hanauma Bay and Waialae Beach Park sirens were tested as reports of sirens malfunctioning were reported during the tsumani alert. Assessments were being conducted statewide by the Department of Emergency Management. Please notify Rep. Marumoto's office if you can't hear the sirens in the regular tests, usually on the first working day of the month.

Center for Tomorrow's Leaders

Rep. Marumoto and Speaker Say answered questions from a select group of young high school students who spent a day at the Capitol visiting the Governor and learning about state government.

Among them, Johanna Ward daughter of Rep. Gene & Faredah Ward and Madison Pelayo daughter of Kaimuki folks Keahi and Linda Pelayo. Keli'i Akina is the energetic founder of the organization.

Ole'lo

Rep. Marumoto tapes a regular Capitol Commentary program, shown on Ole'lo public education TV.

Legislators were invited to meet with Western States Petroleum Association and Honolulu Chamber of Commerce. Rep. Marumoto was pleased to attend an event for Ole'lo volunteers and help host a Hillsdale College (MI) gathering at the new Waikiki Edition Hotel.

Helicopter Noise Complaints

If you can identify the branch of service of the helicopter, call them directly.

Phone numbers:	FAA	837-8300
	Army	655-8727
	Navy	684-7101
	National Guard	733-4258
	Coast Guard	535-3333

The FAA can only keep a record of complaints, and only if the caller can identify the company. There are no regulations on civilian aircraft for noise. Although planes have a 1,000 ft. minimum height limit above obstacle/land, helicopters do not have a minimum.

Signposts

Happy 96th Birthday to *Eunice Masumura-Sakata* of Elizabeth Street.

We note the passing of **Howard O. Chong, Sr.**, father of Howard O. Chong Jr.; gracious Kahala community volunteer **Gaye Glaser**; noted dowager and kamaaina **Evanita Sumner Midkiff**; and SF '49er and Tokyo Giants star **Wally Yonamine** both of Kahala Niu. Each one is a big loss to Hawaii.

Republican Caucus Tours North Shore



House Republicans viewed the damage at Haleiwa Harbor from the residual effects of the tsunami in Japan. New docks were ripped from their pilings as water rolled in past the Harbormasters Office. The Caucus also visited electricity-producing windmills above Kahuku and potential development areas near Turtle Bay. At Alluvion Farms agricultural leader Susan Matsushima explained that North Shore Farmers require clean water for easier export certification. At Waialua Plantation representatives learned that, in addition to it Waialua Estates Coffee, they produce and market premium cacao beans.

Top: *Susan Matsushima of Alluvion Farms.*

Middle: *Waialua farms grows 20 acres of cacao in addition to coffee. It is made into premium 70% cacao chocolate candy under the Dole label.*

Bottom: *First Wind in Kahuku supplies 30kw to the HECO grid.*

SCHOOL NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT..

- Liholiho School was named a 2011 Hawaii Blue Ribbon School. Principal is Christina Small. Madeline Yee was on the 2010 National Board of Certified Teachers.
- Sacred Hearts Academy and Kalani High School will be participating in PBS Hawaii's first statewide student news network. Teams will collaborate in a "virtual newsroom," creating half-hour newscasts to be presented on-air and online by PBS Hawaii.
- A robotics team from Sacred Hearts Academy earned the Engineering Inspiration Award in Massachusetts, and also took home the Industrial Safety Award. Kudos!
- Liholiho Fair: Rep. Marumoto secured a gift certificate from Big City Diner (Mahalo, Lance), and also donated white elephant items. Call Waialae School for its neighborhood discount cards.



Legislators attended a Honolulu Theater for Youth performance sponsored by Ohana Health Insurance. Pictured with Rep. Marumoto are HTY Artistic Director Eric Johnson, longtime HTY volunteer Jane Campbell, and Ohana Health Government Affairs executive Tracy Okubo who hails from a longtime Kaimuki family.

Oh, Those Bots!

Kalani High School's Robotics team demonstrated their skills at the Capitol as part of Education Week. They are preparing for the VEX World Competition in Orlando, FL, April 12-14.

They were winners of the 2010 Chairman Award in the Hawaii Regionals in the Logo Motion 1st Robotics competition. They are now fund-raising for their mainland travels by selling personal "bots" kits and ergonomic First Green e-Watt Saver light bulbs. Each bulb replaces up to a 60-watt incandescent bulb and only uses 7 watts, and emit no mercury or lead, and requires no special disposal. Call the school for details.



Above: The Kalani Robotics team includes advisor Brian Silver (also biology teacher), Julie, Zjay, Eric, Kanako, Zana and Justin.

Students fine-tuned and tested their robot projects during Education Week at the Capitol.

