



# REPRESENTATIVE RYAN YAMANE

District 37, Mililani · Waipi o Gentry

**CHAIR, Health Committee**

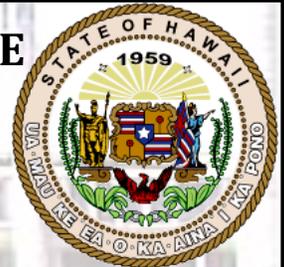
**VICE CHAIR, Consumer Protection and Commerce**

**Committee**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER,**

**Hawaiian Affairs**

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## Neighborhood Board Report · March 2011

*Aloha,*

We are currently approaching the point in the legislative process when both House and Senate fiscal committees review the legislation submitted to them for financial approval. In the past two weeks the House Health committee heard over forty health-related bills which crossed-over from the Senate for House review.

Our primary focus in the House this session remains on the improvement of the condition of the state's economy, while preserving the social services safety net for our most vulnerable and protecting the interests of our local residents and especially the middle class.

### Promoting Business

Legislation is passing through the Legislature to provide a tax credit to homeowners for residential construction and remodeling. This tax credit will not only support our homeowners but revive our construction industry. (House Bill 1307)

### Expanding Access to Housing

House Bill 898 extends the Housing First Pilot Program by allowing homeless individuals in dire need of housing services to be moved from the street and shelters directly into housing. This bill will extend the program.

### Protecting Consumers from Nonjudicial Mortgage Foreclosures

Three major pieces of legislation to address nonjudicial mortgage foreclosures were reviewed by the Consumer Protection Committee.

Today we have created a new bill to protect consumers from mortgage foreclosure concerns by creating a new local dispute resolution program for the State of Hawaii allowing for proper mediation between borrowers and lenders.

The committee's recommendation is to provide authority to the State Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force to convert the non-judicial to judicial foreclosures for the next 18 months to assist borrowers currently undergoing a non-judicial mortgage foreclosure. Our committee strengthened laws to require a lender to prove that they are the legal entity entitled to foreclose on a borrower before they can begin the foreclosure process.

I am dedicated to working hard to serve you. Please feel free to contact me anytime by phone, fax, or email and mahalo for your continued support.

**With Warmest Aloha,**

## Mililani Uka Slope Stabilization CIP Funding Released by Governor

I am very pleased to report that Governor Neil Abercrombie contacted my office on March 3rd to inform me that he will be releasing the \$600,000 CIP funding to Mililani Uka to restore an eroding slope near their Kindergarten building, Kindergarten playground, and above Kamehameha Highway.



In 2008 I was contacted by Mililani Uka to advocate for construction funding to stabilize the eroding slope to the Legislature as a part of my CIP request. In 2008 and 2009 the Legislature included the slope stabilization in the State Budget.

After we successfully included the Uka Slope Stabilization project in the budget, the funds were not released by the previous Administration. Governor Abercrombie's releasing of these funds will begin the design and construction of the Uka Slope Stabilization this year.

<b>Design Begin:</b>	<b>April 2011</b>
<b>Design Complete:</b>	<b>August 2011</b>
<b>Advertisement of Bids:</b>	<b>August 2011</b>
<b>Construction Begin:</b>	<b>November 2011</b>
<b>Construction Complete:</b>	<b>April 2012</b>

## Kamehameha Highway Roosevelt Bridge Improvement Study

At the request of many Mililani and Waipio residents I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 45 to request the DOT study ways to improve Kamehameha Highway's Roosevelt Bridge in Kipapa gulch.

The Resolution was heard today and passed the House Transportation Committee.

The State Department of Transportation will finish providing an environmental assessment to identify capacity enhancement and safety improvements for Mililani and Waipio's Roosevelt Bridge and recommended alternatives by December 2011.

### Legislative Updates on my Current Legislation

We are currently at the mid-point of the Legislative process having had 36 days of Session of the 60 Legislative Days. I am grateful that 13 of the bills I introduced are still alive and moving through the process. Here is a summary of a few of my bills:

**HB 594:** *Matches Federal funds to support our hospitals statewide through the disproportionate share hospital allowance.*  
**Passed Senate Health Committee**

**HB 596:** *Assists with state Medicaid Eligibility for longterm care patients to be enrolled in the Medicaid system to provide more access to acute-care patients in hospitals.*  
**Passed Senate Human Services Committee**

**HB 605:** *Creates the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette program and fund to staff two positions to support the State Fire Council in reducing cigarette-related fires, household fires, and brush fires.*  
**Passed Senate Public Safety Committee**

**HB 608:** *Matches public/private funds to support the State of Hawaii's sole Organ Donation Center to continue to assist residents of the State and patients in receiving organ transplants.*  
**Passed Senate Health Committee**

**HB 614:** *Supports the early childhood health services provided by the Healthy Start program.*  
**Passed Senate Health Committee**

**HB 902:** *Creates a loan program for students of the John A. Burns School of Medicine or students from out-of-state who will practice healthcare in Hawaii.*  
**Passed Senate Health/Education Committees**

**HB 904:** *Prohibits the sale of caffeinated beer beverages (such as: Four Loko) unless labeled as an intoxicating liquor with a warning of its potential harmful effects.*  
**Passed Senate Consumer Protection Committee**

### Radiation Health Concerns

I have been in contact with the State Department of Health regarding the concerns any heightened radiation levels in Hawaii's air quality due to the nuclear crisis in Japan.

The Department of Health did find a miniscule increase in radiation levels Monday night. According to the Department, the background levels fluctuate slightly but are still considered safe. Current data indicate no risk of harmful radiation exposure to Hawaii. These samples have been sent to the EPA laboratory in Alabama for further testing.

I will continue to work with the Health Dept. to oversee this concern.

### Community Capital Improvement Requests

Earlier this Legislative Session I introduced District 37's Capital Improvement Project bill, HB 2803, which requested many projects for the community of Mililani and Waipio Gentry and Central Oahu area.

**Of these requests, the following were included in the 2011 House Budget:**

- Highlands Intermediate School, asbestos removal: **\$480,000.00**
- Kanoelani Elementary School, electrical upgrade: **\$950,000.00**
- Kipapa Elementary, air conditioning replacement: **\$200,000.00**
- Mililani High School, tennis court & parking lot resurface: **\$470,000.00**
- Mililani High School, network cabling replacement: **\$1,000,000.00**
- Mililani Middle School, Building F & G re-roof: **\$750,000.00**

**Total Funding to District 37: \$3,850,000.00**

### Hawaii's Tsunami Response

Earlier this month on March 11th, Hawaii fell victim to one of its largest tsunamis since the 1950s. Our State's disaster response teams responded quickly and well.

The State and City's Civil Defense operated under a fully functional Emergency Operations system, Hawaii Red Cross activated their volunteers to respond to local communities and staff local tsunami inundation-zone shelters. The Hawaii Civil Air Patrol volunteers flew flights overnight and throughout the day over Mililani, Waipio, and throughout our State's coastlines to provide disaster evacuation and assessment services to the State of Hawaii.

Damage throughout the state is varied, during the week of the Tsunami, I was able to respond and assess the damage of Ke'ehi Lagoon and the private marina, *La Mariana*, with State Civil Defense.

Hawaii is still being determined as a Federal Disaster area to receive any additional supportive federal Funding to alleviate the local Tsunami damage. However, our state is fortunate not to have been affected more. We must remain well prepared for any potential disaster.

