



**Representative  
Ryan Yamane**

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# People First

A Newsletter from State Representative Ryan Yamane

House District 37 · Mililani · Waipi'o Gentry

2012 Session

*Thank you for allowing me to serve you and our community for another legislative session. I hope you and your family are safe, healthy, and happy. Your comments and feedback have truly assisted our efforts in addressing the concerns and needs of our families and neighborhoods.*

*This legislative session was very challenging as we faced the closure of the two Hawaii Medical Center hospitals. My top priorities this session were to stabilize and reinstate health care services for Leeward and Central Oahu, focus on the improvement of our State's economy, increase job growth, and reduce duplicative governmental spending. I am proud of our community's commitment to work together and show that we can bounce back quickly from these challenges.*

*During these very difficult fiscal times, I am proud to announce that our community will receive over \$23 Million in repairs and maintenance projects to our schools, roadway infrastructure, neighborhood infrastructure, and other community-based projects. We have several construction projects currently being completed, and designed to enhance our schools and community. These projects are the direct result of our requests to meet the needs of our schools, pedestrians, commuters, and students. I am grateful to see these results in our community and am confident that it will help us thrive. These projects are vital to support our children and our special way of life in Waipio Gentry and Mililani.*

*I continue to volunteer in disaster preparedness and work directly with our military; I am humbled by our neighboring military community's active involvement in Hawaii's culture and economy.*

*Thank you for your continued support; I am looking forward to continuing our goals to make our community a better place to live, play, and work. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me via phone at 586-6150 or email to [repyamane@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repyamane@capitol.hawaii.gov).*

With my warmest aloha,

## Rep. Yamane's Bill Restores Hawaii's Organ Transplant Program *Becomes 2012's First Law*

When Hawai'i Medical Center closed its hospitals in January, it took the State's only kidney and liver transplant center with it. Along with the closure, the State of Hawaii lost its organ transplantation program and certification. This put in jeopardy the transplant needs of over 400 Hawai'i residents and forced our residents to seek medical transplant services on the mainland, away from family and at higher medical cost. This was not *Pono* or right for our people, so I immediately worked on a measure that would bring the private and public sectors together to re-establish our own Hawaii-based transplant center.

Fortunately, our State regained an organ transplant facility. The bill I introduced, **House Bill 608**, was fast-tracked in January and became the first Law of the year. The Law re-established the organ transplant program within the State of Hawaii through the Queen's Medical Center. My Organ Transplant bill was quickly signed by the Governor in February, allowing the Queen's Medical Center to promptly apply for Federal certifications and save our Hawai'i organ transplant patients.

Queen's Medical Center was certified by the Federal government to perform organ transplants in late February and immediately began performing organ transplantations in March. Hawaii patients underwent organ transplant surgery without delay. The first two patients receiving liver transplants since HMC's closure were Virgil Macy and Jonathan Saragosa of the Big Island, who were grateful to stay in Hawaii to receive their transplants with loved ones while receiving the care they needed without relocating their lives and families to the mainland.

Thanks to this law, now called **Act 1 (2012)**, Hawai'i residents will be able to get transplants right here locally, allowing them to be close to family and friends as they recover.



*Congratulating new organ transplant recipients at the Queen's Medical Center's first successful organ transplantations.*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE

The economy is still the number one concern of Hawaii residents. The legislature's priorities in 2012 included economic recovery, assisting new industry and creating jobs. We were able to balance the state budget without major revenue enhancements and support programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people.

## BUDGET SOLUTIONS

### HB 2012- Hawaii's 2012 State Budget

In 2012, the legislature passed a state budget that responsibly supports the state's core functions, recognizing that while the economy is improving, normal levels are still years away.

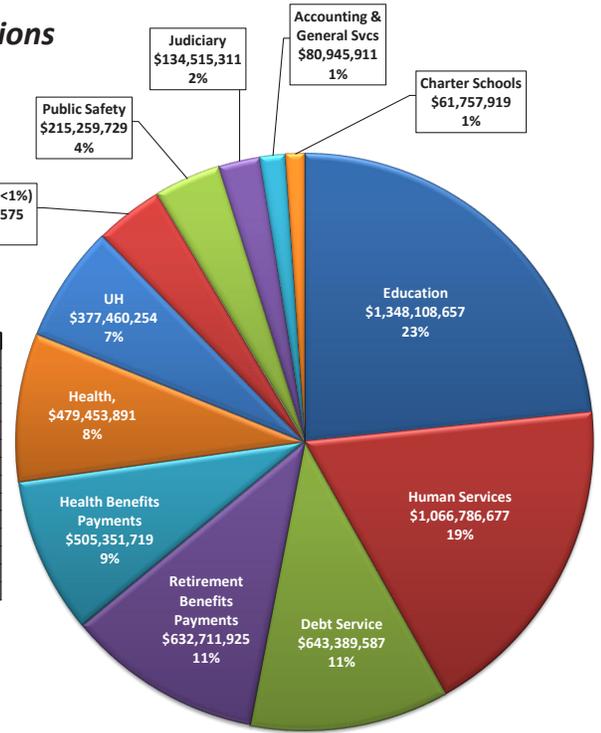
The appropriation for operations totals \$11.2 Billion in all means of financing. Of the total, \$6.6 Billion come from federal matching or grant funding.

Funding for capital improvement project appropriations totaled \$3.2 Billion for all means of financing. Of that amount, \$827 Million is comprised of general obligation and reimbursable general obligation bonds.

In addition to giving priority to "shovel-ready" projects, the legislature considered projects that addressed critical health, safety, and code requirement needs; reduced the current repair and maintenance backlog; and provided jobs for unemployed and underemployed residents.

## General Fund Appropriations Fiscal Year 2013 \$ 5,766,612,155

All Others (<1%)		
Legislature	\$ 31,831,052	0.55%
Libraries	\$ 28,070,484	0.49%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 25,738,532	0.45%
Budget & Finance	\$ 23,229,913	0.40%
Attorney General	\$ 22,816,779	0.40%
Taxation	\$ 21,711,148	0.38%
Defense	\$ 17,250,929	0.30%
Human Resources Development	\$ 14,218,165	0.25%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 12,270,160	0.21%
Agriculture	\$ 10,297,218	0.18%
Bus., Econ Dev. & Tourism	\$ 7,123,263	0.12%
Governor	\$ 2,921,286	0.05%
OHA	\$ 2,370,872	0.04%
Lt. Governor	\$ 1,020,774	0.02%



## EDUCATING OUR KEIKI

### SB 2545- Creating Early Learning Opportunities for Junior Kindergarten

Establishes the executive office on early learning to implement the Keiki First Steps program in the 2014-2015 school year as a replacement for junior kindergarten.

### HB 2012- Funding our Schools

The State Budget this year provides many appropriations for Capital Improvement Projects to the Department of Education. This includes:

- (1) \$116.5 Million for school renovation, construction, and improvement;
- (2) \$10 Million for school electrical upgrades; and
- (3) \$30 Million to health, safety, ADA, and special education needs for our students.

### Act 2 (SB 239)- Supporting our UH Medical Students

This was priority Health legislation led by my office in early January and was signed into law in February. The law authorizes the Hawaii's medical school to use a portion of the Hawai'i Tobacco Settlement Fund to support, train, and graduate new doctors in Hawai'i. Half of Hawaii's physicians are graduates of the UH medical school, securing this additional funding will support the future doctors in our state. Without these funds, the school would be forced to cut its programs and raise tuition dramatically on our medical students.



UH Medical students testifying before my committee.

# E SESSION

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION**

### **HB 1788- Strengthening Laws Against Computer Crime**

Adds new definitions to computer crime, creating a third degree of computer fraud, and incorporating the element of phishing and spyware into all computer fraud offenses and unauthorized computer access offenses.

### **SB 2222- Protecting Minors from “Sexting”**

Seeks to prohibit and penalize a new and fast growing problem of “sexting” which involves minors taking nude pictures and videos of themselves or other minors and transmitting those images to another individual through a cell phone, text message, or other electronic device. Once the image is sent, the original transmitter has very limited ability to control or prevent further dissemination with some images being used as a commodity for exchange, or as leverage against another.

### **SB 2261- Strengthening Community Policing**

The success of the “Weed & Seed” program allowed communities to work with law enforcement to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted neighborhoods by “weeding” out the criminal element of the community while “seeding” support services to implement prevention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization projects. This legislation makes the “Weed & Seed” program permanent and encourages the expansion of the program outside of Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa.

## **STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY**

### **HB 2526 and SB 2236- Developing Hawaii’s Broadband Initiatives**

These initiatives prepare Hawaii for an upgrade of its broadband infrastructure. **HB 2526**, which I served as the Committee Chair, requires telecommunication and cable television providers to submit to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs data necessary to assess and evaluate broadband infrastructure and services in the State.

Along with **SB 2236**, together these bills will have an immediate improvement in

the way our telecommunication infrastructure can be improved to support new technology, our military and interconnectivity.

### **SB 490- Hawaii’s Expanded Visa Program**

Recently, the Federal government set initiatives to make it easier for international travelers to visit the United States through improved visa processing and visa waivers. This bill provides \$2 Million of Hawaii’s hotel tax revenues to develop an expanded visa program to encourage international travelers to visit and support Hawaii’s tourism economy.

## **CARING FOR OUR ‘AINA**

### **HB 1943- Creating an Invasive Species Detection Program**

Creates the plant quarantine detector-dog program through a federal grant to

protect from the spread of invasive species in our State. Four dog trainer and dog handler positions will be created to inspect incoming airline baggage and small-package air cargo shipments for invasive species.



*These stinging Nettle Caterpillars were an invasive species found in Mililani and the Kipapa Gulch two years ago. Increased Agricultural inspections and treatments helped eradicate these painful critters.*

# **HEALTH COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

## **STABILIZING HEALTH CARE SERVICES AFTER THE HAWAII MEDICAL CENTER CLOSURE**

Following the recent closure of the Hawaii Medical Center hospitals, my priority as the Health Chair this Legislative Session was to stabilize healthcare services to Central and Leeward Oahu while reviving statewide healthcare programs which shut down along with the two hospitals.

### **HB 1953- Expanding Ambulance Services in Leeward Oahu**

I introduced this bill to provide \$1 Million to immediately support the number of Emergency Medical Service Ambulances to serve the emergency needs in our community and those on the Leeward Oahu. This bill and money will save lives by transporting and treating our friends and family members at a faster and more efficient rate.

### **HB 609- Transforming the Hawaii Medical Center-East Facility**

I introduced this bill to authorize the State of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to potentially acquire the former Hawaii Medical Center-East hospital in Liliha to be transformed into a Long-Term Care facility to support our aging population. This measure could double the amount of long-term services in Oahu, resulting in new jobs and more affordable Kupuna care.

### **SB 2958- Reinvesting in Hawaii’s Bone Marrow Transplantation Program**

I strongly advocated for the creation of a bone marrow transplant program and fought to appropriate \$500,000 to support a pediatric bone marrow transplantation program in the State of Hawaii at Kapiolani Women’s and Children Hospital to serve all our young keiki. Currently, as a result of the HMC closure, our Hawaii keiki must move to the mainland to receive the much needed care and bone marrow transplant. Bone marrow transplantation often takes a year to complete, forcing our children and their families to move away from their home, supporting ‘Ohana, and jobs for treatment at a higher medical cost.

### **SB 2939- Supporting the Saint Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii**

I strongly advocated for legislation supporting the St. Francis Healthcare System, the original owners of the Hawaii Medical Centers with an \$80 Million revenue bond, supported by the State using no tax payer money, to re-open the Hawaii Medical Center facility as a complete hospital with an emergency room designed to serve our most critical patients. Saint Francis Healthcare stated that this Special Purpose Revenue Bond will expedite the re-opening of the facility to provide the healthcare and services for the people of Hawaii.

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# HEALTH COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

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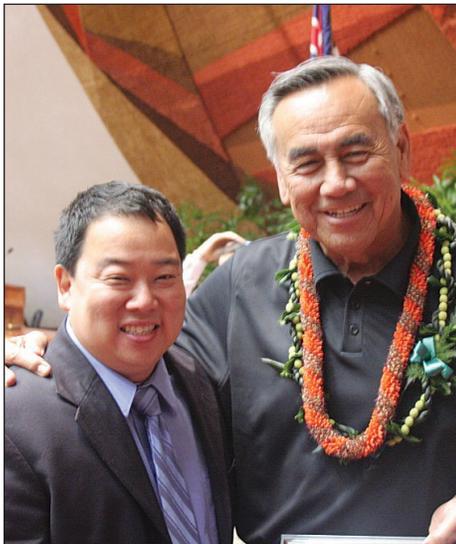
## KEEPING HAWAII HEALTHY

### HB 2275- Promoting the Sustainability of Hawaii's Hospitals

I introduced this bill on behalf of all hospitals within the State. This measure was designed to enhance the financial viability of Hawaii's hospitals by imposing sustainability fees on them to attract more Federal matching Medicaid funds. These fees were initiated and strongly supported by the hospitals. The fees will be repaid to the hospitals, along with increased Medicaid funds from the Federal government supporting them with an additional \$35 Million of revenue each year.

### SB 2466- Investing in the Sustainability of Hawaii's Nursing Facilities

Like the Hospital Sustainability Fee, this bill also establishes a sustainability fee on Hawaii's Long-term Care Nursing facilities to enhance their financial viability and attract additional Federal Medicaid funds. This measure will increase Long-term Care facilities funding by almost \$7 Million each year.



*Honoring UH Football Coach Norm Chow at the State Capitol for his support Hawaii's student athletes.*

### HB 2273- Developing a Concussion Awareness Program in Hawaii

I introduced this bill after increased concern over the affects concussions have on our student athletes. This bill will require the Department of Education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness



*Honoring the hard work of the American Diabetes Association of Hawaii which has assisted many people battle Diabetes throughout the State.*

program to provide guidelines to increase athlete safety and reduce concussions within both public and private schools. The measure was supported by the **National Football League** and resulted in their in-person testimony during the Pro-Bowl week.

### Act 30 (HB 1964)- Expanding Cancer Treatment for Patients

I introduced this Law to protect our loved ones by mandating health insurance coverage for generic, oral chemotherapy medications to treat cancer patients. This Law will now reduce the out-of-pocket

costs for patients who need cancer medication and provide our sick family and friends with new, affordable options. My bill was recently signed into Law and took effect in April.

### HB 1967- Resolving the Medical Claim Conciliation Process

After much investigation into Hawaii's Medical Claim Conciliation process, I introduced this bill to make the medical malpractice process a more fair, simple, and preferred process for both the patient and medical practitioners who may be sued for medical errors.



*Reviewing the construction progress of Hawaii's state-of-the-art Cancer Research Center.*

## PROTECTING OUR LOCAL CONSUMERS AND HOMEOWNERS

As the Vice Chair of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee, I was very active with the protection of Hawaii's homeowners from mortgage foreclosure.

### HB 1875- Protecting Homeowners by Reforming the Mortgage Foreclosure Process

Provides additional protections for Hawaii homeowners through Hawaii's unique Mortgage Foreclosure Law. The bill seeks to expand the existing Law to establish a comprehensive lien collection and foreclosure process for condominium, homeowner, and planned community associations, which is in harmony with Hawaii's mortgage foreclosure process. The bill also seeks to make Hawaii's Mortgage Dispute Resolution Program permanent.

For more information on Hawaii's Mortgage Foreclosure Law and Dispute Resolution Program, please visit: <http://hawaii.gov/dcca/oah/mfdr/mortgage-foreclosure-dispute-resolution-mfdr.html>

### HB 2375- Protecting Homeowners and Families from "Mortgage Rescue" Fraud

After much investigation into the mortgage foreclosure process, I introduced this bill to penalize so-called out-of-state "mortgage rescuers" who victimize innocent Hawaii homeowners by taking their money and property while the homeowner mistakenly believes that the money is being used to relieve their family out of foreclosure. This bill protects our homeowners and families from these predators by establishing criminal penalties and mandatory fines against individuals who commit "mortgage rescue" fraud.

## SUPPORTING OUR FIREFIGHTERS

### HB 2113- Prohibiting Sky Lanterns

Over the past year, there was an increased use of "sky lanterns"; which are paper lanterns with an open flame that heats air to raise the lantern several hundred feet into the air and remain airborne until the heat expires. With the State Fire Council's support, I introduced this bill to ban sky lanterns so that they do not float and land on our homes, conservation land, power lines, or interfere with any aircraft.

### HB 1968- Supporting the Hawaii State Fire Council

I introduced this measure to support our state's firefighters. This law creates the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette program and hires staff to support the State Fire Council in their mission to reduce cigarette-related fires, household fires, and brush fires statewide.



*Sky lanterns are open-flame, uncontrolled objects which fly hundreds of feet into the sky and put our homes, rooftops, land, and lives at risk.*

## SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

### HB 2410- Enhancing the State of Hawaii's Relationship with the Military

Requires the Governor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense to enhance the State's relationship with the military and provide continued support for the military's presence in Hawaii.

### HB 2409- Enforcing Consumer Protection of Our Military Members

Requires the State to enforce existing Federal laws protecting military members and their families.

### HB 2258- Supporting the Professional and Vocational Licensing of Military Training

Requires State professional and vocational licensing authorities to accept military training, education, and service toward an individual's licensing requirements.

### HB 2639- Earning College Credits for Military Training

Authorizes military members to receive college credit for their military experience through the University of Hawaii system.



*Testing equipment with Army National Guard members.*



*Reviewing the Hawaii Army National Guard's newly acquired Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, or "Drone," which protects our military members when in harm's way.*

# PROMOTING OUR COMMUNITY

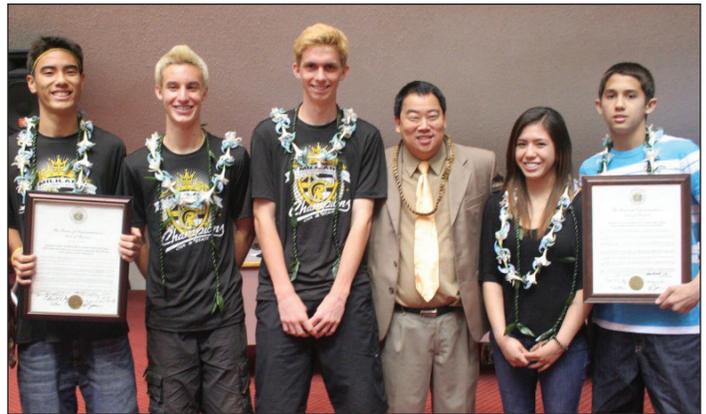
## 2011-2013 Capital Improvement Projects for Our Community

<b>Kanoelani Elementary School, Waipio Gentry</b> .....	<b>\$950,000</b>
<i>School-wide electrical system upgrade</i>	
<b>Kanoelani Elementary School, Waipio Gentry</b> .....	<b>\$750,000</b>
<i>Construction for covered walkways</i>	
<b>Waipio Neighborhood Park,</b>	
<b>Kanoelani Elementary School</b> .....	<b>\$25,000</b>
<i>Construction for a new batting cage</i>	
<b>Highlands Intermediate School</b> .....	<b>\$480,000</b>
<i>Asbestos removal and renovation of chorus classroom</i>	
<b>Pearl City High School</b> .....	<b>\$550,000</b>
<i>Installation of synthetic track and field at Bino Neves Stadium</i>	
<b>Mililani Uka Elementary School</b> .....	<b>\$75,000</b>
<i>Upgrade and installation of safe, playground equipment</i>	
<b>Kipapa Elementary School</b> .....	<b>\$200,000</b>
<i>Air conditioning system replacement</i>	
<b>Mililani Middle School</b> .....	<b>\$750,000</b>
<i>Roof repair for Classroom buildings</i>	
<b>Mililani Middle School</b> .....	<b>\$501,000</b>
<i>Cover for outdoor play court</i>	
<b>Mililani High School</b> .....	<b>\$1,251,000</b>
<i>Tennis court, parking lot, and driveway resurfacing</i>	
<b>Mililani High School</b> .....	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<i>Upgrade and replacement of Fiber-optic network system</i>	
<b>Mililani High School</b> .....	<b>\$1,100,000</b>
<i>Construction of restrooms and concession stand upgrade for stadium</i>	
<b>Leeward Community College</b> .....	<b>\$19,013,000</b>
<i>Construction for a new Education and Innovation instructional facility</i>	
<b>University of Hawaii- West Oahu</b> .....	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<i>Construction of Photovoltaic panel to generate campus power</i>	
<b>University of Hawaii-West Oahu</b> .....	<b>\$3,750,000</b>
<i>Road construction and campus-wide sitework</i>	
<b>University of Hawaii-West Oahu</b> .....	<b>\$995,000</b>
<i>Plans and design for an Allied Health building</i>	
<b>Mililani Kamehameha Highway Sidewalks</b> .....	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
<i>Construction of sidewalks along Kamehameha Highway from Lanikuhana Avenue to Meheula Parkway</i>	
<b>Waipio/Mililani Kamehameha Highway Widening</b> .....	<b>\$7,300,000</b>
<i>Construction to widen Kamehameha Highway into a 4-lane divided highway with bicycle shoulders from Lanikuhana Avenue to Ka Uka Boulevard</i>	
<b>Kamehameha Highway, Waipio Gentry</b> .....	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<i>Installation of graffiti-resistant wall along Kamehameha Highway from Waipahu Street to Waipio Uka Boulevard</i>	
<b>H-2 Freeway</b> .....	<b>\$350,000</b>
<i>Traffic mitigation and alternative access study to Mililani</i>	

**TOTAL CIP FUNDING TO OUR COMMUNITY**  
(excluding UH funding) ..... **\$23,282,000**

### How to contact me

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*Honoring the Mililani High School Varsity Soccer Team and Wrestling Champions at the State Capitol.*

## Promoting Roadway Improvements in Central O'ahu

Following this year's heavy rains, I urged the State Department of Transportation to resurface and repave the poor roadway conditions on Kamehameha Highway.

Kamehameha Highway's Roosevelt Bridge in Kipapa Gulch currently serves as a major thoroughfare between Waipio Gentry and Mililani. The 79 year old bridge was built to facilitate military access through Central Oahu and is now in sore need of improvements. The Department of Transportation is currently working on an Environmental Assessment to identify and recommend enhancements and safety improvements for the bridge, which should be completed in 2013.

This year, I advocated including our Kipapa Gulch "Franklin D. Roosevelt" Bridge into **SB 3010** which expedites the rehabilitation of 11 bridge projects statewide by the Department of Transportation. Under this bill, the Department of Transportation will have five years to rehabilitate our community's bridge. The bill recently passed the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature to authorize the Department to rehabilitate our community's bridge.

The Department of Transportation recently entered into a contract to re-establish the electricity and lighting of the street lights along the H-2 Freeway. This is a result of the 2009-2011 Community Capital Improvement Project funding \$3 Million to repair the H-2 Freeway street lighting from Waipahu to Wahiawa. The lighting project should be complete by this summer. My office will continue to fight for much needed improvements in our community.



*Teaching Mililani Uka students about the roles and responsibilities of government.*