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# Holomua

*moving forward*

House District One · Rural South Hilo · North Hilo · Hāmākua · Kohala

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**Mark M. Nakashima**

**Vice Chair**

Higher Education

**Member**

Committee on Education

Committee on Labor

Committee on Transportation

Committee on Public Safety

**Contact Information:**

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 319  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Telephone:**

(808)586-6680

(808)586-6684—FAX

Neighbor Island Access dial  
974-4000 then extension 6-6680  
followed by the pound (#) key  
after the recording.

**E-mail Address:**

repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov



## *Moving Forward*



**Dedication of Kohala Library marks renewed investment in the Community. The project is LEED Gold utilizing both photovoltaic panels and wind power turbines (inset) to offset fossil fuel needs. The project also features a water catchment system to supplement water needs.**



The new North Kohala Library was dedicated on November 8, 2010 with a gathering of children, kupuna, friends and residents of the North Kohala Community who worked for over a decade to realize this community vision. The library succeeds the Bond Memorial Library used by the North Kohala Community for generations and served as a reminder, the importance the community and its residents place on education.

This library is the first in the state to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. This is an independent, third-party verification that the building was designed and built using strategies intended to improve performance by increasing energy savings, water efficiency, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts were observed.

## Moving Hawaii Forward



This past election season as a result of witnessing the Lingle Administration's rush to implement changes in rules and departmental offices before their departure, I realized that long-term state planning must last longer than four to eight years of an administration.

In exploring this failure in state government, I discovered Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes entitled "State Planning." Here, the State set goals and priorities driven by the Ariyoshi Administration that invested much time, effort and resources in bringing together large groups of people to formulate a vision for Hawaii's future.

These plans have been dormant for four decades. It is my hope that the legislature will collaborate with the newly installed Abercrombie Administration to revisit these state goals and priorities. We must update these plans and ensure that they are part of the strategic budgeting process.

With specific goals and objectives for the appropriations of taxpayer dollars, Governor Abercrombie will re-prioritize the state budget and the legislature will have the standard with which to accurately evaluate the administration's progress.

For example, the Department of Public Safety would have more than the simple goal of "Zero Escapes". Benchmarks measuring rehabilitation, will retraining, levels of recidivism, and successful re-entry into society would be in place. An example of goals for our education system would be more than just rating students on test scores or graduation rates. Benchmarks would be the level of absorption of graduates into the Hawaii economy, the level of employer satisfaction with those graduates, and the level of technology transfer and development between educational institutions and the private sector.

Although it will take several years to implement this plan, it will result in greater accountability for the appropriation of state tax dollars, increased government efficiency and the satisfaction of the tax paying public.

## PROPOSED BILLS

### *Education*

#### **School Empowerment**

Provides for greater participation in the school budgeting process by requiring that the school establish and publish an open, democratic and collaborative process for input by the various school communities. Requires that input be sought on the use and allocation of all school resources. Provides that principal performance contracts required by Act 51 include evaluation of principal's effectiveness in garnering participation by the various school communities.

### *Energy/Environment*

#### **Geothermal Development Special Fund**

Allocates state mineral royalties from on-going geothermal enterprises into a Geothermal Special Fund that would be used to develop additional geothermal well sources throughout the state. Once developed, wells will be auctioned to highest bidder to meet base energy needs of each island.

#### **Recyclable Bag Incentive**

Allows retail establishments to develop an incentive program that would encourage patrons to reuse or recycle shopping bags. Retail establishments that develop and publish the existence of such a program would be allowed to keep five cents of a ten cent fee charged on each plastic shopping bag issued to a patron to be deposited into the Energy Sustainability Fund. Will not supersede county ordinances.

#### **Native Hawaiian Fish Ponds**

Provides for preferential leases of



state lands for the development of Native Hawaiian Fishponds. Allows for development of rule making authority for a streamlined approval process for the development and construction of native Hawaiian Fishponds.

**Native Hawaiian Plant Mandate**

Would change the native Hawaiian plant preference to a mandate in all state landscaping projects. Would encourage the use of native Hawaiian plants in favor of imported plants that may become invasive in

Hawaii’s unique ecosystem.

**State Services**

**Long-Term Planning**

Require the executive branch to undertake a review of Chapter 226 (HRS) to update state planning goals and objectives. Requires the legislature to move toward a program or strategic budget



Kohala Middle School students perform at Kohala Library dedication.

beginning in the 2012 legislative session.

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**Capital Improvement Wish List**

Items included in Rep. Nakashima’s district wish list for 2010:

- Haaheo School Pedestrian Improvements .....\$ 60,000
- Honokaa School Pedestrian Improvements.....\$ 89,000
- Paauiilo School Pedestrian Improvements.....\$ 89,000
- Kohala High Science Building .....\$8,000,000
- Honoka’a High Gym Electrical Improvements.....\$500,000

- North Hawaii Education Center Expansion.....\$ 1,500,000
- Hale Ho’ola Hamakua Expansion .....\$ 16,000,000
- Kohala Hospital Emergency Room .....\$ 2,775,000
- Kohala Ditch Repairs—Pipe Installation .....\$1,500,000
- Kohala Ditch—Misc Repairs .....\$ 320,000
- Kapulena Agricultural Lands .....\$ 5,000,000

- Honokaia Pastoral Lots Water System .....\$ 250,000
- Hawi Reservoir #3.....\$ 1,700,000
- Honokaia Access Road Repairs .....\$ 100,000
- Hakalau Community Center .....\$ 550,000
- Laupahoehoe Point Road Improvements .....\$ 4,000,000
- Halaula Exploratory Well.....\$ 600,000
- Paauhau Exploratory Well .....\$ 1,200,000



Architectural drawing of new Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language Building





**Representative Mark Nakashima**

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 319

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



## *The Legislative Report*



Graveside services were held recently at Pa'auhau Jodo Mission in memory of Katsu Goto, who came to Hawaii with the first wave of Japanese Immigrants to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations. Goto was thought to be instigating labor unrest among immigrant sugar workers and was hung below Honoka'a Town. This also marks the 125th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Hawaii.

### **Training Program**

Requires the Department of Human Resources to develop an Employee Training Branch that would provide employees a program of courses including communication, leadership skills, project management, workplace standards and evaluation and other skills necessary to effectively supervise and lead various state offices and agencies. Requires the administration to negotiate with the various collective bargaining units with regard to possible employee incentives for participation in these programs. Requires the administration to review state job

descriptions of various personnel with supervisory functions to determine need to incorporate these training programs into the minimum qualifications and desired qualifications for state positions.

### **Motor Vehicle Reverse Sensor**

Require new cars sold in Hawaii to be equipped with reverse sensors that will warn drivers of possible obstructions behind the motor vehicle.