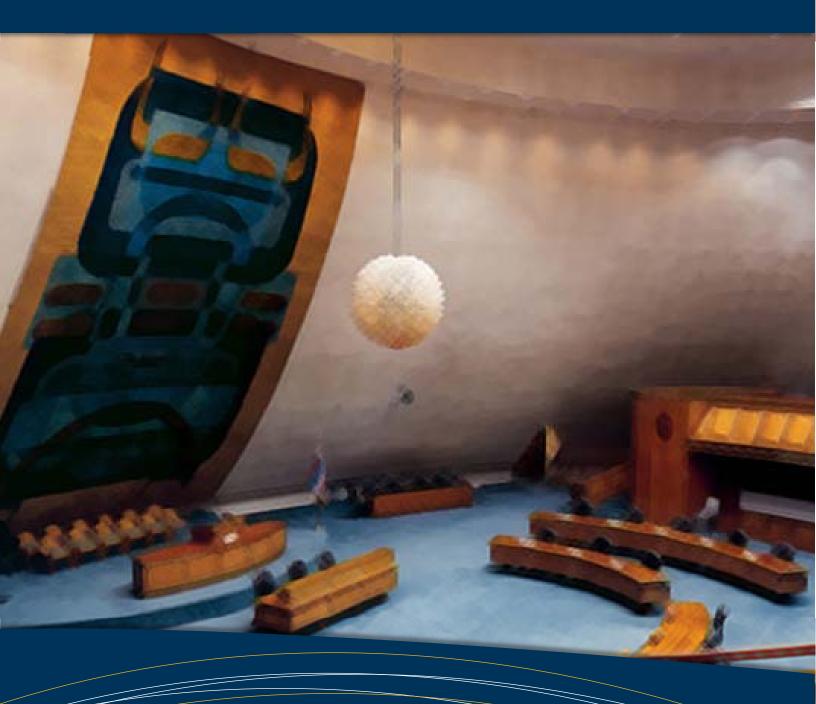
# 55 YEARS OF STATEHOOD A CHRONICLE OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORY





HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 1959 - 2014





## 55 Years of Statehood

A Chronicle of Legislative History

Hawai'i State Senate January 2014



The story of Hawai's political beginnings echoes Hawai's geological origins. Numerous cycles of volcanic eruptions followed by a cooling of the earth created layer upon layer of new land that formed the foundation of our islands. Similarly, Hawai's transition from a territory to a state, then into the twenty-first century, has been marked by numerous waves of opportunity, challenges, and triumphs, giving rise to a great state with a thriving government, economy, culture, and people.

Just as the cycles of eruptions and cooling of earth continue to slowly add new land to the Hawaiian archipelago each day, new questions and issues will inevitably arise as Hawaiii progresses through times of rapid social, economic, and political change. In the coming years, the Legislature has the opportunity to significantly affect the literal and figurative landscape of this State. Undertaking state challenges in the twenty-first century means not only adapting new technologies and ideas to find solutions, but also remembering and examining the elemental processes, people, and history that have brought us to this point – the cycles of eruptions and cooling that have produced a growing chain of islands that appear entirely separate on the surface but remain connected at the very depths of their foundation.

This document is intended as a brief, non-exhaustive chronicle of the legislative sessions convened since statehood, including brief descriptions of key pieces of legislation, public sentiment as gleaned from available media, and contextual information. This chronicle also includes photographs and information pertaining to the service of individual Senators and their various roles in the Senate over the years. That information was primarily obtained from various Senate documents and resources that were readily available at the time this chronicle was compiled. We believe that the information and data contained in this chronicle are accurate, but this resource should be used for informational purposes only.









Aloha,

This year we are celebrating the 55th anniversary of our State.

Although we are the youngest state, many of our laws and legislative policies have been "firsts" for our nation. Among them are landmark measures protecting human and civil rights, promoting equality and opportunity, strengthening our education system, and fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of our island people.

As we commemorate this milestone anniversary and look to the next 55 years, it is only fitting for us to reflect on the work and sacrifice of our predecessors. It is important for us to remember where we came from and honor those who paved the way for us. This chronicle of legislative history – a yearbook from 1959-2014 – is a way for us to memorialize the hard work, persistence, and courage of the legislators who served before us. It is the first written compilation of our legislative history, and includes highlights of important policy issues from every legislative session since statehood, photos of Senate members through the years, and interesting facts and photos that capture the history and charm of life in our islands.

As we begin the 2014 legislative session, we recognize and thank the many legislators who inspire us through their dedication and determination as we set new goals that will serve Hawai'i's people for many more decades to come.

Mahalo,

Donna Mercado Kim President of the Senate

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# 1959 - 1960

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation welcoming Hawai'i as the 50th state of the union on August 21, 1959. The First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i convened on August 31, 1959, in accordance with article XVI, section 16 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, which required the Legislature to convene 10 days after the admission to the Union. During this 45-day First Special Session of 1959, the Senate elected Senator William H. Hill of the first senatorial district as Senate President. Senator Hill stated in his Opening Day remarks:

"This session of the Legislature is the most important that Hawaři has ever had and without a doubt will be the most important that will ever be known in Hawaři because in this session the die will be cast for future sessions."

During this special session, the Legislature considered numerous measures to assist Hawai'i in transitioning from a territory to a state. The Legislature passed measures that defined and established the appointments, terms, and qualifications for certain state officers, including the Adjutant General and the Legislative Auditor, as well as amended or established the election requirements and procedures, including presidential elections and special elections for filling vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives and the State Legislature.

Pursuant to the State Constitution, the Legislature was required to reorganize the former territorial government structure into no more than 20 principal departments grouped according to common purposes and related functions. As a result, the Legislature convened a five-day Second Special Session of 1959 on November 9, 1959, pursuant to a proclamation by Governor William F. Quinn to consider an omnibus measure that reorganized the executive branch into principal state departments. The Hawai'i State Government Reorganization Act of 1959 established 18 principal departments, selection and terms of executive heads and members of state boards and commissions, administrative supervision of state boards and commissions, powers and duties of heads of departments, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and temporary state boards and commissions. The Act appropriated a sum of \$41,500 to implement the reorganization.





Top: 1959 Opening Day 'Iolani Palace Throne Room. Bottom: Pedestrian diagonal crossing at Fort Street and Hotel Street in 1960.

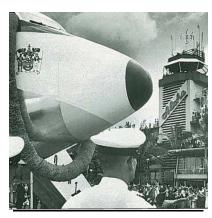


The Senate convened a Special Session on February 1, 1960, for the consideration of appointments of public officers of the newly established principal departments of the State. During this 14-day special session, the Senate confirmed various department heads and members of various state boards and commissions pursuant to the Hawaii State Government Reorganization Act of 1959.

# 1959 - 1960

On February 17, 1960, the Legislature convened the Regular Session of 1960. During this 42-day budget session, the Legislature passed the state budget bill to address operational and capital improvement needs within the State and continued to establish, define, or refine administrative powers, duties, and responsibilities. For example, the membership of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply was amended, and the Kaua'i County of Board of Water Supply was established.

On May 23, 1960, a tsunami struck the State that devastated Hilo and killed 61 people. The Legislature convened a 17-day First Special Session of 1960 to aid, relieve, and rehabilitate persons and government in their respective needs arising from this major disaster. The Legislature passed measures that made public lands available for the immediate relocation and rehabilitation of disaster victims and provided for urban renewal projects in disaster areas, early acquisition of real property, state disaster commercial loans to rehabilitate businesses suffering losses as a result of the tsunami, and assistance to those wholly or partially unemployed due to the tsunami.



## **BOEING 707**

Mass tourism makes its debut in July 1959, the month before statehood is proclaimed.



WILLIAM H. HILL President





MATSUKI ARASHIRO



GEORGE ARIYOSHI





FRANCIS M. CHING



RANDOLPH A. CROSSLEY



NELSON K. DOI



O. VINCENT ESPOSITO





YASUTAKA FUKUSHIMA



BERNARD G. KINNEY



LAWRENCE Y. KUNISHISA



RICHARD LYMAN, JR.



CALVIN C. MCGREGOR



NOBURO MIYAKE



STEERE G. NODA



THOMAS S. OGATA



HEBDEN PORTEUS Vice President



J. WARD RUSSELL



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JULIAN R. YATES, SR.



NADAO YOSHINAGA



WALTER G. CHUCK Clerk



BARRY J. RUBIN Assistant Clerk



ALFRED A. APAKA Sergeant-At-Arms



REV. ABRAHAM K. AKAKA Chaplain

### On February 15, 1961, the

Legislature convened the General Session of 1961. During this 90-day session, the Legislature continued to implement the Reorganization Act of 1959 by consolidating over 100 state departments, agencies, and commissions into 18 principal departments, providing the appropriate staff complements, and clarifying the lines of authority. Of particular note, Act 103 provided a uniform administrative procedure for all state and county boards, commissions, departments, and officers to make rules or adjudicate contested cases within their respective areas of authority. With regard to public employees, Act 146 created the Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund, which served as a government-administered group medical and hospital care program for state and county employees and their dependents.

In the aftermath of the tsunami that struck Hilo in 1960, the Legislature passed several measures to provide state assistance and relief to victims of natural disasters. Act 157 provided additional

unemployment compensation benefits to victims; Act 173 provided relief to victims suffering property damage pursuant to the Governor's natural disaster declaration; and Act 189 provided state rehabilitative assistance to victims suffering losses in state disasters, including housing relief, commercial loans, and unemployment compensation, and established a Rehabilitation Coordinator to serve as the official contact between the State and disaster victims.

Most notably, the Legislature addressed issues relating to land use and development. Inadequate land use controls were causing the State's limited and valuable lands to be used for purposes that resulted in short-term gains for a few and long-term economic losses for the State. As a result, the Legislature was the first in the nation to establish statewide zoning laws "to preserve, protect and encourage the development of lands in the State for those uses to which they are best suited for the public welfare." Under Act 187, a seven member State Land Use Commission was created and authorized to classify and group

# 1961 - 1962

contiguous land areas under one of the three major land use classes – urban, agriculture, and conservation – and into appropriate and respective districts. The Legislature also addressed the shortage of residential fee simple property available on Oʻahu by allowing the State to use its power of eminent domain to acquire sufficient lands to expand the opportunities for residential fee simple ownership.

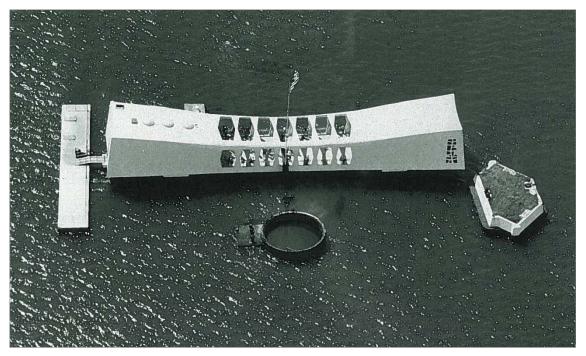
The Legislature also established programs regulating commercial motor vehicle carriers under Act 121, horizontal property regimes under Act 180, and trade and commerce under Act 190.

The Legislature adopted the State General Plan to serve as an interim policy guide for future development and means by which Hawai'i could grow, prosper, and realize opportunities for growth while guarding the State's unique features and resources. The General Plan made specific proposals covering areas of land use; conservation of forests, water resources, and agricultural lands; land development; public facilities; urban development; state parks; and state highways.









Top left: Keo Nakama becomes the first known swimmer in modern times to conquer the Molokaʻi-Oʻahu channel on September 29, 1961. (Gordon Morse) Top right: On August 20, 1962, Governor William F. Quinn appointed Duke Kahanamoku an honorary official greeter and ambassador-at-large for the state. (Albert Yamauchi) Middle: Pali Highway opened in 1961. (John Tichen) Bottom: The USS Arizona Memorial is dedicated in 1962. (Carl Viti)

The First Legislature convened the Budget Session of 1962 on February 21, 1962, for a 46-day session to address operational and capital improvement needs within the State. Additionally, to promote Hawai'i's unique customs, culture, history, development, and products outside of the State, the Legislature authorized the issuance of \$2.3 million in general obligation bonds to cover the costs of Hawai'i's participation in the New York World's Fair of 1964-1965 and established the New York World's Fair Committee to coordinate the arrangements for active participation.

Of particular note, the Legislature addressed the management and disposition of public lands through Act 32. Act 32 vested the administration, management, and control over public lands from the Governor and the Land Commissioner to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. All state lands were classified into 13 categories, including intensive agriculture; special livestock; pasture; commercial timber; quarry; mining; recreational;

watershed; residential; commercial and industrial; hotel, apartment, and motel; resort; and unclassified. Act 32 established the conditions, requirements, and methods of land dispositions and set forth the requirements for mortgages and assignments of public lands to allow lessees and purchasers to obtain loans more easily. The Legislature reserved the right to approve certain types of land transactions and to control the disposition of monies from the special land and development fund. Finally, Act 32 centralized the acquisition of lands for state purposes under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Legislature also addressed wages and salaries during the budget session. Under Act 16, the minimum wage was increased to \$1.15 per hour beginning July 1, 1962, and to \$1.25 per hour beginning January 1, 1964. The Legislature noted that public officers and employees of the State, except elective officials, heads of departments, and federal employees, had not received any general salary increases since 1959. Act 28 increased the compensation of state officers and employees to

# 1961 - 1962



#### **ELVIS PRESLEY**

Elvis Presley films *Blue Hawaiʻi* in 1961. (Honolulu Star-Bulletin photo)

keep pace with increases in the cost of living and maintain a high level of morale and efficiency.

The Legislature also amended the Hawaiian Commission Homes Act, 1920, as amended, to allow the Hawaiian Homes Commission to make loans for general farming and ranching purposes, including raising, cultivating, harvesting, and marketing, and to authorize the Commission to assist lessees in the marketing of their agricultural produce and livestock.



WILLIAM H. HILL President



KAZUHISA ABE



MATSUKI ARASHIRO



GEORGE ARIYOSHI



MARQUIS F. CALMES Assistant Majority Leader



FRANCIS M. CHING Majority Leader



RANDOLPH A. CROSSLEY





O. VINCENT ESPOSITO



S. GEORGE FUKUOKA



YASUTAKA FUKUSHIMA





LAWRENCE Y. KUNISHISA



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CALVIN C. MCGREGOR Assistant Majority Floor Leader



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NADAO YOSHINAGA



WALTER G. CHUCK Clerk



WILLIAM H. YIM Assistant Clerk



ALFRED A. APAKA Sergeant-At-Arms



REV. ABRAHAM K. AKAKA Chaplain

On February 20, 1963, the Second Legislature convened the General Session of 1963 for a 60-day session. At the start of the session, the Senate elected Senator Nelson K. Doi of the first senatorial district as Senate President. 1963 also marked the first year that a woman served in the Hawai'i State Senate. Not only did Patsy Mink become the first female Senator, she was also the first woman of color to be elected to U.S. Congress and was instrumental in enacting federal legislation to provide equal opportunities for women in education and athletics.

During this general session, the Legislature continued to work on reorganizing state government by amending lines of authority, consolidating state department functions, and renaming state departments to appropriately match the functions of the departments. The Legislature passed measures to provide for the Chairpersons of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Board of Agriculture, and the Hawaiian Homes Commission to be appointed by the Governor and designated each chairperson as the



Hawai'i Congresswoman Pasty Mink and United States Senator Bobby Kennedy. (Honolulu Advertiser photo)

# 1963 - 1964

single executive to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, respectively. Recognizing that economic development, planning, and research are closely integrated functions, the Department of Planning and Research Development was merged with the Department of Economic Development to form the Department of Planning and Economic Development. Finally, the Department of Budget and Review and Department of Treasury and Regulation were renamed to the Department of Budget and Finance and Department of Regulatory Agencies, respectively.

The Legislature passed measures to encourage land ownership and to implement more effective use of available lands. Of particular note, the land use classification system was amended. The Land Use Commission was encountering problems in classifying lands where particular areas were used for agricultural and residential purposes. For example, the Commission found patterns of small farms mixed with larger residential units. As a result, Act 205 created a fourth land use classification for rural districts. Furthermore, Act 142 modified the real property tax system to reduce the burden of taxes placed on property owners who seek to improve their lands and streamline property tax assessments.

The Legislature also passed measures to encourage and facilitate commercial activity and economic growth in the State. Act 7 enabled public and private corporations in the State to apply to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to establish, operate, and maintain a foreign-trade zone in Hawai'i as part of a proposed international trade complex. Act 75 established the Hawaii Agricultural Products program to stimulate qualified agriculturalists to undertake new enterprises to produce new agricultural products primarily intended for export. Act 76 established the Hawaii Capital Loan program to provide an additional medium to encourage and promote basic commercial and industrial activities in the State. Act 124 amended the laws providing preferences for Hawai'i products to stimulate local industry, encourage manufacturers to expand through new lines, and attract others to establish new businesses in the State. In close association with economic development, the Legislature addressed the State's need for interisland transportation by authorizing the Department of Transportation to establish a ferry system to provide Hawai'i residents with a feasible alternative for interisland transportation.

During this session, the Legislature also addressed employment issues, including amending the collection and payment of wages, making certain discriminatory employment practices unlawful, and streamlining the workers' compensation laws. Furthermore, the laws relating to public employment were amended and included areas such as health benefit plans, compensation, hours, leave, and retirement.

In addition, the Legislature passed a constitutional amendment to provide for an elected school board, which was ratified during the 1964 general election.







Top left: A tourist is greeted at Honolulu International Airport with an orchid and pineapple juice. May 13, 1964. (Warren R. Roll) Top right: Neal Blaisdell Center 1964. (Albert Yamauchi) Bottom: President John F. Kennedy visits the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

## The Second Legislature convened the

Budget Session of 1964 on February 19, 1964, for a 30-day session to address operational and capital improvement needs within the State. Of particular note, in the area of statewide capital improvement projects, the Legislature authorized the issuance of \$1.6 million in general obligation bonds for the construction of a new State Capitol Building complex to accommodate the Legislature, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and any affected legislative offices and executive departments and agencies.

Of particular note, the Legislature addressed the need for a statewide higher education system offering college parallel, technical, and vocational education to make higher education facilities more readily available to a greater number of high school graduates as well as the general public. At that time, Hawai'i was one of the few states in the nation that did not enact enabling legislation authorizing the establishment of public community or junior colleges. The Legislature also noted that federal funds to aid in the establishment of community colleges and post-high school vocational education facilities were available

through the federal Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 and the Vocational Education Act of 1963. Thus, in order to make prudent use of these funds, the Legislature found that it was imperative for the State to begin planning for the establishment of a community college system. As a result, Act 39 authorized the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i to create community colleges statewide, except for the island of Hawai'i, and to include the technical schools under the Department of Education as the community colleges were planned and established.

Additionally, the Legislature passed several constitutional amendments that were ratified during the 1964 general election. constitutional provisions relating to the Lieutenant Governor were amended to clarify that the votes cast in the general election for the nominee for Governor would be deemed cast for the nominee for Lieutenant Governor of the same political party. The constitutional provisions establishing the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i were amended to remove the President of the University of Hawai'i and the Superintendant of Public Instruction from the Board. Similarly, the constitutional amendments relating establishment and powers of the Board of Education were amended to transfer the

## 1963 - 1964

Superintendent of Public Instruction from being a member of the Board to serving as Board Secretary and change the title of "Superintendent of Public Instruction" to "Superintendent of Education".

On July 23, 1964, the Legislature convened the First Special Session of 1964, pursuant to the proclamation issued by Governor John A. Burns for the consideration of measures relating to reapportionment of the State Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 15, 1964, regarding reapportionment. The U.S. Supreme Court held that the legislative reapportionment of Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and Virginia violated the equal protection clause in the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As a result of this landmark decision, the apportionment of many state legislatures, including Hawai'i, were regarded as unconstitutional.

During this 30-day special session, the Legislature considered a number of measures and constitutional amendments to establish an appropriate reapportionment plan that would meet all constitutional requirements. The Legislature deliberated on measures that proposed the convening of a constitutional convention, amending the State Constitution to establish the number of members in the State Senate and House of Representatives and residency qualifications, and establishing apportionment based on the 1960 census population figures, including aliens and military personnel living in civilian communities, or on the number of registered voters. Despite their efforts and deliberations, the Legislature failed to pass legislation relating to reapportionment at the end of this special session.



NELSON K. DOI President



Vice President



TOSHIO ANSAI





FRANCIS M. CHING



RANDOLPH A. CROSSLEY



O. VINCENT ESPOSITO Assistant Majority Leader



HARRY M. FIELD



S. GEORGE FUKUOKA Majority Floor Leader



YASUTAKA FUKUSHIMA



WILLIAM H. HILL



JOHN J. HULTEN



MITSUYUKI KIDO



BERNARD G. KINNEY



BENJAMIN MENOR



PATSY T. MINK



NOBORU MIYATAKE



THOMAS S. OGATA



HEBDEN PORTEUS



CLINTON I. SHIRAISHI



SAKAE TAKAHASHI Majority Leader



JOHN T. USHIJIMA Assistant Majority Leader



VINCENT H. YANO



JULIAN R. YATES, SR.



NADAO YOSHINAGA



Clerk



JAMES BACON Assistant Clerk



TOKUICHI TAKUSHI Sergeant-At-Arms

On February 17, 1965, the Third Legislature convened the General Session of 1965, for an 85-day session. At the start of this session, the Senate elected Senator Kazuhisa Abe of the first senatorial district as Senate President. During this legislative biennium, the Legislature formulated a legislative plan called the "New Hawaii" program to serve as a guiding post in its efforts to create new streams of revenue and generate additional revenue to fund public services. It was also during this session that the Legislature appointed Clinton T. Tanimura as the State's first State Auditor.

The Legislature addressed the State's needs to generate revenue and increase economic development. The purpose of the tax omnibus measure under Act 155 was "to raise sufficient additional general fund revenues in public programs toward the goal of providing every citizen with the opportunity to lead an enriched life in the New Hawaii". Act 155 made extensive amendments to the general excise tax; compensating, consumption, and use taxes; individual income tax; corporate income tax; liquor

tax; tobacco tax; taxes on airlines, motor carriers, and contract carriers; taxes on banks and other financial corporations; allocation and sharing of grants-in-aid and the general excise tax between the State and the counties; insurance premium tax; and real property tax collections; and provided tax credits for education. The Legislature expected that the implementation of Act 155 would raise an additional \$26.9 million in revenue for the State. Likewise, the Legislature passed Act 201, another omnibus measure, to administer the tax laws more efficiently, eliminate certain inequities and inconsistencies in the State's tax structure, provide tax relief to certain taxpayers to stimulate economic development, and secure other social and economic goals under the New Hawaii program. Lastly and of particular note, the Legislature adopted the Uniform Commercial Code to achieve uniformity and certainty in state laws dealing with commercial transactions and provide a comprehensive and integrated body of law that is responsive to the needs of the State's commerce and trade.

During this session, the Legislature also passed measures to improve the State's education system,

## 1965 - 1966

including culture and the arts. The Department of Education's omnibus measure under Act 175 implemented the non-appropriation parts of the education proposals under the New Hawaii program and updated, clarified, and streamlined the laws pertaining to education. The Legislature noted that the University of Hawaii needed to function more like a business in certain research activities with reasonable capital reserves, extensive technical employment opportunities, and ease of operations in- and out-of-state. As a result, the Legislature established the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) as a public corporation to enable the University to conduct and develop research projects in conjunction with private corporations and enter into a contractual relationship with the federal government or other public agencies. In addition, the Legislature established the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii and facilitate opportunities for residents to participate in cultural and artistic programs and activities.

The Legislature also established the State's Family Court system by combining all judicial activities that relate to children and the family under a specialized court. In doing so, the Legislature recognized that the State has a responsibility to protect its citizens, particularly those who cannot protect themselves; preserve family life; and promote the general welfare. Furthermore, the Legislature passed Act 83, which established standards for the courts to determine child custody and visitation.

The Legislature also passed measures relating to government efficiency by distinguishing between state and county functions. Act 97 transferred certain county functions and responsibilities to the State, including the planning, construction, improvement, and maintenance of public school facilities and grounds and the transportation of school children; the burial of indigents; the planning, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of public hospitals and other public health and medical facilities; the rendering of medical treatment and hospitalization services to state and county pensioners; and the administration and operation of the District Courts. Furthermore, the Legislature established the order of succession for certain state leaders. Act 231 established the tenure for legislative officers between sessions and succession to office of the presiding officer and authorized the appointment of permanent professional staffs for each respective house. Act 262 established the

order of succession to the office of Governor when the position of Lieutenant Governor is vacant or the Lieutenant Governor is temporarily absent from the State or temporarily disabled.

Finally, in connection with the U.S. Supreme Court decision relating to the reapportionment of certain state legislatures and the First Special Session of 1964, the Legislature passed a constitutional amendment for the reapportionment of the State Senate to comport with the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Act 281 provided a provisional reapportionment of the State Senate to remain in effect until superseded by a state constitutional amendment, and Act 280 proposed to ask the voters during the 1966 general election whether there shall be a constitutional convention, which was eventually disapproved under *Holt v. Richardson*.



### STATE CAPITOL

A slight drizzle provides the traditional Hawaiian blessing as Governor John A. Burns and other officials conduct the ground-breaking ceremonies of the State Capitol on the former site of 'Iolani Barracks. November 10, 1965. (Warren R. Roll)



Fishermen working on an aku school. September 29, 1965 (Honolulu Star-Bulletin photo)

The Legislature convened the Budget Session of 1966 for a 30-day session to address operational and capital improvement needs within the State. The Legislature allocated a large part of the State's operating and capital improvement budgets to support education. The consolidation of schools and shifts in population were causing an increase in student enrollment at certain schools and making it necessary for additional school facilities in order to maintain an optimum classroom size. As a result, the Legislature appropriated \$4.8 million for the planning, construction, and furnishings of portable classrooms and portable toilet units. These classrooms were intended to provide temporary and immediate relief while permanent facilities were planned and constructed and to replace existing dilapidated temporary school buildings that had become eyesores or health hazards. Similarly, a surge in the enrollment at the University of Hawai'i required space for over 200 additional faculty and staff. Thus, the Legislature appropriated \$378,000 for the planning, construction, and furnishings for temporary and semi-permanent buildings to provide interim classrooms, laboratories, and offices for the 1966 school year.

The Legislature continued its efforts to improve the State's education system. Act 50 implemented the constitutional amendment ratified during the general election of 1964 to provide for an elected school board by establishing the Board of Education and the Board's membership qualifications, terms, composition, and duties; and creating district school advisory councils in each school board district. Act 32 adopted a Compact for Education to establish and maintain closer cooperation and understanding regarding the field of education on national, state, and local levels; provide and encourage local and state initiatives in the development, maintenance, improvement, and administration of better public education systems; provide a forum for the discussion and development of public policy alternatives in the field of education; and provide a national clearinghouse of information relating to education.

The Legislature addressed issues relating to the state highway system. Act 43 amended the State Highway Fund by clarifying that monies from the fund can be used to maintain the landscaping and rest, recreational, sanitary, and other facilities that are located outside of the right-of-way boundaries of federal-aid highways within the State. Act 45

# 1965 - 1966

amended the law to regulate outdoor advertising signs along federal-aid highways to ensure compliance with the federal Beautification Act of 1965. The Junkyard Control Act regulated and restricted the establishment, operation, and maintenance of junkyards in areas adjacent to federal-aid or state highways in the State.



The Dole Pineapple stand near Wahiawa. January 8, 1965. (Terry Luke)

The Legislature also passed Act 10, which imposed a conveyance tax and would serve as a means to acquire basic information on the market value of real property in the State. The Legislature considered this type of information key to achieving uniformity in real property tax assessments. The Legislature also recognized that the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955 required an extensive overhaul and authorized the Revisor of Statutes to prepare a new revision of the statutes and created an advisory committee to assist the Revisor of Statutes in establishing a basic plan for the revisions. During this session the Senate confirmed William S. Richardson as Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.



KAZUHISA ABE President



TOSHIO ANSAI



Majority Leader



NELSON K. DOI Majority Floor Leader



JOHN G. DUARTE



Assistant Majority Floor Leader



WILLIAM E. FERNANDES Assistant Majority Leader



JAMES F. FLEMING



YASUTAKA FUKUSHIMA Assistant Minority Floor Leader



WILLIAM H. HILL Minority Leader



JOHN J. HULTEN



ANNA F. KAHANAMOKU



MITSUYUKI KIDO



BERNARD G. KINNEY



BENJAMIN MENOR



NOBORU MIYATAKE Assistant Minority Leader



HEBDEN PORTEUS Minority Floor Leader



TAYLOR A. PRYOR



CLINTON I. SHIRAISHI



SAKAE TAKAHASHI Vice President





JOHN T. USHIJIMA







SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



JAMES BACON Assistant Clerk



TOKUICHI TAKUSHI Sergeant-At-Arms

## On February 15, 1967, the Fourth

Legislature convened the General Session of 1967, for a 62-day session, which was also the final Legislative Session to be held in Tolani Palace. After days of floor discussion and voting, the Senate elected Senator John J. Hulten of the third senatorial district as Senate President. As a result, the Senate was not able to organize itself until the eighth day of session, thus delaying the adoption of Senate rules, introduction of Senate bills, and convening of Senate committee hearings.

During this session, the Legislature passed numerous measures aimed at improving existing laws relating to workers' compensation, public employment, taxation, and consumer protection. The Legislature also passed a variety of prevention measures. Act 22 prevented discriminatory employment practices and Act 193 prevented discrimination in real property transactions. To prevent deaths or injuries of individuals and damage to property as a result of highway traffic accidents, the Legislature passed the Hawaii Highway Safety Act. In addition, Act 261 established mandatory reporting of child abuse in

order to protect minors whose health and welfare were adversely affected by abuse or neglect.

The Legislature also dealt with matters concerning the legislative branch or legislative matters. Act 263 established standards of conduct for the guidance of state legislators and employees and established a state ethics commission to provide advisory opinions and a hearings process. Act 306 established the Office of the Ombudsman. The Legislature also authorized the Revisor of Statutes to prepare a new revision of the Hawai'i statutes pursuant to Act 29, to be known as the "Hawaii Revised Statutes". Lastly, Act 222 established the procedures for a constitutional convention and the election of delegates, and appropriated funds for temporary professional staff for and nonpartial advertising and media coverage constitutional convention.

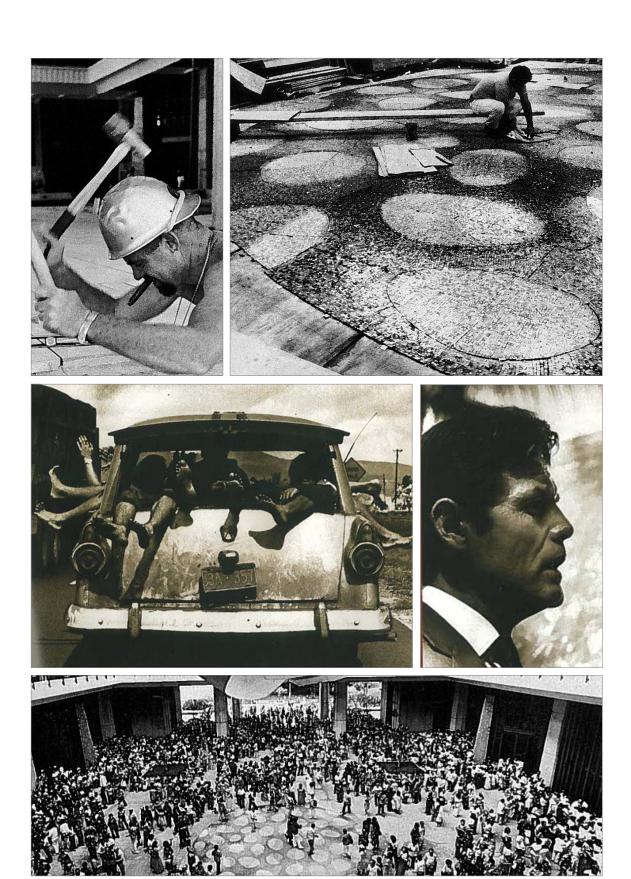
Of particular note, the Legislature passed the Land Reform Act to address landownership issues. More than three-fourths of all privately held lands in the State were owned by a few trusts, estates, and private persons who generally engaged in the practice of leasing, rather than selling in fee simple,

## 1967 - 1968

the residential lots developed on their land. Moreover, much of these lands were in the rapidly developing urban areas of Oʻahu, where the need for single-family residential lots was critical. This situation caused a serious shortage of residential fee simple property at reasonable prices in the State's urban areas and deprived residents of the choice to own, or execute leases on, the land on which their homes were situated. The Land Reform Act provided a means by which the lessees of residential household lots may become vested with the fee simple title to their lots and authorized the State, in some cases, to condemn private residential land and sell it to lessees. Under the Land Reform Act, more than 14,600 families were able to buy the land under their single-family homes. Also, in line with providing more housing opportunities, the Omnibus Housing Act of 1967 used a variety of government subsidy incentives to encourage private developers to develop housing units for low- and moderate-income families.

The Legislature also carried out the State's responsibility to foster culture and the arts by establishing the Art in Public Places program. This program set aside a portion of capital improvement appropriations for the acquisition of works of art to be used for state buildings and authorized the Comptroller and State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to select, commission, review, execute, place, and accept works of art.

Additionally, the Legislature established a comprehensive historic preservation and restoration program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to preserve and restore historic areas, buildings, structures, objects, and sites. Act 301 established *Hawai'i Pono'i* as the official state song.



Top left and right: Construction of the State Capitol courtyard. (Charles Okamura) Middle left: Beating the heat by sticking their feet out the windows of an old station wagon. August 15, 1967. (Bob Young) Middle right: *Hawai\*i Five-0* star, Jack Lord. December 20, 1968. (Warren R. Roll) Bottom: View of the completed Capitol. (Ron Jeff)

## The Legislature convened a historic budget session in that it was the Legislature's

first assembly in the new State Capitol building. On February 21, 1968, the first day of session, then Senate President John J. Hulten proclaimed the new State Capitol building "a true example of Hawai"i. The new

State Capitol building is an indication of the growth, the strength and the beauty of our state. It truly reflects the new Hawai'i we have all worked for and are all so proud to see come about".

Although the Vietnam War still cast a shadow over the State and country, Hawai'i enjoyed a prosperous year during an era of unprecedented economic growth. With the predicted arrival of the Boeing 747, the first jumbo jet, and increased airline activity to the islands, visitor arrivals were expected to double from four to eight million by 1975. Governor John A. Burns proclaimed in a Joint Session on February 23, 1968, that "future generations in Hawai'i will look back upon these times as the golden years in Pacific progress".

Despite a short, 31-day session, the Legislature managed to pass a few significant measures including measures awarding pay raises to blue collar workers,



# 1967 - 1968

reorganizing vocational education programs, and simplifying laws to develop state lands with private funds. The education and transportation sectors received significant funds for capital improvements. Notably, pay raises and tax relief measures, both contentious issues throughout the session, did not make it into the final budget.

While the House of Representative adjourned the 1968 Budget Session with two choruses of Aloha 'Oe, the Senate adjourned with an abrupt bang of the gavel interrupting Big Island Senator William H. Hill's successful filibuster to kill two measures he opposed: one filling the state ombudsman position, and one cancelling \$3.7 million in public works projects.

1968 also marked the State of Hawai's first Constitutional Convention. Held on July 15, 1968, the initial purpose of the convention was to correct problems with state legislative voting districts as required by the federal courts. The delegates addressed more than district reapportionment, however. The delegates proposed amendments that, among other things, authorized collective bargaining for public employees; lengthened the terms for justices; changed the state and county debt limits; and liberalized voter qualifications. Out of 23 proposed amendments, only one amendment was rejected by the electorate - an amendment lowering the voting age from 20 to 18 years of age. The voting age was subsequently lowered after the adoption of the 26th amendment to the United State Constitution in 1971 that lowered the voting age to 18.



JOHN J. HULTEN President



D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



TOSHIO ANSAI Assistant Minority Floor Leader



GEORGE ARIYOSHI



DONALD D. H. CHING Assistant Majority Leader





NELSON K. DOI



WEBLEY EDWARDS



WILLIAM E. **FERNANDES** Assistant Majority



EUREKA B. FORBES



S. GEORGE FUKUOKA



WALTER M. HEEN Majority Floor Leader



WILLIAM H. HILL Assistant Minority Leader



DUKE KAWASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



LARRY N. KURIYAMA Assistant Majority Leader



JOHN C. LANHAM



DAVID C. McCLUNG Majority Leader



PERCY K. MIRIKITANI



HEBDEN PORTEUS Minority Leader



FREDERICK W. ROHLFING Assistant Minority Leader



SAKAE TAKAHASHI Vice President



JOHN T. USHIJIMA



VINCENT H. YANO



WADSWORTH YEE





SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



JAMES BACON Assistant Clerk



HARVEY KIMURA Sergeant-At-Arms

\*The Governor appointed Mamoru Yamasaki to the Senate on January 29, 1968 to succeed S. George Fukuoka from the 2nd Senatorial District.

## The convening of the Fifth

Legislature during the Regular Session of 1969 marked 10 years of statehood. Despite the State's fledgling age, however, the legislators worked expeditiously to pass a number of significant measures.

The most contentious issues during the 1969 Regular Session revolved around government worker pay raises, a state government operating budget, and a public works program. Since both houses could not reach consensus on these issues, the session was extended five times and totaled 66 days. As consensus neared defeat, a seven-legislator subcommittee was created and met around the clock to develop a satisfactory budget that would be enrolled to the Governor. The committee comprised Senators Nadao Yoshinaga, Mamoru Yamasaki, and D.G. "Andy" Anderson.

In the end, the Legislature passed a \$295.2 million operating budget with a heavy emphasis on education, social services, and consumerism and labor. Despite the intense debates over pay raises, state and county government workers received significant raises. State and county government white collar workers and University of Hawai'i professors received a 20-percent pay increase; public education teachers received an increase of \$1,700-1,900 annually; and senior blue collar workers received a five-percent increase.

Effective July 1, 1970, the Governor's salary was raised to \$42,000 a year.

One of the most significant social welfare measures that passed the Legislature this year was Act 148, which established the Hawaii Temporary

## 1969 - 1970



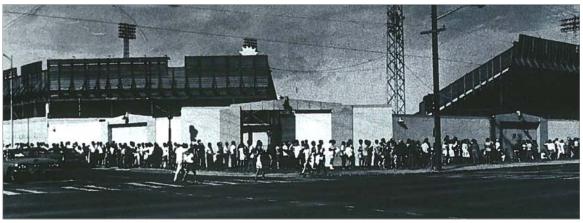
#### **BEER CAN HAT**

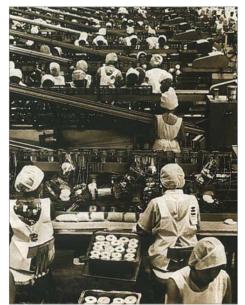
Crochet Primo beer hat.

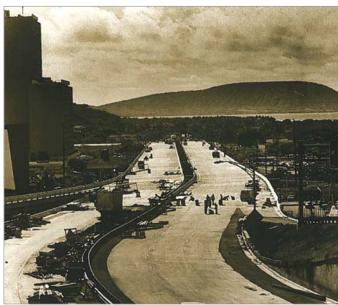
Disability Insurance program, or TDI. This landmark legislation provided income protection for nonoccupational sickness or injury. Specifically, under this program, injured workers unable to report to work would receive 55 percent of their salary for up to 26 weeks. The Legislature also raised the state minimum wage in two steps from \$1.25 to \$1.60 an hour by 1970.

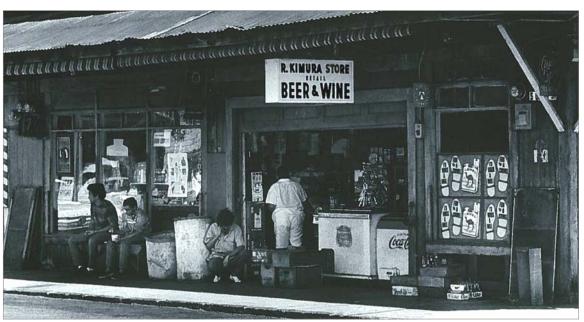
Picking up the unfinished business of installing a state ombudsman, the Legislature appropriated funds for the ombudsman, and Herman S. Doi, then Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, became the nation's first state ombudsman.

In a significant victory for consumer protection advocates, the Legislature created a permanent consumer protection office and passed a number of measures to deter fraudulent and deceptive consumer practices.









Top: Honolulu Stadium. August 26, 1970. (Albert Yamauchi) Middle left: Cannery workers. July 25, 1969. (Bob Young) Middle right: Construction of Waialae Overpass. June 5, 1969. (Warren R. Roll) Bottom: The old face of Kakaʻako is reflected in a family store on Queen Street. March 10, 1970. (Warren R. Roll)

#### "In all, the 1970 session was a success" reported the Honolulu Star-Bulletin on Saturday,

May 16, 1970. The 1970 Regular Session marked the first biennium without a Budget Session and closed on the 70th day, nearly a month after the initial closing date of session. Senate President David C. McClung characterized the session as a "strong beginning" for housing and the environment, including oceanographic research. The most historic measure of the session, however, involved abortion.

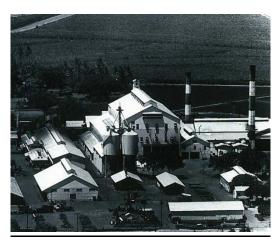
Spearheaded by Senator Vincent Yano, Act 1 was the first law in the country to legalize abortion. In considering the groundbreaking measure, the Committee on Conference concluded that "no group has the right to impose its moral code or standards on the rest of society which should be allowed individual choice-a precious right in our present democratic and pluralistic society." After significant debate on the floor, the measure passed the Senate on final reading with 15 ayes and nine noes. Then Governor John A. Burns declined to sign the measure but it became law on March 11, 1970, without the Governor's signature pursuant to article III, section 17, of the State Constitution. Act 1 instigated a national trend to legalize abortion, culminating with the United States Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade, which established a constitutional right to abortion.

As the Senate President noted, the 1970 Regular Session also became a significant year for legislation relating to the environment and the housing crisis. Act 132 created the Office of Environmental Quality Control under the Governor's Office and an environmental center within the University of Hawai'i to stimulate, expand, and coordinate education, research, and service efforts related to the environment. Other measures enacted to support the environment included tax deductions for pollution control devices, shoreline setback areas limiting construction along the shoreline, and a statewide Natural Area Reserves System to preserve in perpetuity undeveloped land and water areas.

# 1969 - 1970

In hopes of developing potential resources in the Pacific Ocean, the Legislature also established a Marine Affairs Coordinator position under the Governor's Office to develop Hawaiʿi's marine resources and provided funding for several pilot programs that would assist in the development of marine activities.

Revitalizing the previous year's attempt to address the impending housing crisis, the Legislature passed a large omnibus housing bill funded with \$90 million in bonds. This law authorized the State to build more houses and created the potential for the Hawaii Housing Authority to become a large-scale home development and financing agency. Among other housing programs, the Legislature created a tax credit for low-income household renters and authorized the counties to designate land for the development of experimental and demonstration housing projects.



#### **PLANTATION**

Ewa Sugar Mill. June 28, 1970. (Warren R. Roll)



DAVID C. McCLUNG President



D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



TOSHIO ANSAI Assistant Minority Floor Leader



GEORGE ARIYOSHI Majority Floor Leader



KENNETH F. BROWN



DONALD D. H. CHING Majority Leader



JAMES K. CLAR



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EUREKA B. FORBES



STANLEY I. HARA



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JOHN J. HULTEN



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JOHN C. LANHAM Assistant Majority Leader



PERCY K. MIRIKITANI



DONALD S. NISHIMURA



HEBDEN PORTEUS Minority Leader



FREDERICK W. ROHLFING Minority Policy Leader



SAKAE TAKAHASHI Vice President



JOHN T. USHIJIMA



MAMORU YAMASAKI



VINCENT H. YANO



WADSWORTH YEE



NADAO YOSHINAGA



Clerk



GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



HARVEY KIMURA Sergeant-At-Arms

## Due to the financial instability on

the mainland, the Sixth Legislature began with a note of fiscal caution. In addition to the economy, Hawai'i's growing population and industrial expansion caused growing concerns over the environment, crime, housing, and traffic. In the end, however, the media heavily criticized the 1971 Regular Session as one of little substance. In response to media attacks, Senate President David C. McClung vigorously defended the legislators' work and criticized the media for ignoring many significant but less eye-catching measures that passed the Legislature.

The 1971 Regular Session proved to be a banner year for higher education and other appropriations. Significantly, Act 80 and Act 146 appropriated money to the University of Hawaii to establish a school of medicine and a school of law, respectively. The Legislature enacted Act 163, which established an ethnic studies program to develop a centralized repository of data on every major ethnic group in the State for the maintenance of cultural studies, art, and artifacts. Among other activities, this program is responsible

for recording Hawai's social and cultural history through oral or written communications with local Hawaiians and experts. The Legislature also authorized the University of Hawai'i to develop a second O'ahu campus.

In other significant appropriations, the Legislature provided funding for a \$27 million, 50,000 seat stadium, which would later become Aloha Stadium, and established a Stadium Authority and special fund. The Legislature also authorized a significant public works program to revitalize the blighted Waikiki area with a combination of state, city, and private funds. In addition, the Legislature made significant appropriations to support Hawaii's Planned Parenthood programs.

In addressing the increasing traffic congestion, the Legislature passed a new statewide traffic code. Auto insurance reform, tighter anti-pollution measures, and a new criminal code, measures which received significant attention throughout session, failed to pass and were left for future sessions.

## 1971 - 1972

The Legislature also passed Act 108, creating an Organized Crime Unit within the Attorney General's office to support efforts to fight organized crime. In a shocking turn of events, Senator Larry N. Kuriyama had been assassinated in his driveway on October 23, 1970. His Senate Floor seat remained empty throughout the 1971 Regular Session, and his murder remained a mystery until underworld hitman Ronald Ching was convicted for the assassination in 1985.



## PAU HANA









Top left and right: Kalama Valley demonstration. May 1971. (Warren R. Roll and Terry Luke) Center: Leonard's Bakery workers filling a huge order of malasadas the day before Ash Wednesday. February 22, 1971. (Albert Yamauchi) Below: Manapua wagon. February 8, 1971. (Honolulu Star-Bulletin photo)

The Regular Session of 1972 marked another year of fiscal conservatism and restraint. The economy leveled off, as predicted, and the State's tax revenues were declining, exacerbated by increasing wage demands by teachers and other state workers. "The lack of money is going to be one of the primary and frustrating problems facing legislators" predicted Senate President David C. McClung in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin on January 17, 1972.

Making the most of a lean year, the Legislature passed significant measures modernizing and updating outdated laws. The most hotly debated of these measures was a new penal code to replace the century-old penal code on the books. Senator John T. Ushijima, Chairman of the Committee on Conference, spearheaded the passage of the new penal code, which had been 10 years in the making and was the product of a well-informed Committee on Penal Law Revision of the Judicial Council of Hawaii established by the Legislature in 1966. Opposition to the new penal code centered primarily on the legalization of social gambling and the loosening of laws relating to sexual offenses and marijuana possession. Despite concerns, the new law passed the Senate with 16 ayes and nine noes and went into effect on January 1, 1973.

In other accomplishments, the Legislature joined the nationwide trend in lowering the age of majority from 20 to 18. In an attempt to temper bitter court divorce proceedings, the Legislature also passed legislation authorizing no-fault divorce. In efforts to safeguard former sugar plantations from urban development, the Legislature authorized state acquisition of private property for agricultural purposes, including agricultural parks. No-fault auto insurance, a hotly debated topic during the session, failed to pass once again.

# 1971 - 1972

1972 proved to be a critical year for women's rights nationally and at the state level. Congress enacted Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, ensuring equal opportunity for women in education. This historic legislation was later renamed for its coauthor, Hawai'i Congresswoman Patsy Mink. Congress also proposed the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution to ban discrimination based on sex. The historic proposed amendment was sent to the states for ratification on March 27, and on the same day Hawai'i became the first state in the country to ratify the proposed 27th Amendment. During the regular session, the Hawai'i State Legislature also passed an amendment to the Hawai'i Constitution entitling women to equal rights under the law. Unfortunately, the Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by only 35 states by the deadline and fell short of the three-fourths approval needed. However, Hawai'i voters did ratify the state constitution amendment on November 7, 1972. The Legislature also passed Act 63 clarifying that an employer may not discriminate based on sex "in any way in the payment of wages."



Jesse Kuhaulua, known as Takamiyama, is the first non-Asian to win a sumo tournament in Nagoya, Japan. 1972 (Albert Yamauchi)



DAVID C. McCLUNG President





D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



KENNETH F. BROWN Assistant Majority Floor Leader



DONALD D. H. CHING Majority Leader



**EUREKA B. FORBES** 



STANLEY I. HARA



RICHARD HENDERSON



JOHN J. HULTEN



DUKE T. KAWASAKI Assistant Majority Leader



TENNYSON LUM



GEORGE H. MILLS



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DONALD S. NISHIMURA



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Majority Floor Leader



SAKAE TAKAHASHI



HENRY TAKITANI



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU Assistant Majority Leader



JOHN T. USHIJIMA Vice President



FRANCIS A. WONG



MAMORU YAMASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



WADSWORTH YEE Minority Leader



NADAO YOSHINAGA



SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



Sergeant-At-Arms

\*Joseph T. Kuroda won a special election to the Senate on October 2, 1971 to fill the vacancy created by Larry Kuriyama from the 4th Senatorial District.

# The 1973 Regular Session began with increasing anxiety over the State's worsening economy. The latest estimates predicted the State's deficit to reach at least \$200 million by the end of fiscal year 1975. National events also affected the Legislature. Two days prior to the beginning of the session, President Nixon ordered a cease-fire in North Vietnam and the following week, former President Lyndon B. Johnson died. The Seventh Legislature took a working day recess to mourn the former president and the Governor's State-of-the-State address was postponed so the

Due to the struggling economy, a \$1.93 billion budget passed the Senate by a 15-10 margin. Because the budget failed to garner a two-thirds vote, however, \$168 million in bonds could not be sold to fund public works projects including construction on the reef runway; H-1, H-2, and H-3 freeways; and various other park and school projects.

Governor could attend the funeral.

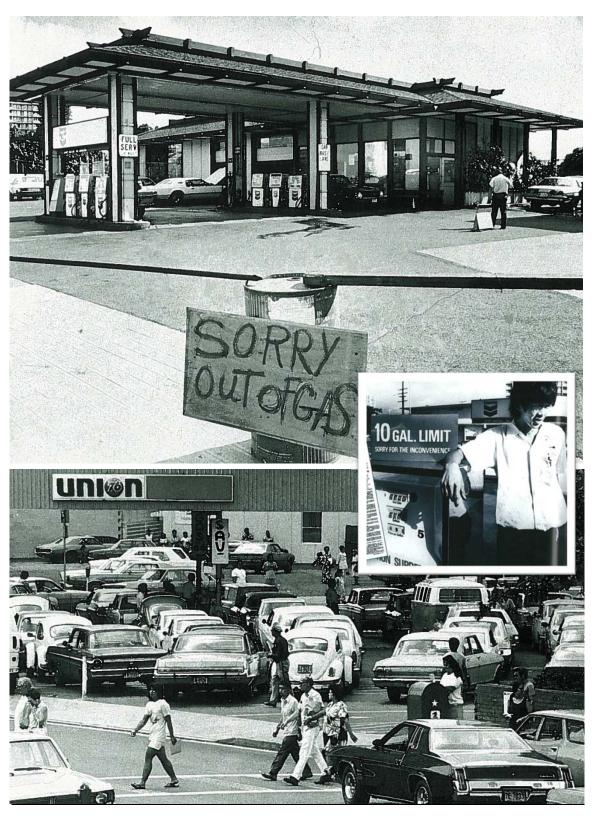
While the Senate attempted to pass a tax increase to fund \$123 million of the budget on what was intended to be Sine Die, Senate Republican Leader Wadsworth Yee launched a filibuster after informing Senators that he would be speaking until the legislative clock ran out to defeat the tax measure. After two and a half hours of filibustering by Senator Yee, the Governor extended the session for three hours past midnight. The tax bill passed the Senate only to fail passage in the House in the last hour.

Despite the dramatic end to the session, a host of notable measures were enrolled to the Governor. The most significant of these measures included comprehensive campaign financing reforms which were lauded by the media. In addition, after years of debate, a modified no-fault auto insurance bill finally passed. The law was based on the Uniform Motor Vehicle Accident Reparations Act draft and permitted tort actions under certain circumstances.

# 1973 - 1974

In other accomplishments, the Legislature passed measures tightening and clarifying the controversial social gambling law; banning corporal punishment in schools; and creating a statewide planning and systems development program to coordinate the planning and delivery of child development services for children up to 12 years old. The Legislature also passed a bill furthering the Hawaii Correctional Master Plan in an effort to reform Hawaii's prison system. Among other things, this bill transferred control of jails from the counties to the State.

In October of 1973, members of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries proclaimed an oil embargo on the United States in retaliation for American assistance of Israel in the Yom Kippur War. The oil embargo precipitated a grave energy crisis in the nation and in Hawaii.



**GAS SHORTAGE** 

Hawai'i became the first state to ration gasoline due to the energy crisis. Cars with even numbered license plate filled their gas tanks on even numbered days, and odd numbered licenses plates were allowed to purchase fuel on odd numbered days. 1974. (Roy Ito, David Yamada, and Ron Edmonds)

## Senate President David C.

McClung best summed up the sources of anxiety surrounding the Regular Session of 1974 in his Opening Day speech on January 16, 1974: "The long lines at service stations, the confusion in the minds of our people, the doubts and fears concerning our fiscal future, the spectre of unemployment, the shrinking value of the dollar, the erosion of faith in elected officials in the wake of Watergate . . . " All of these factors coalesced to create a somber mood throughout the Capitol. To increase uncertainty, all 76 legislators faced an election in the following nine months, and Governor John A. Burns was incapacitated due to cancer, leaving leadership of the State to acting Governor George R. Ariyoshi.

To address the energy crisis, the Legislature quickly passed a bill granting the Governor the power to ration gasoline and buy petroleum products should a state of emergency be declared. A number of other measures were subsequently enacted concerning the distribution of fuel within the State.

The Legislature's proudest achievement in the 1974 session was the passage of landmark labor and health care legislation. Act 210, the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act, made Hawaii the only state in the nation with virtually universal prepaid health insurance for its employees. The Legislature also increased the minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$2.40 an hour, among the highest in the nation. A high-profile bill concerning lobbyist registration died at the last minute keeping Hawaii as the only state in the nation without a lobbyist registration law at the time.

The summer of 1974 marked the first time since Statehood that legislators called themselves into special session to address a gubernatorial veto. The special session was limited to consideration for overriding the veto of one bill, H.B. 2428, a welfare aid bill meant to tighten up eligibility requirements for payments to healthy, unemployed adults. According to acting Governor Ariyoshi's veto message, due to technical errors in the bill, the bill would loosen eligibility requirements for welfare applicants and cost the state \$2.2 million.

# 1973 - 1974



Puka shell necklaces, often worn by surfers, caught on and were a big fad in the 70s.

The Legislature redrafted the bill to address the acting Governor's concerns and anticipated savings of \$1.4 million over the next fiscal year.

1974 signaled major changes in state government. Governor Burns would leave his office along with Senate President McClung, who entered the gubernatorial race after six years of Senate leadership. Senator Nadao Yoshinaga announced his retirement after 20 years in the Territorial and State Legislatures, as did Representative Hiroshi Kato, who had been a member of the Legislature since 1959.



DAVID C. McCLUNG President





D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



KENNETH F. BROWN Assistant Majority Floor Leader



DONALD D. H. CHING Majority Leader



EUREKA B. FORBES



STANLEY I. HARA



RICHARD HENDERSON



JOHN J. HULTEN



DUKE T. KAWASAKI Assistant Majority Leader



JOSEPH T. KURODA



TENNYSON LUM



GEOGE H. MILLS



PERCY K. MIRIKITANI



DONALD S. NISHIMURA



FREDERICK W. ROHLFING Minority Policy Leader



ROBERT S. TAIRA Majority Floor Leader



SAKAE TAKAHASHI



HENRY TAKITANI



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU Assistant Majority Leader



JOHN T. USHIJIMA Vice President



FRANCIS A. WONG



MAMORU YAMASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



WADSWORTH YEE Minority Leader





SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



HARVEY KIMURA Sergeant-At-Arms

The 1975 Regular Session brought

a host of fresh faces and new leadership into the Legislature. As a result of recent elections, the Senate welcomed nine new members, many of whom came from the House of Representatives, and the Democratic majority exceeding two-thirds of the Senate membership (18 to 7). The House welcomed 22 new members and retained a Democratic majority of 35 to 16. Democrats chose John T. Ushijima of the Big Island, formerly the Senate Vice President, to be the new Senate President. The State also welcomed a new administration with the election of Governor George Ariyoshi, the former Lieutenant Governor. While economists were cautiously optimistic about the economy, the Department of Budget and Finance predicted a state surplus of almost \$35 million by the end of the 1976 fiscal year.

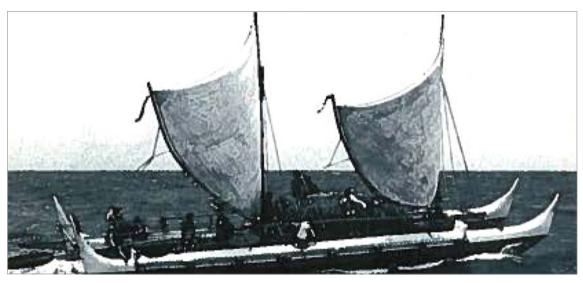
A major theme during elections was the need for more openness in government. In a move exhibiting the Eighth Legislature's commitment to openness, committee conferences were opened to the public for the first time. In the same spirit, the Legislature passed Act 166 creating an open meetings and records law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. The Legislature also finally passed a lobbyist registration bill, which had stalled in the previous session.

The Legislature also made significant progress in land reform. Act 193 significantly amended the State's Land Use Commission law which proved untenable due to the Land Use Commission's difficulty in making decisions under the existing law. The new legislation created a quasi-judicial body and mandated impartial decisions based on proven facts and established policies. Legislature also addressed leasehold reforms. By 1973, 32 percent of all owner-occupied housing was in leasehold, more than double the percentage in 1960, creating undesirable economic and social effects on homeowners. Acts 184 and 185 reformed the residential leasehold law to make it easier for homeowners on leasehold lands to purchase lands and to also limit rent hikes on

## 1975 - 1976

leased lands. In an effort to preserve, protect, and restore natural coastlines, Act 176 created a 100-yard shoreline protection plan. Act 189 created a Policy Planning Council to draft a State General Plan of state policies and programs relating to land development and the development of natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other resources within the State.

The Legislature passed a \$1.4 billion operating budget for the 1975-1977 fiscal biennium. The Legislature approved \$71 million in pay raises for more than 26,000 government employees, including cabinet members and the Judiciary. A significant amount of funds were appropriated to rebuild prisons and other projects that were part of the State Correctional Master Plan. Finally, in a controversial move, the Legislature passed 150 percent pension increases for themselves by inserting a provision into a bill on the retirement system late on the last night of session. This tactic was not received well by a post-Watergate public who craved greater openness in government, and the Governor later vetoed the measure amidst public outcry.







The *Hokule* 'a, a double-hulled canoe, sailed to Tahiti in 1976. (Honolulu Star-Bulletin photo) Middle: Citizens hoping to stop H-3 from being built through Moanalua Valley amassed at the Capitol to voice their dissent. March 20, 1975. (Bob Young) Bottom: Aerial view of Aloha Stadium. June 30, 1975. (Warren R. Roll)

#### Following the 1973 Oil

Embargo, rising oil prices prompted a recession in the U.S. and historically high unemployment rates in Hawai'i nearing 10 percent. To alleviate financial hardships caused by the recession, the Eighth Legislature passed several measures to assist Hawai'i's economy. The Legislature earmarked several million dollars for cash-financed capital improvements to provide an important stimulus to Hawai'i's economy. Additionally, the Legislature approved \$15 million for an accelerated public works repair and maintenance program to further boost the State's economy.

The resulting comprehensive capital improvements program created jobs for thousands of unemployed and underemployed construction workers. Taking another important step toward economic recovery, the Legislature approved a \$250,000 grant for the University of Hawai'i to perform labor-related studies and propose solutions to address the serious unemployment situation throughout the State.

Because unemployment benefits had drastically increased following 1973, the unemployment compensation trust fund was depleted by 1976, causing the State to borrow \$22.5 million from the federal government to continue paying out unemployment insurance benefits. The Legislature recognized the need to halt abuses in the unemployment system and increase employer contributions into the fund.

Legislators approved a major reform bill that authorized the State to withhold jobless benefits from certain individuals who were fired or suspended for misconduct, or who quit their jobs voluntarily; increased eligibility requirements; and stiffened the penalty for fraud. The Legislature also increased the amount employers pay into the unemployment compensation trust fund from 3 to 3.5 percent, generating approximately \$69 million for the following calendar year.

Recognizing that the population of kupuna had grown and would continue to grow, the

## 1975 - 1976

Legislature established a special fund to provide more housing options for the elderly. According to Senate President John T. Ushijima, Hawai'i's elderly population should be able to "enjoy their twilight years in greater comfort." The Legislature also lowered the eligibility age for providing housing assistance to the elderly from 65 to 62 years old, while raising the limit of rent supplements allowed to the elderly.

In the area of housing, the Legislature passed a new law to provide financial assistance to homeowners who were unable to obtain conventional financing to upgrade their homes. This new law authorized the Hawaii Housing Authority to create low-interest state loans for renovation projects and allowed the Hawaii Housing Authority to offer technical and planning assistance to homeowners.

Finally, legislators passed a measure to allow voters in the 1976 general election to decide whether to convene a constitutional convention in 1978.



Hari Kojima at Tamashiro Market. August 25, 1976. (John Titchen)



JOHN T. USHIJIMA President



D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



DONALD D. H. CHING Majority Leader



Assistant Majority Leader



MARY GEORGE



Assistant Majority Leader



RICHARD HENDERSON



JOHN J. HULTEN Assistant Majority Floor Leader



DUKE T. KAWASAK Vice President



JEAN S. KING



JOSEPH T. KURODA



JOHN LEOPOLI



DONALD S. NISHIMURA



DENNIS O'CONNOR Assistant Majority Floor Leader



FREDERICK W. ROHLFING Minority Policy Leader



PATRICIA SAIKI



ROBERT S. TAIRA Majority Floor Leader



HENRY TAKITANI



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU Assistant Majority Leader



FRANCIS A. WONG Majority Policy Leader



RICHARD S. H. WONG



MAMORU YAMASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



Minority Leader



T. C. YIM



PATSY K. YOUNG



SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



HARVEY KIMURA Sergeant-At-Arms

#### The Ninth Legislature confronted

many challenges arising from difficult economic times. At the beginning of the Regular Session, Governor George Ariyoshi stated, "our number one problem area as we begin 1977 is the economy, our heartbreakingly high unemployment rate and the lack of tax revenues to allow us to fund all the programs that . . . I would like to see come to fruition." Legislators knew that their main challenge would be passing laws to help stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment without raising taxes or imposing new taxes on Hawai'i's residents, who were already financially burdened.

The Regular Session of 1977 adjourned after three extensions with the Senate and House of Representatives still unable to agree on a budget. Two weeks later, the Legislature reconvened for a five-day special session to adopt a \$1.7 billion two-year operating budget, which included \$210 million for public works projects proposed by the Governor's office and another \$44 million added by legislators. The final budget agreement also

allotted \$20.4 million for state employee pay raises and \$12 million for the State's temporary job program. The budget was passed after both houses were able to compromise on budget provisos involving school-by-school budgeting and mandatory reporting by the Hawaii Medical Services Association regarding its management of the Medicaid program.

During this period of continuing high unemployment, legislators worked with leading business establishments and labor unions to create jobs for residents. Legislators emphasized tax incentives, loans, and other initiatives designed to encourage private industry to hire more people.

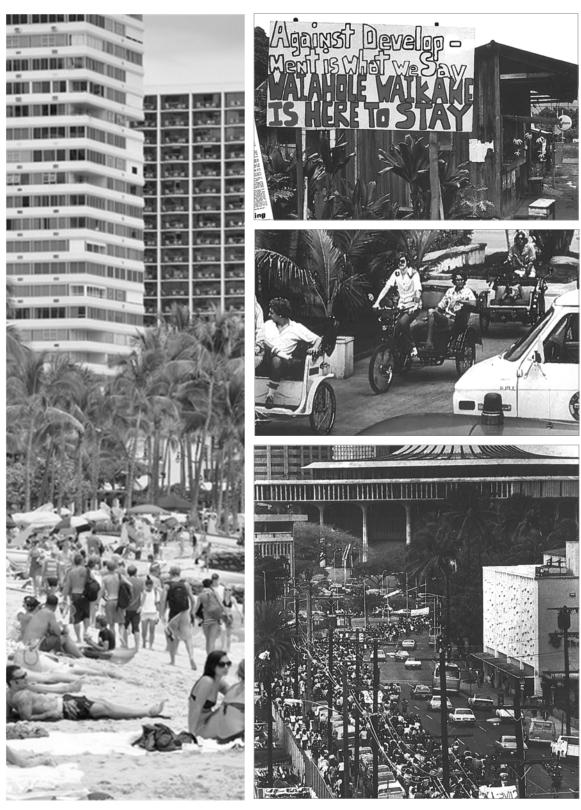
The Legislature also introduced tax credits for childcare expenses by allowing families to claim five percent of money spent on childcare, as well as money spent on the care of adult dependents who are unable to care for themselves due to a mental or physical disability. Additionally, legislators enacted a new law permitting tax credits for rent paid by low- and middle-income tenants.

# 1977 - 1978

The Legislature also recognized Hawai's rich history of aquaculture, the cultivation and farming of aquatic animals and plants in controlled environments. Legislators helped Hawai's aquaculture businesses by expanding the State's aquaculture loan program and devoting \$810,000 to promote Hawai's unique aquaculture industry.



The first Ironman Triathlon was held on February 18, 1978, in Honolulu, Hawaiʻi.



Left: Waikiki Beach is jammed as tourist and residents enjoy the July Fourth holiday. July 4, 1978. (John Titchen) Top right: Waiahole protest. August 23, 1978. (Bob Young) Middle right: Pedicabs. May 19, 1978. (Warren R. Roll) Bottom right: More than two thousand demonstrators march from Manoa to join two thousand more demonstrators at the Capitol to protest planned cuts in the University of Hawai'i budget. March 4, 1977. (Warren R. Roll)

During the 1970s, the Hawaiian renaissance steadily grew to encompass a rebirth of old traditions, Hawaiian languages, and cultural practices that had nearly been eradicated by colonialism. Sparked by the Hawaiian renaissance, the majority of voters cast their ballots calling for a Constitutional Convention in 1978. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention worked to establish equality for all Hawaiians through constitutional amendments and created opportunities for indigenous Hawaiians to become more involved in the political system. This moment became a crucial turning point for the State that led to economic, social, and cultural reforms.

The Constitutional Convention established term limits for state office holders, provided a requirement for a balanced budget, and created the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to right some of the wrongs suffered by Native Hawaiians following the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaiii in 1893. The Constitutional Convention laid the groundwork for the return of federal land to the people of Hawaiii, including the island of Kahoʻolawe. Hawaiian leaders also designated

prime agricultural lands, implemented new rules regarding the preservation of Hawaiian lands, and set fishing regulations.

Notably, the Constitutional Convention adopted the Hawaiian language as an official state language, along with English, for the first time since the Kingdom's overthrow. Additionally, the Constitutional Convention created an ambitious project to preserve the Hawaiian culture, including the adoption of Hawaiian names and diacritical marks for official use.

Hawaiian activist, historian, and author, George S. Kanahele, remarked on the historical significance of the 1978 Constitutional Convention: "[It] has reversed years of cultural decline; it has created a new kind of Hawaiian consciousness; it inspired greater pride in being Hawaiian; it has led to bold and imaginative ways of reasserting our identity; it has led to a new political awareness and it has had and will continue to have a positive impact on the economic and social uplifting of the Hawaiian community."

#### 1977 - 1978

Much of the legislation passed by the Ninth Legislature during the 1978 Regular Session fine-tuned Hawai'i's laws. Some of these measures were far-reaching, like the modernization of Hawaii's Uniform Commercial Code. Legislators also made significant amendments to areas of the Hawai'i tax statutes, including income, general excise, inheritance, fuel, and vehicle weight taxes. In 1978, the Legislature accomplished a massive updating of state income tax laws in conformance with the Federal Tax Code.

Turning its attention toward growing issues of crime and violence throughout the State, the Legislature reorganized and extended the Crime Commission to determine the extent of Hawai'i's crime problems and ways to control crime. The Legislature also passed new laws allowing judges to give extended sentences for serious crimes against the elderly or disabled persons.



JOHN T. USHIJIMA President



Minority Floor Leader



Majority Leader



Assistant Majority Leader



MARY GEORGE



Assistant Majority Leader



RICHARD HENDERSON



JOHN J. HULTEN Assistant Majority Floor Leader



DUKE T. KAWASAKI Vice President



JEAN S. KING



JOSEPH T. KURODA



JOHN LEOPOLD



DONALD S. NISHIMURA



DENNIS O'CONNOR Assistant Majority Floor Leader



PATRICIA SAIKI



W. BUDDY SOARES



ROBERT S. TAIRA Majority Floor Leader



HENRY TAKITANI



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU Assistant Majority Leader



FRANCIS A. WONG Majority Policy Leader



RICHARD S. H. WONG



MAMORU YAMASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



Minority Leader



T. C. YIM



PATSY K. YOUNG



SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



HARVEY KIMURA Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

The Tenth Legislature invested in the future of Hawai'i's children by supporting several programs under the Department of Education. Finding that the children who most need to attend summer school were not able to afford the tuition, the Legislature allotted funding for tuition waivers, allowing approximately 2,400 needy students to attend summer school for free. Legislators also increased funds for classroom supplies, equipment, and textbooks and for student activity coordinators to be placed in each of the 38 public schools.

All of Hawai'i's public schools benefitted from the Legislature's continued commitment to the school-by-school special needs program. Special education initiatives received crucial resources, including over 100 new positions for speech therapists, communication aides, and bus aides.

Continuing the momentum of anti-crime efforts, the Hawaii Crime Commission's activities for 1979 included proposed legislation, investigations, research reports, seminars, and community projects to address issues involving rape, court efficiency and quality, the court observer program, vandalism and violence in the public schools, church arson, and extortion. The Legislature passed several anti-crime bills, including a new statute on extortion and other activities where people are threatened to give up money under fear of physical violence. Specifically, the Legislature removed extortion from the theft statute, combined it with criminal coercion, and added a section on extortionate credit transactions. The Legislature also passed strict new laws to deter convicted felons from committing the same offense. Specifically, the new laws require the repeat offenders to be automatically sent back to jail for the commission of certain crimes. These new laws also led to the establishment of the Career Criminal Prosecution Program to support increased efforts by prosecutors' offices to prosecute career criminals.

## 1979 - 1980

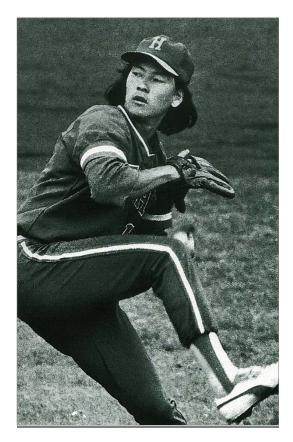




Left: Ordnance from Kahoʻolawe. Right: The big international cause of 1980: Free the Iran hostages.

Although a new budget ceiling proposed by the 1978 Constitutional Convention had been ratified, it was not supposed to take effect until almost two years later. However, the Legislature abided by that budget ceiling in crafting the 1979 biennium budget. The Legislature also established campaign spending limits, campaign contribution limits, and the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which was Hawaii's first public financing fund for partial public financing of state and county campaigns.

Hawai'i homeowners and consumers also benefitted from an approval for \$125 million of tax-exempt bonds to lower mortgage interest rates for "gap group" families and a law that allowed consumers to purchase less expensive generic drugs for brand-name medication unless otherwise directed by the prescribing doctor.



PERFECT PITCH

Derek Tatsuno was the first pitcher in collegiate baseball history to win twenty games in a season. 1979. (Ron Jeff)

#### The Regular Session of 1980

began with political uncertainty, some of which stemmed from residual issues from the previous session. In the Senate, President Dicky Wong and Senator Neil Abercrombie nearly exchanged blows in a majority caucus early in the session, and the majority members were beginning to operate much more independently. Although the environmental movement had gained momentum across the United States during the 1960s and 1970s, clashes between Senator T.C. Yim and Director of Planning and Economic Development Hideto Kono threatened Hawai'i's progress on energy and environmental issues. In the House, Speaker James Wakatsuki battled with several members over organization and management style while vying for a judicial appointment. Despite the political distractions, legislators were able to address important growth issues in the proposed functional plans on tourism, transportation, land, water, and energy. With respect to the budget and related bills, the Legislature provided funds for water resources, a general aviation airport, the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, development of the Aloha Tower, and land banking, which is the aggregating of land parcels for future sale or development.

Due to economic uncertainty and housing market conditions, developers, landowners, renters, and potential home buyers sought help from state lawmakers in 1980. In response, the Legislature put together a housing package that increased funding for rental housing projects to alleviate the shortage of rental units in the State. The Legislature also repealed usury lending ceilings for first mortgages to assist new homeowners and placed limits on condominium timesharing and speculation.

The Legislature passed several new laws relating to the criminal justice system. Specifically, legislators passed an updated and revised version of the Hawaii Rules of Evidence, which was a landmark piece of legislation that helped improve Hawai'i's legal system. In order to address the problem of young criminal offenders, the Legislature also enacted the Juvenile Justice Master Plan. The new law added numerous provisions for the entire juvenile justice system. Legislators made major revisions to the statutes relating to the youth correctional facility, while at the same time mandating construction of a new youth

#### 1979 - 1980

correctional facility to replace the existing inadequate facility. The Juvenile Justice Master Plan further required periodic review of the young people who were committed to the institution and established an improved, efficient parole program.

In spite of an apparent rocky relationship between Senator Yim and Director Kono, Hawai'i passed several energy measures to benefit the environment, including \$2 million of funding for alternative energy development. By allowing wind energy farms in agriculture districts, the Legislature showed its support of clean, sustainable energy. Additionally, the Legislature provided tax breaks for gasohol, a low ethanol blend fuel mixture for vehicles, which was useful for decreasing the Hawai'i's dependence on oil.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President





RALPH K. AJIFU



D. G. ANDERSON Minority Floor Leader



CHARLES CAMPBELL Majority Policy Leader



DANTE K. CARPENTER **Assistant Majority** Floor Leader





CAYETANO



Assistant Majority Leader



STEVE COBB



**Assistant Minority** Leader



STANLEY I. HARA



DUKE T. KAWASAKI Vice President



JOSEPH T. KURODA Majority Leader



NORMAN MIZUGUCHI Majority Floor Leader



DENNIS O'CONNOR



PATRICIA SAIKI



W. BUDDY SOARES Assistant Minority Floor Leader



HENRY TAKITANI



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU Assistant Majority Leader



JOHN T. USHIJIMA



MAMORU YAMASAKI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



WADSWORTH YEE Minority Leader



T. C. YIM



PATSY K. YOUNG Assistant Majority Floor Leader



SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

\*The Governor appointed Gerald K. Machida to the Senate on October 9, 1979 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Henry Takitani from the 2nd Senatorial District.

Three major issues dominated the Regular Session of 1981: the environment, financial health, and crime. On energy and environmental issues, the Eleventh Legislature created the Energy Division within the Department of Planning and Economic Development. To this day, the Hawai'i State Office pursues renewable energy transportation initiatives, progressive policies that lead to green jobs and investments in Hawai'i's economy. Legislature granted millions of dollars for water development and irrigation services, along with land acquisition and development of statewide parks and historic sites. The Legislature also granted the Department of Land and Natural Resources sweeping authority to draft rules governing fish, game, forestry, and conservation resources. Legislators tightened environmental law enforcement with more severe penalties for conservation area violations and imposed tougher restrictions on the taking of endangered wildlife species, including marine life taken from marine conservation areas.

On the federal level, President Ronald Reagan had planned to significantly cut funding for social welfare programs, transferring the financial burden to the states and counties. Fortunately, Hawai'i had a cushion of an estimated \$225 million tax surplus by the end of the fiscal year. The Legislature allotted approximately \$6 million to private social welfare groups including child abuse programs, youth shelters, spousal abuse shelters, older adult group homes, and alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers. The Legislature was able to use the tax surplus to also provide a comprehensive tax relief package for the people of Hawai'i. A new law allowed taxpayers to deduct \$100 for each family member from their state income taxes, thus returning about \$88.6 million in surplus funds to Hawai'i taxpayers. Legislators also doubled the child care tax credit from five to 10 percent and expanded renters' tax credits. In order to support low- to moderate-income home buyers, the Legislature allotted \$250 million for a state low-cost mortgage supplement program. To further stimulate the economy, Legislators provided tax incentive bills to private enterprises and granted commercial fishermen fuel tax breaks.

#### 1981 - 1982

During this period, several teenagers went on trial for the alleged rape of a Finnish dental student at Nanakuli Beach, with the defense arguing that the woman had been a willing participant. On March 13, 1981, the teenagers were acquitted, sparking public outcry for amendments to the rape law. Over 1,000 people staged a demonstration at the State Capitol with calls for justice and war against rape. The Legislature scrambled to find an appropriate vehicle and successfully enacted a law that amended the definition of "forcible compulsion" to delete physical or verbal resistance as a factor in proving rape and repeal the "prompt complaint" provision. In other anti-crime measures, the Legislature enacted stricter gun control laws, amended state laws defining pornography, and imposed heftier mandatory penalties for prostitution.

The Legislature established the "school priority fund," which allotted a portion of the overall state school budget to individual schools to spend in the best interests of the students. The law included an appropriation of \$1.7 million to help establish a new fund for each school based on enrollment and allowed principals and teachers to exercise more discretion over educational spending on programs and equipment.



HURRICANE IWA

Hurricane Iwa strikes in November 1982, devastating Kauaʻi. (David Yamada)

In addition to focusing on Hawai'i's schools, the Legislature worked diligently on the State's consumer issues. Of all the bills passed that year, approximately one-third went through the consumer protection committees of the House and the Senate. In 1982, the Legislature changed the name of the Department of Regulatory Agencies to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). The Legislature designated the DCCA as the chief repository for complaints about licensed and unlicensed New legislation further addressed activities. consumers' problems by helping to resolve lengthy delays in the resolution of consumer complaints and the uneven treatment of license applications.

Lawmakers strengthened Hawai'i's criminal laws by stiffening penalties, allowing judges to hand out consecutive sentences, tightening laws against child pornography, and establishing a new witness protection program. Legislators also amended laws pertaining to drunk driving, which



#### **CHECKERS AND POGO**

Hawai'i's best loved kids show that ran from 1967 to 1982.

## 1981 - 1982

was one of the State's most serious and tragic problems of the decade. The amended drunk driving statutes required a harsher combination of fines, imprisonment, community service, and rehabilitation treatment against violators. The new legislation also imposed sentences for DUI offenses without the possibility of probation or sentence suspension. The new laws against drunk driving sought to significantly reduce the injuries and loss of life caused by drunk drivers.

The Legislature also passed a comprehensive set of bills designed to assist and develop Hawai'i's agricultural sector. Strong legislative focus was placed on agriculture, especially diversified agriculture, and legislators remained hopeful that their actions would provide a real boost for the future of Hawai'i's agriculture industry. The Legislature approved assistance to Hawai'i's troubled sugar industry in the form of tax relief, funds for research, and loans for sugar growers. Despite the Legislature's efforts, the sugar industry continued to decline in the 1980s.

Although many private social service agencies lost millions in federal funding in 1982, the Legislature earmarked money to support Hawai'i's rehabilitation centers, sex abuse treatment centers, counseling for hearing impaired persons, vocational orientation programs, and living skills programs.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President



NEIL ABERCROMBIE



RALPH K. AJIFU



D. G. ANDERSON Republican Floor Leader



CHARLES CAMPBELL



DANTE K. CARPENTER



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO Majority Policy Leader



STEVE COBB Majority Floor Leader



MARY GEORGE



RICHARD HENDERSON



MILTON HOLT



DUKE T. KAWASAKI Vice President



ANN KOBAYASHI



JOSEPH T. KURODA Majority Leader



GERALD MACHIDA



NORMAN MIZUGUCHI



DENNIS O'CONNOR



Assistant Republican Leader



W. BUDDY SOARES Assistant Republican Floor Leader



GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU



JOHN T. USHIJIMA



CLIFFORD T. UWAINE



MAMORU YAMASAKI



WADSWORTH YEE Republican Leader



PATSY K. YOUNG



SEICHI HIRAI Clerk



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

The Twelfth Legislature established a commission under the Legislative Reference Bureau to perform land evaluation and site assessment of agricultural lands in Hawai'i. Important changes to the way land and real estate business is conducted in Hawai'i was passed in 1983, including new rules and regulations on licensing, land sales, the Landlord Tenant Code, and horizontal property regimes. One new law set an important standard by providing that realtors not only must be licensed for two years before taking the broker's exam, but also have practical experience as well, which could be shown with evidence of at least 10 real estate transactions.

In 1983, the Legislature devised an ambitious plan to entice high-technology industry companies to have a physical presence in Hawai'i. At the time, high technology covered a variety of new industries from electronics, including microchips, to genetic engineering. Legislators set up a high-tech development corporation and a think tank called the Pacific International Center for High

Technology Research (PICHTR). Today, PICHTR is still in operation and focuses on renewable energy, natural disaster management, agriculture, ocean technology, and economic opportunities in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region.

In response to geothermal developers' requests for permission to drill in conservation areas, Legislators passed a geothermal law to strike a balance between environmental protection and development. The new legislation mandated the Board of Land and Natural Resources to assess the State's geothermal resources, then establish geothermal zones throughout the State, including conservation areas. However, the new laws also required public hearings in all districts, not only conservation districts, before drilling would be permitted.

Spiraling workers' compensation insurance costs were at the top of the Legislature's agenda in 1983. Spurred by the announcement in January of an

#### 1983 - 1984

average insurance premium of 29 percent, more than 80 bills on the subject were introduced this session. Lawmakers took action by enacting a new law placing a one-year moratorium on workers' compensation insurance premium rates and requiring further studies on this issue.

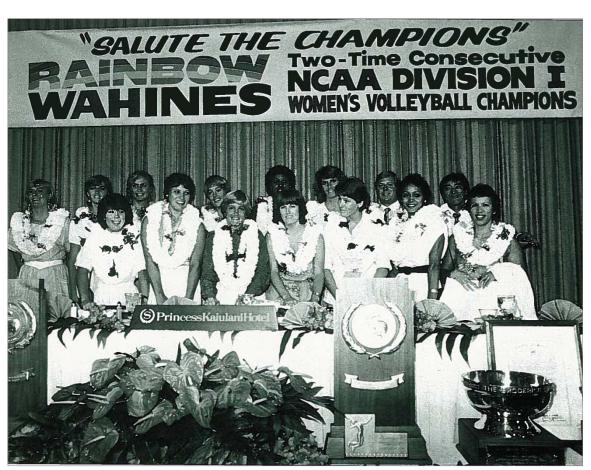
The Twelfth Legislature also passed a bill to protect keiki, mandating that motorists strap all children two years and younger into approved car seats. The Legislature also passed a law allowing automobiles to have tinted windows to prevent sun glare.



Left: Anglers fish for halalu off Magic Island. March 22, 1983. (Ken Sakamoto)



Right: Masters finals. June 12, 1983. (Dennis Oda)







#### **EVENTS OF THE 80'S**

Top: Rainbow Wahine volleyball squad, first University of Hawai'i team of any kind to win a national title, and they do it two years back to back: 1982-1983. (Gregory Yamamoto) Bottom Left: Old Haleiwa Theater, built in 1931, was demolished in 1983. Bottom Right: Del Monte closes pineapple cannery on O'ahu and lays off half of Moloka'i field employees.

As Hawai'i celebrated its 25th anniversary of statehood, the Legislature continued to face challenges derived from a steadily growing local and visitor population and aimed to set a clear vision for the development of the State. Two obstacles impeded the work of the Twelfth Legislature: a shortage of money to spend and the fact that many key issues, including tax structure, water rights, agricultural land use, criminal code, workers' compensation, and collective bargaining, were the subject of studies due the following session. Despite these setbacks, the Legislature passed several key pieces of legislation.

As an attempt to implement the Hawaii State Planning Act enacted in 1978, the Legislature passed the State Functional Plans in hopes to improve the planning process in Hawai'i, increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, provide for wise use of Hawai'i's resources, and guide the future development of the State.

As Hawai'i grew, so did its infrastructural needs. In 1984, the State Highway Fund was funded in large part by general excise tax revenues from the sale of liquid fuel; however, that allocation was scheduled to end on June 30, 1984. The Legislature extended the solvency of the State Highway Fund to ensure a continued stream of funding for the maintenance of Hawai'i's highways.

In light of a highly publicized child abduction and the growing concerns of parents and grandparents, stricter controls over child day-care operations were established. The records of state inspections and complaints of day-care facilities, which were previously kept closed, became available to parents who depend on such safety and consumer information.

Meanwhile, the Legislature sought to attract strong candidates for the presidency of the University of Hawai'i by allowing the Board of Regents to pay its president up to \$95,000 a year, a significant increase from \$49,500. With the retirement of

#### 1983 - 1984

President Fujio Matsuda at the end of that year, this piece of legislation helped the Board of Regents in its search for a new president to help guide the institution into the new information age, eventually naming Albert J. Simone as the 10th President of the University of Hawai'i.

Act 290, which some considered to be the most controversial law of 1984, set a 10-day maximum shelf-life for milk. Beyond questions as to whether milk importers would challenge this law in court, many saw Act 290 as highly protective of the local dairy industry.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President



NEIL ABERCROMBIE



RALPH K. AJIFU



JAMES AKI



DANTE K. CARPENTER



CAYETANO





Majority Floor Leader



MARY GEORGE Minority Policy Leader



GERALD T. HAGINO Assistant Majority Floor Leader



RICHARD HENDERSON Minority Leader



MILTON HOLT



DUKE T. KAWASAKI



ANN KOBAYASHI



BERTRAND KOBAYASHI



JOSEPH T. KURODA Vice President



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NORMAN MIZUGUCHI



LEHUA FERNANDES SALLING



W. BUDDY SOARES Minority Floor Leader



MALAMA SOLOMON Assistant Majority Floor Leader



CHARLES T. TOGUCHI



CLIFFORD T. UWAINE Majority Leader



MAMORU YAMASAKI



PATSY K. YOUNG Majority Policy Leader



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Clerk



RICHARD K. PERKINS Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

To meet the challenges posed by economic and social changes in the nation and Asia-Pacific region, the Thirteenth Legislature called for upgrades in Hawai'i's education system and the University of Hawai'i. Under the new leadership of Francis Hatanaka, Superintendent of Education, and Cecil Mackey, President of the University of Hawai'i, past cutbacks in education needed to be restored to improve Hawai'i's future economic development, particularly in emerging technology.

While education received much needed resources, the Legislature focused its attention on other pressing matters, such as reform of the workers' compensation program and a bailout for depositors in failed industrial loan companies.

Although only modest improvements were made in the workers' compensation program, the changes represented some progress in addressing the rising insurance costs for small businesses. This legislation was also symbolically important in demonstrating the State's growing concerns with problems in the business community.

In addition, the \$10.5 million industrial loan bailout constituted a necessary fulfillment of the State's obligations to depositors that were undertaken with the formation of a statesponsored insurance fund that was inadequately Depositors of Manoa Finance, financed. Commercial Finance, and Great Hawaiian Finance thought that their money was protected by the state-sponsored Thrift Guaranty Corp. However, the problems of the industry, compounded by failure of state regulatory efforts to prevent abusive practices by company officials, overwhelmed the fund's resources. federally insured deposits were adopted as preventative measures.

In the wake of pesticide contamination of water in Central Oʻahu, legislators passed a law requiring the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to ban pesticides that adversely affect Hawaiʻi's environment. Under the previous law, the

## 1985 - 1986

decision to ban a certain pesticide was left to the discretion of the Chairperson. Additionally, for further consistency with national policy, Hawai'i adopted the suspension or cancellation of pesticides that were banned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

In land use, the Legislature authorized the counties to handle state land use boundary amendments for 15 acres or less of land - an authority that was previously granted only to the Land Use Commission.

Several driving-related issues were also addressed by the Legislature, including a mandatory seatbelt law for drivers and front-seat passengers and a series of drunk-driving laws that introduced tougher penalties for convicted drunk drivers who continued to drive despite license revocation. The revamped laws also prompted more court supervision for first-time drunken driving offenders and established stronger penalties for refusing to submit to breath or blood tests for intoxication.









Top left: Vice President George Bush chats with Pat Morita and Ralph Macchio, stars of Karate Kid II, on the movie set in Kahalu'u. October 11, 1985. (Ken Sakamoto) Top right: Coco's Coffee House. July 16, 1986. (Dean Sensui) Bottom left: Hawai'i-born astronaut Ellison Onizuka walks with fellow space shuttle Challenger crew members on January 28, 1986. (UPI photo) Bottom right: Iconic Kamehameha Statue stands in front of Ali'iōlani Hale in Downtown Honolulu.

As Hawai'i was on the forefront of great changes that would establish the Pacific as the focus of international trade, the Legislature charted an ambitious agenda to fulfill the "Pacific Dream". The proposals called for establishing Hawai'i as an international financial and banking center, promoting Hawai'i as a regional corporate headquarters and mid-way center for East-West business meetings, cultivating and exporting of local business and technical expertise to Pacific Rim nations, developing an aquaculture industry, and emphasizing the importance of the Pacific in the public school system.

As a catalyst for these changes, many legislators looked at the new hotel room tax, labeled the "transient accommodations tax" or "TAT". The TAT was a five-percent tax, in addition to the general excise tax levied on any apartments, cooperatives, and hotels rented for less than 180 consecutive days and was estimated to bring in about \$55 million a year. Despite the visitor industry's lobbying effort for earmarking of the new money specifically for tourism promotion,

development, and support for the proposed convention center, the new tax revenue went directly into the general fund.

Under threat of losing about \$18.9 million in federal highway funds, the Legislature passed a law increasing the minimum drinking age from 18 to 21. Some groups, like the Hawai'i chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, saw this legislation as a crucial step in keeping Hawai'i's roads safe, while some legislators felt they were bullied into making the change. The drinking age law would remain in effect for a five-year trial period, after which legislators and state officials would review whether the change had any substantial effect on drinking-related deaths and injuries on the highways.

One major step to improve the health and well-being of Hawai'i's terminally ill population was the Legislature's approval of the concept of "living wills". After more than 10 years of emotional debates and discussions, legislators established the law that gave terminally ill patients the right to

## 1985 - 1986

indicate whether they wanted extraordinary medical measures used to prolong the dying process. Support came from a broad spectrum of the community, including the Hawaii Medical Association and other health groups, while opposition came from those who said the law bypassed family decision-making and encouraged mercy killing. At the time, at least 35 other states and the District of Columbia had similar laws.

The Legislature also passed a pair of potentially far-reaching economic development Acts aimed at depressed neighborhoods and ocean enterprises. As a way of laying the groundwork for fundamental changes in economic development in low-income areas, the Legislature established a process whereby the government could offer major exceptions to tax and zoning laws in economically depressed areas. Under this new law, a county could ask the State to designate an area as an "enterprise zone" if it met certain unemployment or income standards. Once the area received the designation, new or re-established businesses could qualify for substantial breaks from state income and excise taxes as well as relief from certain land use and zoning standards.

In addition, the Legislature established procedures under which entrepreneurs would be given long-term leases for offshore waters or ocean bottoms. The hope was that local, national, or international firms interested in ocean energy, ocean mining, or mariculture projects would be attracted by the long-term stability.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President





JAMES AKI



CAYETANO



CHANG



STEVE COBB Majority Floor Leader



MARY GEORGE Minority Policy Leader



GERALD T. HAGINO Assistant Majority Leader



CLAYTON H. W. HEE



RICHARD HENDERSON Minority Leader



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DUKE T. KAWASAKI Vice President



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GERALD K. MACHIDA



RICHARD M. MATSUURA



MARY-JANE McMURDO



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W. BUDDY SOARES Minority Leader



MALAMA SOLOMON



CHARLES T. TOGUCHI



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PATSY K. YOUNG Majority Policy Leader



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Clerk



RICHARD K. PERKINS Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

With newly elected Governor John Waihee, new department heads, and new committee lineups in the House and Senate, 1987 was marked as a "year of change". Legislators faced decisions as to how to spend the revenue from the newly enacted transient accommodations tax and how to rewrite the tax code in response to major changes in federal tax laws. While the Fourteenth Legislature saw the installation of many new political leaders, innovative and daring possibilities came to the forefront as the Waihee Administration indicated its willingness to spend.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the 1987 Regular Session was rewriting the local tax code, which had not been substantively changed in nearly two decades. Spurred by the desirability of aligning Hawai'i's tax code with federal changes, the Legislature agreed to most of the Governor's proposals including a food tax credit for residents, new income tax brackets, and some changes long

sought by businesses, such as the elimination of taxes on export sales.

The State's new water code, enacted after nine years of debate, represented a compromise between competing state, corporate, and community interests. Under the new law, the State was able to maintain control over water by requiring permit holders to seek modifications in their permits if the purpose, location, or quantity of water use changed.

Several departments were reorganized to allow the Administration to be more efficient and effective. At the forefront of those reorganization initiatives was the Department of Business and Economic Development's plan to encourage economic growth and the Department of Corrections' proposal to run the Hawai'i prison system, including adult and juvenile correctional facilities, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Intake Service Center.

# 1987 - 1988

The Legislature also passed two key laws in an attempt to curb smoking in Hawai'i. The first increased the minimum age to purchase cigarettes from 15 to 18, while the second prohibited or limited smoking in a wide variety of places, such as restaurants that seated more than 50 people, theaters, banks, public meeting rooms, and government buildings open to the public.

The Legislature noted that during 1986 alone, five million gallons of lubricating oil were brought into the State, while just 400,000 gallons of used oil were reprocessed. This discrepancy between the amount of oil imported and reprocessed forced legislators to investigate where the rest of the non-reprocessed oil was being deposited. In an effort to crack down on illegal dumping of potentially millions of gallons of used oil, the Legislature set strict new rules for the handling of used oil in Hawai'i, including specific record-keeping requirements, disposal rules, and penalties for violators. While environmental laws already prohibited improper disposal of used oil and other such products, the new law focused specific attention on the problem of recycling, transport, and disposal of oil.



Oama fishing at Kailua Beach Park brings out crowds. (Honolulu Advertiser photo)





#### AIR DISASTER

The traveler's nightmare: aging passenger jets came apart in midair; Aloha Airlines flight 243 on April 28, 1988, and United Airlines flight 811 on February 24, 1989. (David Yamada and Edwin Tanji)

#### The fiscal outlook in the 1988

Regular Session was promising, as the State had a surplus of about \$500 million. Along with education and affordable housing, the surplus was anticipated to be used to support future growth projects, such as a state health laboratory, a Pacific Ocean science center, a Maui technology center, and further promotion of tourism.

However, the most important item of unfinished business awaiting the legislators was the decision on a convention center site. Many thought that Fort DeRussy would have been the best site, but that site was not made available by the federal government. In the end, despite resistance from Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi and local vendors, the International Market Place site was selected, forcing the eviction of nearly 800 immigrant International Market Place and King's Alley vendors.

Meanwhile, eight women senators set aside partisan politics to create a formidable "Senate Women's Caucus" to address special concerns, such as repealing the state Milk Control Act, encouraging more women to gain professorships, tenure, and administrative posts in the University of Hawai'i System, remodeling the women's prison, and establishing consistency in the rape and marriage statutes for minors between ages 14 and 18. The eight-member coalition included Democrats Patsy Young, Malama Solomon, Mary-Jane McMurdo, Eloise Tungpalan, and Lehua Fernandes Salling, and Republicans Mary George, Donna Ikeda, and Ann Kobayashi.

The Legislature also took important actions to fight the war on drugs. Urged by concerting efforts from law enforcement authorities and the Attorney General, the Legislature approved a ban on the sale of drug paraphernalia and forfeiture of property involved in drug trafficking. At the time, 38 other states already had similar laws.

To address the growing concerns of Native Hawaiians, the Legislature made a decision of historic significance by passing a law that provided Native Hawaiians with a limited right to sue the

## 1987 - 1988

State in matters involving land trust issues. The law established the right to sue in the future and a timetable for handling past grievances. However, the biggest hurdle in the negotiations was the question of retroactivity. This issue was left to the Governor to find a solution to settle past grievances by 1991.

By approving a \$61 million purchase of Ewa land from the Campbell Estate and a \$120 million appropriation to the housing development fund, the Legislature took a major step toward meeting Oʻahu's critical housing needs. However, because the Legislature also granted the Housing Finance and Development Corporation the power to override county land-use ordinances for five years to rapidly develop affordable housing, county governments felt this was an infringement on home rule, only increasing the tension between state and county administrations.

Since the designations of a state flower and state bird had been done by resolution in 1923 and 1957, respectively, and never codified in law, the Legislature formally designated the native yellow hibiscus as the state flower and the nene as the state bird.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President



JAMES AKI



RUSSELL BLAIR Majority Floor Leader



CHANG



STEVE COBB Assistant Majority Floor Leader



Minority Floor Leader



GERALD T. HAGINO Majority Leader



CLAYTON H. W. HEE Assistant Majority Policy Leader



RICHARD HENDERSON Minority Leader



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DONNA R. IKEDA



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BERTRAND KOBAYASHI Majority Policy Leader



JOSEPH T. KURODA



RICHARD M. MATSUURA Assistant Majority Leader



MARY-JANE McMURDO Assistant Majority Policy Leader



RON MENOR



NORMAN MIZUGUCI Assistant Majority Floor Leader



DENNIS M. NAKASATO



RICK REED



LEHUA FERNANDES SALLING



MALAMA SOLOMON



JAMES K. WONG



MAMORU YAMASAKI



PATSY K. YOUNG Vice President



ROBERT N. HERKES\*



ELOISE Y. TUNGPALAN\*\*



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Clerk



RICHARD K. PERKINS Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

- \* The Governor appointed Robert N. Herkes to the Senate on December 15, 1987 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard Henderson from the 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District.
- \*\* The Governor appointed Eloise Y. Tungpalan to the Senate on December 17, 1987 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joseph Kuroda from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District.

#### With the State running a cash

SUPPLUS of well over half a billion dollars, the Fifteenth Legislature's top priorities centered on not just improving the way Hawai'i's schools delivered education, but also school management reform. The Legislature adopted the Berman report's recommendation to decentralize decisionmaking in the education system by creating a new system of school and community-based management. This legislation, which enabled an increase in community involvement in local schools, also provided waivers from regulations that might have interfered with schools' own goals. Furthermore, the Legislature approved a spending program of \$90 million a year for seven years for new school construction and another \$25 million for school repairs to address the deterioration of school facilities.

Health care was also a growing concern in Hawai'i. Costs of health insurance were still too high for some, but through the approval of the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), there was at least some protection for a gap group of lowincome residents who were not eligible for Medicaid or employer-sponsored coverage under the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. This new program, which also covered preventative procedures such as childhood immunizations and prenatal care, benefitted about 50,000 people and their families. By the early 1990s, due to the excessive financial burden of Hawai'i's Medicaid program and SHIP, along with political prioritization by Governor Waihee, the programs were folded into the Hawaii Health QUEST program.

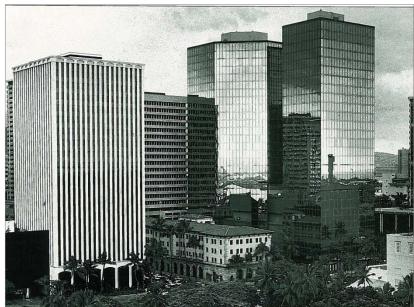


#### 1989 - 1990

In the pursuit of preserving Hawai'i's water quality and the need for new resources to feed development growth in the State, new initiatives in the area of sewage treatment and water quality were needed. Thus, the Legislature provided \$50 million, combined with \$63 million in federal money, to assist the counties in repairing, expanding, and upgrading their sewage treatment plants. It was projected that the counties would need about \$1 billion over the next 20 years to renovate and expand sewage treatment plants, while also upgrading a few sites to include secondary treatment plants.

The Regular Session of 1989 concluded with a controversial law that would have established a non-profit California-Hawaii Cooperation Commission to encourage joint development of Pacific Rim trade, technology, and energy production by the two states. Dubbed "Pineapplegate", the law had some people questioning the circumstances in which the bill passed. A mysterious \$60,000 contract monitoring fee resurfaced at the last minute as a proviso in the state budget. Political and family connections between those proposing the commission and others who might have won contracts to carry out its work raised suspicions. In the end, California Governor George Deukmejian vetoed the proposed California-Hawaii Cooperative Commission.







Top: Built in 1901, the Moana Hotel is fully restored and reopens as a National Historic landmark. Middle: Downtown Honolulu in 1989. (Carl Viti) Bottom: Canoe paddling becomes more popular in the 80s. (Gregory Yamamoto)

#### The Legislature entered the

1990s facing an array of old and new issues. As pressure mounted for a dedicated source of funding for Honolulu's proposed rapid transit system, the Legislature created a rapid transit package that called for the State to put \$53 million a year for 17 years into a special fund, while the federal government was expected to pay up to 30 percent of the estimated \$1 billion needed for the transit system. This package provided evidence and assurance to federal Urban Transportation Administration officials that the proposed system had a committed source of long-With the federal and state term funding. governments covering a portion of the cost, the last 35 percent of the funding needed to come from county revenues or private sources. More importantly, if private money did not cover the costs, the county would be authorized to impose a half-percent surcharge on the State's four-percent general excise tax for up to 10 years to make up for the shortfall in funding.

After much lobbying and deliberation, the

Legislature also approved a bill giving virtually all of the income from the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to the counties permanently. Under this measure, the counties received 95 percent of the money the State had previously collected from the TAT, establishing this permanent source of funds as an intended supplement to the grants-in-aid system that had been in effect for the counties since 1972. However, legislators disagreed as to the way the money would be split among the counties. Some argued that O'ahu, having 77 percent of the State's population, should receive more of the money. In an attempt to spread the money around and acknowledge the value and needs of the neighbor islands, O'ahu received 44.1 percent of the shared TAT revenues, Maui County received 22.8 percent, Hawai'i County received 18.6 percent, and Kaua'i County received 14.5 percent.

The Legislature sought to improve education and child services, as the State's planned A+ afterschool care program needed funding for the year. As a result, the program received \$15.7 million for the year and continued to provide safe and educational services for Hawai'i's children.

#### 1989 - 1990

Concern grew over the environmental impact of industrial growth as the garbage and sewage problems in Hawai'i continued. The State's landfills were at capacity, and there were no funds to fix defective sewage plants, construct additional systems, or plan for future developments. In light of these challenges, the Legislature established more environmental accountability through a law creating penalties against oil-spillers and other polluters. The law gave the Department of Health broad powers to force a company to clean up and pay for a hazardous chemical or oil spill.

To increase voter participation and voter safety, several new laws on voting were passed. The new voting laws allowed voters to register by mail, allowed for the appointment of 16- and 17-year-old precinct workers during elections, maintained confidentiality of addresses in voter registration records for law enforcement officials who faced life-threatening circumstances, allowed voters to remove their names from the list of registered voters, and raised the penalty for voter fraud to a class C felony, punishable by up to five years in prison. In addition, the Legislature looked into a new electronic voting system that would need approval and funding the following year.

To improve the University of Hawai'i's ability to provide local fans and supporters with a suitable sports arena, the Legislature approved \$32 million for a 10,000-seat sports arena. This arena, which would later open in 1994 and be named the Stan Sheriff Center, would serve as the home of the University of Hawai'i men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams as well as the site of the 1998 Miss Universe Pageant.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President



JAMES AKI Vice President



RUSSELL BLAIR Majority Floor Leader



ANTHONY K. U. CHANG Assistant Majority Leader



STEVE COBB



MIKE CROZIER



MARY GEORGE Minority Leader



GERALD T. HAGINO Majority Leader



MILTON HOLT



Assistant Majority Leader



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KOBAYASHI Assistant Majority Policy Leader



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MAMORU YAMASAKI



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RICHARD K. PERKINS Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

# The 1991 Regular Session began just hours before war broke out in the Persian Gulf. The entertainment and festive parties that usually marked Opening Day were cancelled, leading to Opening Day speeches about peace and progress. Nationally, soaring energy prices added to worries regarding the federal deficit and the latest crisis in the savings and loan industry.

Locally, transportation priorities included finding support for Honolulu's fixed rapid transit system, expanding the airport, improving highways, and alleviating commuter traffic. As a result, the Sixteenth Legislature called for an increase in the state gasoline tax and annual vehicle registration fee to raise more money for the state highway construction and repair fund.

Two key laws establishing "family leave" and worker discrimination were passed to help employees in the workforce.

To help employees and their families, the Legislature passed a law requiring companies with more than 100 employees to offer workers up to four weeks of unpaid family leave when the employees have a child, adopt a child, or have a seriously ill family member. Flexibility allowed the leave to be paid or unpaid, or a combination, and the employee or employer had the option to use the employee's accrued sick leave, vacation time, or personal leave as part of the mandated family leave. To assess the impact of family leave on the public sector, the Legislature wisely called for a study of family leave in 1992 and a report before the convening of the 1993 session.

In addition, Hawai'i became the third state, after Wisconsin and Massachusetts, to make it illegal for an employer to discriminate against a worker, or not hire someone, because of a person's sexual orientation. More specifically, the law added "sexual orientation" to the list of criteria that constituted a basis for unlawful discrimination, such as race, sex, age, religion, color, ancestry, handicapped status, marital status, or arrest/court record.

#### 1991 - 1992

The Legislature also sought to improve mental health programs in Hawai'i, which were rated as the worst in the nation. The increase in funding toward adult and child and adolescent programs and community services for the development of mentally disabled individuals marked an investment to improve the lives of those who needed mental health assistance.

By the end of the session, many legislators and staff were nostalgic knowing they would have to leave the State Capitol building for the next five years while asbestos-removal work was under way. While the Legislature operated out of the State Office Tower and Hemmeter building, the electrical system in the Capitol was updated to meet increasing technological demands, and the building was renovated to be more user-friendly, particularly for disabled people. Doorknobs and elevator buttons were lowered, paths for the blind were created, and more signs were posted in the halls.







Top: Marines check motorists at Kaneohe Marine Base. The start of war with Iraq resulted in stiffer security measures. January 16, 1991. (Craig T. Kojima) Middle: Moloka'i Hoe, a prestigious outrigger canoe race from Kawakiu Bay, Moloka'i to Waikiki beach. Bottom: Sheets of roofing iron, a pallet, broken plants, and other debris fly through the air at the height of Hurricane Iniki in Lihue, Kaua'i. (Bruce Asato)

#### During the Regular Session of

1992, the Legislature tackled various ongoing issues such as environmental protection, Native Hawaiian land revenues, and no fault insurance costs.

Growing concerns about environmental conditions and oil dependency prompted the Legislature to pass a measure to require the installation of solar water heating equipment for residential water as a condition for the approval of any residential development. The Legislature also aggressively addressed air pollution by enacting Act 240, which prohibited any person or public body from engaging in activity that causes air pollution or allows the emission of any regulated air pollutant without first securing approval from the Director of Health. Act 240 also established standards and enforcement for releasing or discharging pollutants into the ambient air from any source.

The Legislature also clarified laws to ensure that Native Hawaiians receive certain portions of revenue to which they are entitled. Legislators enacted Act 317 to clarify the calculation of the 30 percent of state receipts to which the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is constitutionally entitled upon the transfer of former sugarcane lands to the Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HFDC) for the development of housing projects. Similarly, the Legislature enacted Act 318 to ensure that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs receives 20 percent of the fair market value of lands of the public land trust that are conveyed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources to HFDC for the development of housing projects.

In consumer protection, the increasing cost of obtaining no fault insurance was an undue burden on the majority of the State's motor vehicle operating populace. In order to obtain a realistic, affordable, and judicious resolution, the Legislature passed Acts 123 and 124 to lower the cost of no-fault insurance while still providing the

## 1991 - 1992

medical services to make those injured in a motor vehicle accident whole again. The Legislature imposed a temporary motor vehicle insurance rate freeze, reduced existing rates by 15 percent for one year, and tied the charges and frequency of treatment for services to the workers' compensation supplemental medical fee schedule.

Legislators also took steps to protect public safety and address housing shortages. They passed legislation prohibiting the manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of assault pistols. They also established the rental housing trust fund, to be funded through general funds and conveyance tax revenues, to subsidize affordable rental housing for very low-income families and individuals, including the homeless and special needs groups.

In addition, the Legislature passed a measure proposing a constitutional amendment to repeal the provision for holdover senators, terminate the terms of office of all senators at the general election at which a new reapportionment plan becomes effective, require all senators to run for office at that election, and recompute staggered terms at that election. Voters ratified the amendment in the 1992 general election.



RICHARD S. H. WONG President



JAMES AKI Vice President



RUSSELL BLAIR



ANTHONY K. U. CHANG



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MAMORU YAMASAKI



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GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms

#### On September 11, 1992, Hurricane

Iniki pummeled Kaua'i, causing nearly \$3 billion in damage and dealing a tremendous financial blow to Hawai'i's insurance industry. The Regular Session of 1993 convened in the face of the Hurricane Iniki aftermath and a faltering tourism industry, but the Seventeenth Legislature responded with policy directed at important cultural and domestic issues and at improving various state laws.

New, creative, and flexible mechanisms were necessary to insure hurricane losses in Hawaii after Hurricane Iniki. The Legislature established the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to monitor the availability of private property insurance and sell hurricane property insurance if necessary. Although these funds have been tapped for other reasons since 1993, the reserve is being replenished to mitigate any potential damage from another hurricane or similar natural disaster in the future.

Air transportation is uniquely important to the island state of Hawai'i. In 1993, the downturn in tourism, especially on the neighbor islands, resulted in a dramatic and severe loss of passenger traffic by interisland airlines. The Legislature passed Act 332, which was intended to offer up to \$12.6 million in loan guarantees to interisland air

The Legislature also took up ongoing issues to benefit Hawai'i's people and children. Kaho'olawe holds religious, cultural, and historical significance to the Native Hawaiians. The U.S. government placed Hawai'i under martial law after the Pearl Harbor attack and used Kaho'olawe as a military target range from 1941 to 1990 despite years of protests and litigation. The Legislature recognized the State's obligation to steward Kaho'olawe and determined that the island should be used exclusively for the preservation and practice of traditional Native Hawaiian cultural, spiritual, and subsistence rights and for the protection of the island's archaeological, historical, and environmental resources. The Legislature created

### 1993 - 1994

the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to establish criteria, policies, and controls for permissible uses within the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

As for Hawaii's keiki, the Legislature worked to prevent child abuse and neglect through programs and activities that strengthen the family through education and support. They established the Hawaii children's trust fund to make grants to private nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and qualified persons to provide community-based services and education to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Legislators also recognized a need to improve and update various state laws to encourage government efficiency. They enacted the Hawaii Public Procurement Code to provide a single source of procurement policy applied equally and uniformly to the State and the counties. The Code promotes the fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with government procurement and fosters impartial, fair, open, and broadbased competition by responsible contractors. Legislators also focused on the laws governing financial institutions, which were first enacted in the 1930s and had been amended in piecemeal fashion to accommodate changes in regulation and the marketplace. They enacted the Code of Financial Institutions to provide a comprehensive statutory scheme to simplify, modernize, and harmonize the laws governing financial institutions.

During the Regular Session of 1994, the Legislature addressed issues including same-sex marriage, early public employee retirement, and agribusiness development, and elected a new Senate President, Norman Mizuguchi.

In 1993, the Hawai'i Supreme Court opined that the State's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples was a violation of equal protection under the state constitution, unless there was a compelling state interest in limiting marriage to same-sex couples. The Supreme Court tasked the trial court to determine whether there was a compelling state interest. However, prior to that trial, the Legislature took the opportunity to address the issue during the 1994 Regular Session by passing Act 217, which made valid only those marriage contracts between a man and a woman and found that the power to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples was a policy decision that was exclusively in the realm of the Legislature or constitutional convention. It should be noted that at the time, no state or foreign country authorized same-sex marriage.



Thousands flock to 'Iolani Palace in Honolulu, Hawai'i, to show their support for the Hawaiian sovereignty movement. January 17, 1993. (Dennis Oda)



Aloha Tower Market Place featuring restaurants, bars, and retail shops opened in 1994.

In a continuing effort to reduce costs and facilitate greater efficiency in state and county governments, a one-time early retirement incentive was provided to members of the Employees' Retirement System.

The downsizing of the sugar and pineapple industries presented an unprecedented opportunity for the conservation of agricultural lands and optimization and conversion of arable lands and their associated production infrastructure into new productive uses. The Legislature created the Agribusiness Development Corporation as a public corporation to administer an aggressive and dynamic agribusiness development program to facilitate the transition of agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into agricultural enterprises.

The Legislature took up another important land use issue, this one relating to conservation lands.

The state land use conservation district contains natural resources essential to the preservation of the State's fragile natural ecosystems and the sustainability of the State's water supply. Act 270 was enacted to establish procedures by which the Department of Land and Natural Resources must manage and regulate conservation lands to promote their long-term sustainability.

While the need for and effectiveness of programs targeting spousal and child abuse was clear, the financial support for these programs was scarce. The Legislature established a special account, funded through birth certificate and marriage license fees, to pay for program staff, grants, and purchase of services to address spousal and child abuse.

Education was an area of significant progress during the 1994 Regular Session. A lack of financial resources for the development of early childhood education and facilities prompted the passage of a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the issuance of special purpose

#### 1993 - 1994

revenue bonds to assist not-for-profit corporations that provide early childhood education and care facilities serving the general public and another proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the State to use those bond revenues for that purpose. Both amendments were ratified by the electorate at the 1994 general election.

A second set of proposed constitutional amendments concerning education passed the Legislature under Act 272 and were placed on the general election ballot in 1994. One proposed amendment sought to limit the Board of Education's power in formulating statewide educational policy as well as restricting its power to only appoint a Superintendent of Education. The second proposed amendment sought to convert the Board of Education from an elected board to an appointed board. The measure also granted the Superintendent jurisdiction over the internal organization, operation, and management of the public school system, as provided by law. Specifically, the measure included educational reforms such as school-based budget flexibility, learning support centers, and statewide performance standards. However, in the 1994 general election, voters ratified only the amendment limiting the powers of the Board of Education over educational policy and its powers over the Superintendent of Education.



JAMES AKI President



RUSSELL BLAIR



ANTHONY K. U. CHANG Assistant Majority Caucus Leader



CAROL FUKUNAGA



MARY GEORGE Minority Leader



**REY GRAULTY** 



Majority Policy Leader



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TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Clerk



GEORGE M. AMIMOTO Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

\*The Governor appointed Rosalyn Baker to the Senate on November 26, 1993 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Russell Blair from the 4th Senatorial District.

\*\*The Governor appointed Dorothy Ching to the Senate on September 16, 1994 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ann Kobayashi from the 11th Senatorial District .

#### Legislative highlights in 1995

included a Hawaiian home lands settlement, establishment of an Elections Office, and workers' compensation reform – all of which were priorities for Governor Ben Cayetano in his second year as Governor. The Eighteenth Legislature also resolved an intense battle over public disclosure of police disciplinary records.

Through Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995, the Legislature resolved all controversies relating to the Hawaiian home lands trust that arose between August 21, 1959, and July 1, 1988, and prohibited all future claims against the State for controversies arising during that period. Act 14 established the Hawaiian home lands trust fund to be used for purposes in furtherance of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The Legislature also agreed to pay a total of \$600 million over 20 years into the trust fund, transfer and exchange certain lands, and make other payments as part of the resolution of claims.

The Legislature also created the Office of Elections to oversee elections and improve the efficiency of elections operations. Although the Office of Elections was originally attached to the Lieutenant Governor's office, it was later transferred to the Department of Accounting and General Services in 2003.

Workers' compensation costs had been mounting largely due to increases in medical care costs, which by 1994 accounted for 42 percent of workers' compensation costs. The Legislature enacted comprehensive workers' compensation reform through Act 234, which limited payments for medical services to 110 percent of the Medicare fee schedule, rather than basing payments on customary charges adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index. While this reform spawned new challenges for health care providers, it effectively reduced workers' compensation costs, with some estimating savings to employers as high as \$100 million in 1996 and 1997.

#### 1995 - 1996

To send a clear message that the operation of motor vehicles on public highways while intoxicated will not be tolerated, the Legislature established the offense of habitually driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor and lowered the threshold level for blood alcohol from .10 to .08 grams of alcohol.

The Legislature also responded to the problem of graffiti by making parents or legal guardians of a minor child jointly and severally liable for graffiti damage caused by the minor to real or personal property, and by giving authority to the counties to impose a civil fine for placing graffiti.

In 1994, University of Hawai'i journalism students began a battle to make police disciplinary records publicly available, which state law already required, but were vehemently opposed by the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO) who cited concerns of retaliation and harm to officers' families. Despite a demonstration of 500 police officers at the courthouse on March 29, 1994, the Circuit Court ruled in favor of the students. SHOPO appealed to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, arguing that a union contract should prevail over state law, and in the meantime lobbied the Legislature for assistance. By the time the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the students in 1996, the Legislature had already passed Act 242 in 1995, exempting police officers from the state law requiring public disclosure of government records except in cases that result in the discharge of the officer.

The 1996 Regular Session was the first session of the Legislature held in the State Capitol building after holding four years of sessions in the historic Hemmeter building while waiting for the completion of necessary renovations in the Capitol building, including the removal of asbestos. The Legislature passed measures concerning the establishment of the Hawaii Employers' Mutual Insurance Company, University of Hawaii West Oʻahu land exchange, payroll lag for public employees, and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

In a continuing effort to lower workers' compensation insurance costs, the Legislature replaced the existing workers' compensation assigned risk pool for high risk jobs with a statutorily established employers' mutual insurance company known as HEMIC. HEMIC operates as a domestic mutual insurance company and not as a state agency.

Kapolei has long been recognized as the secondary urban center for the Island of Oʻahu. Planning for a four-year, accessible baccalaureate education in West Oʻahu had begun in 1966. West Oʻahu College was founded in 1976 in temporary headquarters and was renamed and moved near Leeward Community College in 1981. In 1996, the Legislature entered into a land exchange with the Campbell Estate to secure a new, permanent University of Hawaiʻi West Oʻahu campus in Kapolei.





Top: Lōʻihi Seamount, an active submarine volcano located off the southeast coast of the island of Hawaiʻi, last erupted in 1996. Bottom: Alana Dung sits in her father's lap after returning from Seattle where she received a bone marrow transplant. Alana inspired thousands of Hawaiʻi residents to register with the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry. November 14, 1996. (Kathryn Bender)

#### The Legislature implemented a

four-percent pay cut through a payroll lag or afterthe-fact payroll for state employees to realize cost savings of approximately \$47 million. An after-the -fact payroll basis allowed the State to reconcile payroll accounts prior to actual payments, which significantly reduced salary overpayments. Payroll lag periods were phased in over a one-year period.

In 1996, the State's community hospitals system was the fifth largest public hospital system in the nation and was a division of the Department of Health. The Legislature recognized that such an important system required greater operational autonomy and established the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) as a body corporate and politic and an independent agency of the State. The HHSC's primary purpose is to manage and operate the State's community hospitals, and it is governed by a Board of Directors. Regional system boards of directors were established in 2007.

The Legislature found that the traditional centralized school system was no longer the best model to meet the broad range of needs of our diverse student population. The Legislature began a process of systematic reform, "a top-down support for bottom-up reforms" to provide individual schools with the flexibility and autonomy to develop and implement alternative administrative and instructional frameworks that lead to better quality education and higher student The intent was to empower performance. individual schools to be directly accountable for student achievement and to "put students first". To accomplish this end, the educational laws were recodified into a new chapter of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Also in education, the rapid increase in the number of disruptive students in public schools was having a detrimental effect on those students seeking a quality education. A zero tolerance policy was established to apply to students possessing a dangerous weapon, intoxicating liquor, illicit drugs, or switchblade knife on a public school campus.

#### 1995 - 1996

In furtherance of environmental protection, a used oil and used oil fuel law was enacted to authorize the Director of Health to establish standards applicable to persons who generate, transport, treat, store, dispose, process, re-refine, burn, recycle, distribute, market, or otherwise handle used oil or used oil fuel, regardless of whether the used oil or used oil fuel is a hazardous waste, as well as to establish a permit process for any person to transport, market, or recycle used oil or used oil fuel.

The Legislature found that members of boards are inclined to ask questions of one another, especially when one member possesses expertise in a matter under discussion, and sometimes outside of board meetings. However, the Sunshine Law precluded a member of a board from seeking any information from other board members other than in a duly noticed public meeting. The Legislature resolved this problem by allowing two members of a board to communicate or interact privately between themselves to gather information from each other about official board matters to enable them to perform their duties faithfully, as long as no commitment to vote is made or sought.



NORMAN MIZUGUCHI President



JAMES AKI



WHITNEY ANDERSON



ROSALYN BAKER Majority Leader



ROBERT BUN



AVERY CHUMBLEY



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LEHUA FERNANDES SALLING



MALAMA SOLOMON



ROD TAM



JOE TANAKA



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI Majority Whip



TIMOTHY DAVID WOO, JR. Clerk



PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



CARL H. SUNADA Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

#### The Nineteenth Legislature took

up several major issues of widespread importance, including auto insurance reform, reciprocal beneficiaries, marriage, and legislative pensions.

The cost of motor vehicle insurance in Hawai'i had consistently been among the highest in the country. As a result, it was estimated that 20 to 30 percent of the motor vehicles in the State were uninsured. With heavy public support, the Legislature responded by adopting several amendments to the motor vehicle insurance law, including requiring premium reductions between 20 and 35 percent for mandatory coverage for all policies in effect on July 1, 1996, and an adjustment for premiums paid by insureds whose policies contain more than the mandatory minimum coverages.

In the realm of domestic relationships, the Legislature enacted the reciprocal beneficiaries law to extend certain rights and benefits previously available only to married couples to couples comprising two individuals who are legally prohibited from marrying each other under state law. The Legislature also proposed a constitutional amendment to clarify that the Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Public complaints about the generous pensions received by elective and legislative officers in relation to other state employees prompted the Legislature to require pension benefits of elective and legislative officers to be calculated by separating their years of service (and high multiplier of average final compensation) as an elective or legislative officer from any years of service (and lower multiplier of average final compensation) as public employees in other capacities. In doing so, this measure eliminated the practice of boosting "high 3" pay through higher-paying public appointments after leaving elective office while maintaining the high multiplier to apply to those years of service.

# 1997 - 1998

To address drunk driving, the Legislature passed two measures. One measure authorized a law enforcement officer to arrest a person when the officer has probable cause to believe the arrested person is under the age of 21 and had been operating a vehicle with at least .02 but less than .08 grams of alcohol. The other measure required health care providers providing medical care in a health facility to any person involved in a vehicle collision to report the results to the authorities if the person's blood alcohol concentration met or exceeded the legal amount.

The Legislature also addressed the safety of passengers riding in the bed of pickup trucks. The new law prohibited any operator of any pickup truck from operating the vehicle with any passenger 12 years of age or under in the bed or load-carrying area of the vehicle, except in emergencies and parades.

In the interests of satisfying the State's obligation for the public land trust, the Legislature determined an amount of \$15.1 million as the constitutionally mandated pro rata portion of income and proceeds of ceded lands for expenditure by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians for each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

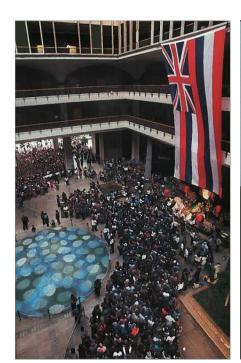
The Legislature sought improvements to the process of expending public funds for grants, subsidies, and purchases of services, particularly the purchase of health and human services from organizations and individuals to act on behalf of the State. To facilitate the oversight of those state contracts for the provision of health and human services, the Legislature enacted a new law to govern the fair and equitable procurement of those services.

In December 1997, the H-3 Freeway opened after more than 30 years of planning and environmental and cultural protests and became the largest and most expensive public works project ever completed in Hawai'i.

Facing stagnant revenues, state government leaders prepared for the 1998 Regular Session by convening an Economic Revitalization Development Task Force in 1997. Appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate,

this 26-member group was charged with developing sweeping proposals to lift the State from its recession and put it back on track to economic prosperity. The Legislature took up several of the Task Force's recommendations, including measures to reduce the costs of living and doing business in Hawai'i, improve the regulatory climate and efficiency of government, and strengthen the marketing and promotion of the key tourism industry.

Personal income taxes were cut from a top rate of 10 percent to 8.25 percent over a period of four years. The top bracket rate of Hawai'i's income tax was very high by comparative state standards and compounded by the fact that the top bracket takes effect at the relatively low income level of \$40,000. The intent of expanding the tax brackets was to a certain extent an attempt to lessen the effect of inflation on income. Also, a low-income refundable tax credit was created, and the existing food tax credit was repealed. The low -income refundable tax credit later became the refundable food/excise tax credit in 2007.





Left: Thousands of mourners wait to pay their respects to the late Israel Kamakawiwoʻole as he lies in state at the Capitol building. July 9, 1997. (Dennis Oda) Right: Newly appointed head football coach June Jones addresses the media at Washington Place. December 14, 1998. (George F. Lee)

The Legislature found that the visitor industry accounted for almost 25 percent of the gross state product and provided over 30 percent of all civilian jobs. To promote tourism, the Hawaii Tourism Authority was created to develop a strategic tourism marketing plan. A tourism special fund was established to be expended by the Authority for its tourism functions. Additionally, the transient accommodations tax was applied to the fair market value of resort time share units and was increased to 7.25 percent beginning on January 1, 1999. Portions of the transient accommodations tax were allocated to the convention center capital special fund, tourism special fund, and to each county.

At the recommendation of the Economic Revitalization Development Task Force, the Legislature took constructive steps to improve Hawai'i's business climate. Businesses described the lengthy and indeterminate time required for business and development-related regulatory approvals, as well as the duplicative nature of the approval processes. The Legislature required

public agencies to adopt rules that specify a maximum time period to grant or deny a business or development-related permit, license, or approval and to grant or deny the permit, license, or approval within that time period or else the application would be deemed approved.

The Legislature also supported the efforts of Hawaii's businesses and enterprises to compete successfully in the world's ever-evolving global economy. In response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Konno v. County of Hawaii*, Act 230 established a committee to develop a managed process that determines whether a government service can be provided more efficiently, effectively, and economically by a public agency or a private enterprise.

The Legislature recognized the far-reaching impacts of alcohol and drug abuse, especially on crime, and focused efforts on the rehabilitation of inmates through treatment. The Legislature enacted the Criminal Offender Treatment Act to establish a substance abuse assessment and treatment program to identify repeat offenders

#### 1997 - 1998

and inmates who actively abuse a controlled substance or alcohol, who are alcohol- or drug-dependent, or who are otherwise in need of substance abuse treatment and monitoring. The Act established mandatory drug testing of repeat offenders and mandatory assessments of offenders to inform decisions regarding the offenders' treatment program and conditions of parole, among other things.

Although the issue of family reunification versus safety first had been on the public's mind due to news coverage on child abuse, other important changes in the child protective services system were evaluated. Alternatives to the traditional philosophy of returning the abused child to the natural family, which may not be in the best interests of the child's safety, were trending nationally, with the idea that providing a child with a safe home should be the ultimate concern, regardless of whether the safe home is with the natural family, adoptive family, or foster family. The Legislature made paramount the safety and health of children who have been or may be harmed and made provisions for the service, treatment, and permanent plans for these children and their families.

Same-sex marriage supporters had been hopeful that Hawai'i would become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, especially after the Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision in *Baehr v. Miike* in 1996. At the 1998 general election, however, voters ratified a constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, and the Legislature did not amend the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.



NORMAN MIZUGUCHI President







Minority Leader





ROBERT BUNDA



AVERY CHUMBLEY



OAKLAND



CAROL FUKUNAGA







LES IHARA, JR. Majority Leader





BRIAN KANNO





ANDREW LEVIN Vice President



MATT MATSUNAGA



RICHARD M. MATSUURA



MIKE McCARTNEY Majority Leader





**LEHUA FERNANDES** SALLING



Minority Floor Leader



MALAMA SOLOMON







BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI





PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI Clerk



CAROL TANIGUCHI Assistant Clerk



VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

<sup>\*</sup>The Governor appointed Wayne Metcalf to the Senate on February 1, 1997 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard M. Matsuura from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District.

The 1999 Regular Session was not an especially memorable year for legislation; in fact, the Twentieth Legislature weathered heavy criticism for being largely inactive and reluctant to move on gubernatorial priorities. The Governor criticized the Senate for the new co-chairman committee system implemented in 1998 and expressed disappointment with the Senate's unwillingness to confirm Margery Bronster's reappointment as Attorney General. Senator Randy Iwase remarked, "In 1999, the confirmation of Margery Bronster will define this Senate". Indeed, the decision caused significant divisiveness in the Senate and between the Governor and Senate.

Despite the focus on non-legislative matters, the Legislature did enact several laws of lasting impact.

The Legislature established the Hawai'i tobacco settlement special fund using funds received by the State from the settlement of a nationwide class action lawsuit against tobacco companies. A portion of the money in the fund continues to be used to reduce tobacco consumption, mitigate the impact of tobacco on chronic diseases, and promote health. The Legislature also used part of the tobacco settlement money to fund a new emergency and budget reserve fund, more commonly referred to as the "rainy day fund", as it is used as a temporary source of supplemental funding for the State during times of emergency, economic downturn, or unforeseen reduction in revenues.

To hold cigarette and tobacco manufacturers responsible for the deleterious effects of smoking, the Legislature passed the Tobacco Liability Act to require tobacco manufacturers to pay annually into a qualified escrow fund a part of the monies received from cigarette sales in the State. The monies in the fund would be used primarily for cigarette-related health care programs.

The Legislature also accomplished much to assist the aged, disabled, and ill. Recognizing the significant financial burden of caring for the aged

#### 1999 - 2000

and disabled and prompted by a recommendation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Long-Term Care, the Legislature enacted the Long-Term Care Insurance Act to expand long-term care insurance options through the workplace. This Act required insurers to allow a person to purchase a long-term policy offered by the person's employer to cover the person, the person's spouse, or reciprocal beneficiary, as well as their parents and grandparents and in-law parents and grandparents. The Legislature also required health insurers to cover minimum levels of hospice care and authorized adults and emancipated minors to execute a power of attorney for health care over infirm or incapacitated persons who are unable to make health care decisions for themselves.

Legislators established an individual development account program to provide income-qualified individuals and families, especially those with limited financial means, an opportunity to accumulate assets and a college savings program to enable families to save for college tuition and other expenses through college accounts.

Despite a lack of major Y2K bug issues, as some had feared, the millennium came to a close on a somber note. On November 2, 1999, Hawai'i was rocked by the largest mass murder in the history of the State when Xerox employee Byran Uyesugi shot his supervisor and six other co-workers. The tragedy cast the spotlight on mental health, gun control, and other issues while the State grieved.







Top: Hazard materials team going through a decontamination scrub down after an anthrax threat at 1441 Ala Moana Blvd. February 23, 1999. (Ken Sakamoto) Middle: The Hawai'i Convention Center. Bottom: Queen Lili'uokalani, was the last monarch and only queen regnant of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Her eight-foot bronze statue stands between the Hawai'i State Capitol and 'lolani Palace.

In 2000, the Legislature began to reform the State's civil service laws by passing Act 253, which sought to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government service and ensure that the merit principle and right to collectively bargain are incorporated into the State's civil service laws. Act 253 integrated the concerns of all stakeholders, including public workers, their union representatives, legislators, and the broader general public who benefit from government services. Although to some Act 253 did not yield the sweeping reform that was expected, this measure did initiate civil service reform that would continue throughout successive legislative sessions.

Recognizing the number of states that had taken the initiative in legalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes, the Legislature legalized the use of medical marijuana in the State, under certain circumstances, for treating or alleviating pain and other symptoms associated with certain debilitating illnesses. While aware of the legal problems associated with the legal acquisition of marijuana for medical use, the Legislature

recognized the scientific evidence on the medicinal benefits of marijuana.

Continuing the trend of granting the University of Hawai'i (UH) greater fiscal and operational autonomy, the Legislature passed a measure that proposed a constitutional amendment to Article X, Section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution to clarify UH's "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university" and allow UH to formulate policy and exercise control over UH without prior These particular legislative authorization. amendments were intended to allow UH to respond to the needs of the community on a timely basis and enable UH to be a major contributor to the economic development of the State. However, the measure also proposed an amendment to grant the Legislature the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern. The Committee on Conference found that the Legislature should reserve this right in order to avoid any misinterpretation of the constitutional amendment. The constitutional amendment was ratified by voters in November 2000.

### 1999 - 2000

The Twentieth State Legislature was the last Legislature over which Senator Norman Mizuguchi, who had 26 years of experience as a legislator, presided as Senate President.



On January 29, 1999, the Battleship Missouri returned to service as centerpiece of the Battleship Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor.



NORMAN MIZUGUCHI President



WHITNEY ANDERSON Minority Leader



JAN YAGI BUEN



ROBERT BUNDA



Vice President



SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND



JONATHAN CHUN Majority Floor Leader



CAROL FUKUNAGA



COLLEEN HANABUSA





MARSHALL IGE



LES IHARA, JR. Majority Leader



LORRAINE R. INOUYE





BRIAN KANNO



CAL KAWAMOTO



ANDREW LEVIN



MATT MATSUNAGA



DAVID MATSUURA





NORMAN SAKAMOTO



SAM SLOM Minority Floor Leader



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI



ROD TAM



PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI Clerk



CAROL TANIGUCHI Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



ABRAHAM PACHECO Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

The Senate opened the Regular Session of 2001 with a new leader - Senate President Robert During this session, the Twenty-First Legislature continued to reform civil service laws, recognizing that as health care costs continue to escalate, health benefits for state and county workers would consume a greater percentage of the State's operating expenses and create a significant burden for taxpayers. In fact, the Auditor had mentioned in a 1999 audit that the Public Employees Health Fund (PEHF) employer contributions for retirees were among the highest in the nation. To the chagrin of the public unions, the Legislature passed a measure creating the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund – a single program for public workers' health benefits that replaced the existing PEHF and essentially eliminated union-sponsored health plans, which had competed successfully against the PEHF. The measure also required employer contributions for public employee health premiums to be decided through collective bargaining.

In addition to overhauling public worker health benefits, the Legislature also authorized the Governor and county mayors to contract out public services to private companies and to set up systems of managed competition to allow public workers to compete with private companies for the opportunity to provide public services. Act 90 established privatization laws to address the uncertainty raised by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in Konno v. County of Hawaii, with regard to the government's ability to rely on the private sector for certain government services. Act 90 also, in part, provided ways to minimize the adverse effects on public workers displaced by privatization and restored the right to strike for all collective bargaining units except firefighters and police officers. While the State's economy was demonstrating some evidence of recovery after almost a decade of low growth and recession, the demands on government for the delivery of core services continued to increase. Act 90 was enacted to give government the ability to deliver services by the most efficient means possible.

#### 2001 - 2002

The Legislature also passed a concurrent resolution requesting the Office of the Auditor to conduct a comprehensive management and financial audit of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). The Legislature found that there were concerns over how HTA was spending the significant amount of public funds it received and specifically requested that the Office of the Auditor examine HTA's procedures for contract approvals and contract administration.

In July 2001, the Legislature called the second of three special sessions to override the Governor's veto of legislation that raised the legal age of consent for sex from age 14 to age 16, excluding cases where the 14- or 15-year-old is married to the sex partner. In cases where 14- and 15-year-olds voluntarily had sex with an adult who was five or more years older, the legislation allowed the adult to be sentenced for up to 20 years in prison.

Later that year, despite some evidence of economic recovery, Hawai'i's economy was hard hit by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. A sharp and continued decline in the number of visitors to the State led to widespread layoffs and devastating revenue loss for many businesses.

In response, the Legislature called a third special session in October 2001, during which the Legislature approved wide-ranging emergency legislation to help laid-off workers, give tax relief to Hawai'i residents, boost the local economy, and give the Governor short-term emergency powers, subject to certain checks and balances, to deal with the economic fallout of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The economic impacts of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks continued to be a major focus for the Legislature during 2002. As 2002 was also a key election year featuring a gubernatorial race and all legislative seats up for election following reapportionment, legislators had their work cut out for them. In order to raise revenues, the Legislature increased the cigarette tax, projecting an extra \$16 million in revenue for the State. The Legislature also transferred funds and interest from the reserves in the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to the general fund and appropriated money

from various revolving and special funds, including the "rainy day fund", to help balance the budget and fund public health, public safety, social welfare, and educational programs. The Legislature also sought to stimulate the local economy by passing several tax credit measures, including an extension of a four-percent tax credit to encourage home construction and remodeling.

In an effort to reduce litter and mitigate decreasing landfill availability, the Legislature passed the "bottle bill", which imposed a five-cent deposit on most glass, plastic, and aluminum beverage containers that is refunded when consumers recycle the beverage containers. The measure also phased in an additional non-refundable fee of 1.5 cents per beverage container to be used by the Department of Health to subsidize the recycling program. The non-refundable fee was projected to raise \$12 million per year.



Terrorists hijack passenger jets and attack U.S. targets, including both World Trade Center towers in New York City and the Pentagon. With the tourism industry reeling after the September 11 attacks, Hawai'i hotels and other businesses began to lay off workers. The Legislature called a third special session in October 2001 to deal with the economic fallout of the attacks.

The Twenty-First Legislature made several consumer bills a priority. One of the most significant consumer bills authorized the Public Utilities Commission to cap retail and wholesale gasoline prices, based on an index of West Coast gas prices, but delayed the effective date of the cap until 2004. To address the concerns of the neighbor islands, this measure required that the price caps include the cost of marketing and transportation and provided a neighbor island differential. Another noteworthy consumer bill prohibited excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory health insurance rates. measure also required health insurers to submit rate filings for approval by the Insurance Commissioner and disclose the methods used in setting those rates.

The Legislature also continued to examine whether taxpayer dollars were being spent prudently by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). In February 2002, the Office of the Auditor issued a report of its management audit



#### 2001 - 2002



Liberty House Department Store chain is bought out by Macy's.

of the HTA. The audit found that the HTA was plagued by an alarming array of management deficiencies that did not ensure the appropriate use of approximately \$144.5 million in state resources. In response, the Legislature passed a measure aiming to improve the effectiveness of the HTA Board and administration of HTA service contracts. This measure also required the Office of the Auditor to conduct a management and financial audit of the HTA at least every five years to determine if the HTA and its major contractors were in compliance with all relevant financial requirements.

In the 2002 elections, voters elected Governor Linda Lingle: the first female governor of the State and first Republican to hold that office since 1962.



ROBERT BUNDA







**AVERY CHUMBLEY** 



SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND



Majority Leader



Majority Floor Leader



CAROL FUKUNAGA



COLLEEN HANABUSA Vice President



FRED HEMMINGS Minority Floor Leader



**BOB HOGUE** 



DAVID IGE



LES IHARA, JR.



LORRAINE R. INOUYE



BRIAN KANNO



CAL KAWAMOTO Majority Leader



DONNA MERCADO



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN





DAVID MATSUURA





BOB NAKATA



NORMAN SAKAMOTO



SAM SLOM Minority Leader





PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI Clerk



Assistant Clerk



VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

The national economy struggled as the nation launched an invasion of Iraq in March. At the state level, Hawai'i's economic condition continued to be a priority for the Twenty-Second Legislature but was exacerbated by the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Asia, significantly diminishing visitor arrivals.

Therefore, even more so than in past legislative sessions, the focal point of the 2003 session was to pass a balanced budget. Relying in part on similar strategies from the previous session, such as the reallocation of monies from various special and revolving funds to the general fund and the appropriation of monies out of the "rainy day fund" for various public health, safety, and welfare programs, the Legislature was able to pass a balanced budget.

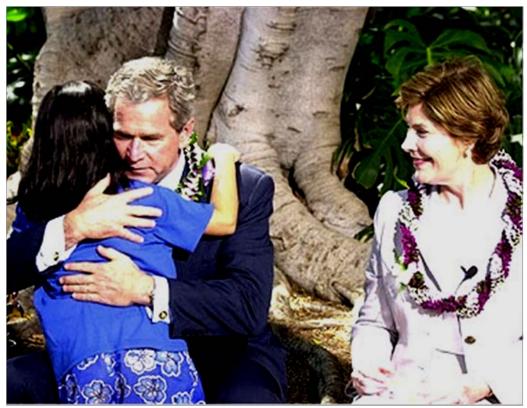
Legislators responded to the precarious economic situation by also bolstering support for the ailing tourism industry and employment. They

established various tax credits, including a 10-year, 7.5-percent tax credit for qualified development costs at the Koʻolina Marina and Resort and the Makaha Resort to stimulate economic development on the Leeward side of Oʻahu, including the second city of Kapolei, and enhance Hawaiʻi as a tourism destination. The tax credit also aimed to create additional jobs, both temporary and permanent, for area residents.

The Legislature passed S.B. 1460, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, requiring the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to include in its contracts certain provisions to ensure accountability and the efficient use of public funds. The Governor ultimately vetoed this measure in early July, but the legislation, coupled with questions from the Senate Tourism Committee, spurred managerial changes and increased oversight of the Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau (HVCB). These actions were complemented by a management and financial audit released by the Auditor of the HTA's major contracts, including two marketing contracts valued at \$151.7 million with the HVCB. The

#### 2003 - 2004





President George W. Bush receives a lei and a hug from a Pearl Harbor Elementary School student during his readaloud session. October 23, 2002 (George F. Lee)

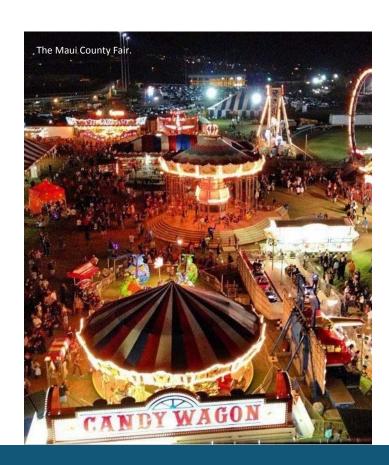
Auditor's report found that the HTA lacked adequate oversight over the HVCB contracts and that the HVCB had made a number of inappropriate expenditures. In early July, the Attorney General announced it would investigate HVCB, and by late July, HVCB's President and Chief Executive Officer resigned. In December, in response to the audit report, the HTA announced that it had commissioned a further audit of the HVCB and had hired a Special Master to review the HVCB's operations.

By 2004, concern for Hawai'i's growing "ice" (crystal methamphetamine) epidemic and prison overcrowding reached a critical mass. Hawai'i's jails and prisons were overwhelmed by the influx of inmates with ice-related crimes, and inmates were transferred to private correctional facilities on the mainland due to overcrowding in Hawai'i's facilities. This resulted in growing pressure to provide treatment alternatives to incarceration and to find ways to protect the public from the theft and violence often associated with ice abuse.

In response to the concerns over ice abuse, the Legislature passed an omnibus bill that took into account the recommendations of the Joint House-Senate Task Force on Ice and Drug Abatement. While acknowledging that the measure would not solve all of the problems created by ice abuse in the State, the Legislature considered the measure a good start in battling ice use and ice-related crime. The measure included, among other things, new drug trafficking offenses for ice; discretion for judges to sentence first-time, non-violent drug offenders to treatment rather than prison; tort liability for drug dealers; authorization for the Department of Public Safety to coordinate drug abatement efforts between public, private, and community

organizations; support for the development of drug rehabilitation homes for recovering addicts; and parity in health insurance benefits for substance abuse treatment. The Legislature also passed legislation to provide the State and counties with the financial support necessary to successfully battle the ice epidemic.

In addition to finding solutions to the ice epidemic, the Legislature also focused on addressing low test scores and achievement gaps in Hawai<sup>c</sup>i's public schools by passing comprehensive education reform in Act 51, the "Reinventing Education Act of 2004". The intent of Act 51 was to decentralize decision making at the Department of Education



#### 2003 - 2004

and empower complex- and school-level staff and administrators, as well as to encourage greater community involvement, and provide better professional development, enhanced technology, and other educational resources to the Department of Education. Act 51 most notably established a weighted student formula that focused school financing on the individual characteristics of students rather than enrollment at the school; empowered school principals through the Hawaii Principals Academy; provided full-time, year-round, high school student activity coordinators; established a national board certification incentive program for teachers; and required Board of Education members to hold community meetings in their districts.

Despite competing views between the Lingle Administration and the Legislature on the potential effectiveness of Act 51 in reinventing education in the State, a 2004 poll by *The Honolulu Advertiser* found that more than 50 percent of people interviewed believed the measure would improve the quality of schools in the State. Effectiveness debates aside, Act 51 has proven to be landmark legislation in public education.



ROBERT BUNDA President



MELODIE WILLIAMS ADUJA



ROSALYN BAKER



SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND



J. KALANI ENGLISH



WILLIE C. ESPERO



CAROL FUKUNAGA



COLLEEN HANABUSA Majority Leader



FRED HEMMINGS Minority Leader



BOB HOGUE Minority Floor Leader



GARY L. HOOSER







LORRAINE R. INOUYE



BRIAN KANNO



CAL KAWAMOTO Majority Floor Leader



DONNA MERCADO KIM Vice President



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN



RON MENOR











SHAN S. TSUTSUI Majority Caucus Leader



PAUL WHALEN Minority Policy Leader



PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI



CAROL TANIGUCHI Assistant Clerk



VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



**GREGG SHIMAO** Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

In 2005, the Twenty-Third Legislature sought to address quality of life issues facing residents of the State, including growing traffic congestion, lack of affordable housing, and homelessness.

Although Oʻahu experiences the greatest traffic congestion in the State, by 2004, Hawaiʻi County, Maui County, and Kauaʻi County were also facing their share of traffic congestion due to population growth and increased development. In response, the Legislature passed Act 247 to allow the counties to add a 0.5 percent surcharge on the State's general excise tax to pay for transit projects. That measure gave the counties until the end of 2005 to approve a tax surcharge, which would be collected for 15 years beginning January 2007.

At the time Act 247 passed, only the City and County of Honolulu was actively considering a tax increase to help pay for a rail transit project on the island of O'ahu. After the Honolulu City Council had failed to adopt a rail proposal in 1992, the City lost an opportunity to receive more than \$600

million in federal funds for rail. This measure represented a second chance to obtain critical federal funding. While this measure faced opposition by tax opponents who believed that rail transit was not the ideal solution, the Legislature estimated that providing the counties with the option of adding the 0.5 percent surcharge could raise as much as \$150 million a year to pay for a rail transit project and provide a good starting point for dealing with traffic congestion.

As the cost of housing in the State continued to skyrocket, the Legislature sought solutions to Hawai'i's affordable housing shortage.

The Legislature passed a law to provide mechanisms and incentives to increase the supply of low-income rental housing units for persons and families earning less than 80 percent of the median family income. Most notably, this legislation established a general excise tax exemption for developers who set aside half of the units in their development as affordable; gave priority over rental housing trust fund monies to

### 2005 - 2006

those developers who provided units for families making 80 percent or less of the median family income; and split the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii into two entities, allowing greater focus on public housing and affordable housing development.

The Legislature also increased the conveyance tax on properties transferred for \$600,000 or more and on the sale of residential properties that were second homes or investments. A portion of the revenue was allocated to the fund for the environment, which was renamed as the land conservation fund, and the share of the revenue allocated to the rental housing trust fund was increased from 25 to 30 percent.

The high housing prices and tight housing market in Hawai'i also exacerbated homelessness in the State. The 2003 "Homeless Point-in-Time" report found that approximately 6,000 persons were homeless statewide at any given time; of those, 4,000 had no shelter, and the remainder lived in temporary shelters. According to the report, the number of homeless persons during that year exceeded 14,000. Even more troubling was the dramatic increase in the number of "hidden homeless" - those relying on public assistance, relatives, or friends for shelter because they could not afford to live on their own. From 1992 to 2003, the hidden homeless more than doubled, from over 90,000 to over 220,000 persons.

To help address homelessness, the Legislature authorized the offering of decommissioned public housing to private nonprofit and for-profit entities for rehabilitation into emergency or transitional shelters or rehabilitation into rental units that set aside at least 50 percent of the units to persons or families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median. The Legislature also declared a moratorium on the demolition of decommissioned public housing until a determination was made whether to rehabilitate them. In addition, the Legislature appropriated \$1.65 million in each year of the 2005-2007 fiscal biennium for the expansion and operation of emergency and transitional shelters.

The Legislature also sought to improve the governance of the University of Hawai'i by proposing a constitutional amendment to require that members of the Board of Regents be nominated by the Governor from pools of qualified candidates presented to the Governor by a Candidate Advisory Council. The Legislature also passed legislation that, among other things, established the Council and increased the number of Regent members from 11 to 15.

While the Lingle Administration accused the Legislature of trying to strip the Governor of her power, the Legislature believed that these measures were the best way to ensure the consideration and appointment of qualified individuals who could effectively lead the University. The constitutional amendment was approved by the voters in November 2006.

In November 2004, 72 percent of voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide more public information about convicted sex offenders without the need for a preliminary court hearing. In response, the Legislature amended and clarified registration and public access laws governing sex offenders and offenders against minors by allowing the State to post the name, photo, home address, work street, and zip code of certain sex offenders on a state website without having to go through the courts first and also allowing sex offenders to petition the court to have their information removed from the State's website under certain circumstances after a certain amount of time.

In July 2005, the Legislature convened a special session to override several of Governor Lingle's vetoes, including the establishment of the Hawaii 2050 Task Force to review the state plan and other components of community planning and develop a sustainability plan to aid in the long-term development of the State. The measure also appropriated funds for the Hawaii 2050 Task Force.

During the 2006 Regular Session, the Legislature continued to focus on Hawai'i's shortage of affordable housing and the homeless crisis. For affordable housing, the Legislature provided the counties greater flexibility to approve affordable housing projects under certain conditions and authorized 99-year leases of state land to qualified non-profits providing affordable housing at a price of \$1 per year per parcel. The Legislature also increased the conveyance tax revenue allocation to the rental housing trust fund to 50 percent.

Also threatening to decrease the State's supply of affordable housing were plans to sell several privately-owned affordable housing projects, such as Kukui Gardens and Kulana Nani, at market prices once their affordability restrictions expired. In response, the Legislature passed legislation requiring the State to negotiate with the appropriate entity to make public financing resources available to extend affordable rent provisions at Kukui Gardens through at least 2016, provided that certain affordable housing conditions were met. In the alternative, the Legislature required the acquisition of Kukui Gardens through a public-private partnership under the condition that 80 percent of the units remain affordable in perpetuity. If an agreement could not be reached to either extend affordable rentals or to acquire the property through a publicprivate partnership, the Legislature required that the State exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the property.

The Legislature also made public financing resources available without competitive bid to assist a potential buyer of Kulana Nani, as long as all units at the property remained affordable in perpetuity.

#### To address homelessness,

Legislature made an appropriation to the counties to assist them in providing temporary emergency housing. The Legislature also appropriated \$10 million for the repair and modernization of existing federal and state buildings for transitional and emergency homeless shelters and provided grants to a number of non-profit organizations to support various homeless programs.

Recognizing the research establishing the health dangers of secondhand smoke from tobacco, the Legislature established basic protections from exposure to secondhand smoke statewide by prohibiting smoking in places open to the public and places of employment. The Legislature extended the prohibition to all enclosed or partially enclosed areas, including buildings and vehicles owned, leased, or operated by the State or a county. This measure also prohibited smoking within 20 feet of entrances, exits, operable windows, and ventilation intakes serving an

enclosed or partially enclosed area. The measure provided a list of exceptions to the smoking prohibition, including certain private residences and designated outdoor areas of employment. This legislation was a major step toward protecting people from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

The Legislature also established a "three strikes law" requiring special sentencing of habitual violent felons. This measure provided that a habitual violent felon shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of not less than 30 years and a mandatory indeterminate term of life imprisonment if certain criteria are met. In passing the measure, Hawai'i joined 25 other states authorizing harsher sentences for habitual violent felons. While the measure was criticized by some as being too costly and burdensome for Hawai'i's already overcrowded prisons, the measure was seen by others as a deterrent to serious and violent crime in Hawai'i and had strong community support.

## 2005 - 2006





Left: Michelle Wie reacts after making a long birdie putt at the Fields Open at Ko Olina. February 25, 2006. (Dennis Oda) Right: The Waikiki Beach Walk project under construction. October 30, 2006. (George F. Lee)



**ROBERT BUNDA** President



ROSALYN BAKER Assistant Majority Floor Leader



OAKLAND



J. KALANI ENGLISH



WILL ESPERO



CAROL FUKUNAGA



COLLEEN HANABUSA Majority Leader



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PAUL WHALEN



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The State emerged from the post-September 11 economic recession with several years of economic growth, and the Twenty-Fourth Legislature opened the 2007 Regular Session with a \$700 million surplus for the biennium.

The Senate opened the session by also unanimously electing Senator Colleen Hanabusa as President of the Senate, the first woman to preside over a chamber of the Hawai'i Legislature in the State's history. In her opening remarks, Senate President Hanabusa spoke of the need to build upon Hawai'i's strengths while also recognizing certain challenges, with an ultimate goal of ensuring sustainability in Hawai'i.

With sustainability in mind, the Legislature allocated the majority of the surplus toward state programs, emergency services, and tax cuts. \$195 million of the surplus went toward increases in health and human service programs, including funds for higher payments for QUEST and Medicaid fee-for-service, Medicaid home and community-based services, and emergency medical

services. Public education also benefited from the surplus, with \$190 million going toward the State's public schools for repairs and maintenance, school bus service, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The Legislature also passed Act 210, which satisfied a constitutional requirement to provide a rebate after two years of budget surpluses. Act 210 gave certain low-income taxpayers a refund through a general income tax credit. Legislators targeted additional taxpayer relief with Act 211, which permitted low-income taxpayers to claim a refundable food and general excise tax credit.

The expiration of a general excise tax exemption on ethanol-blended gasoline had led to rising prices at the pump in January 2007. Act 209 restored this exemption, reducing gasoline taxes by approximately 10 cents a gallon.

With the passage of Act 236, the Legislature also focused on channeling aid to one of the State's most vulnerable populations. Known as the Keiki Care bill, Act 236 established a three-year

#### 2007 - 2008

Children's Health Care Program to help "gap group" children and youth — those who were uninsured, but whose families did not qualify for other state and federal programs. Backed by a partnership between the state Department of Human Services and the private Hawaii Medical Services Association, lawmakers considered the pilot program one of the most significant health achievements during the 2007 legislative session.

The Legislature reconvened for two special sessions after the close of the 2007 Regular Session. The First Special Session was a veto override session, while the Second Special Session convened in October 2007 to consider the controversial Hawaii Superferry. The Superferry was originally intended to provide passenger and vehicle transportation between Honolulu Harbor on Oʻahu, Kahului Harbor on Maui, Nawiliwili Harbor on Kauaʻi, and Kawaihae Harbor on the Big Island. However, shortly after the Superferry made its first trip in late August, it suspended operations following wide-spread community protests and a court order regarding the lack of an environmental impact study (EIS) for Kahului Harbor. Act 2, Second Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, permitted the Superferry to operate pending completion of an EIS. The Superferry resumed service after the Second Special Session, but all operations were suspended indefinitely in March 2009, after the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that Act 2 violated article XI, section 5, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

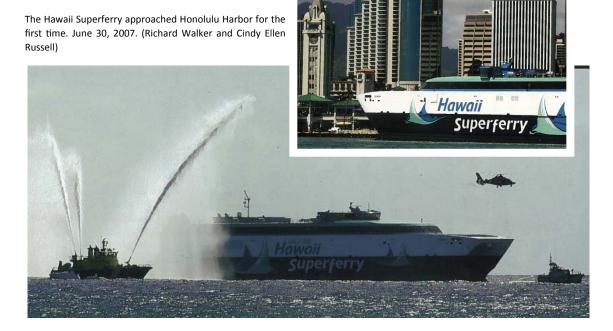
Tourism weakened slightly after reaching an all-time high in 2006. By the end of 2007, serious systemic issues regarding subprime mortgages and derivatives surfaced and financial troubles brewed on a global scale.

After several years of a robust economy with moderate economic growth, the Legislature opened the 2008 Regular Session with an eye on essential services. Legislators also discussed the major themes of a session that would unfold in a recessive state, national, and global economy. Democratic legislative priorities included environmental protection, sustainability, and public school repair and maintenance projects. Republican legislative priorities included energy independence, tax relief, and crime victims' rights.

Senator David Ige was appointed as Senate Technology Leader to oversee the implementation of the Senate's Paperless Initiative, which built on a sustainability platform Senate President Colleen Hanabusa originally announced in 2007. The goals of the Paperless Initiative included reducing paper waste produced by the Senate and enhancing public access to the legislative process using technology. Within the first year, the Senate had reduced its paper consumption by 68 percent. By 2010, the Senate's savings included an estimated \$1.2 million, nearly 8 million pages, and the equivalent of more than 800 trees. The implementation and successes of the Paperless Initiative earned national praise and acclaim for the Senate.

After more than two years of preparation and committee hearings, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force, chaired by Senator Russell Kokubun, presented its Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan to the 2008 Legislature. The Plan represented the most comprehensive statewide planning effort in more than three decades and aimed to provide public and private sector institutions with a road map for creating policies on affordable housing, education, land management, energy, and other important areas. The Plan, along with the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, which included an agreement among various state agencies and Hawaiian Electric Companies, served to enhance community awareness of the need independence and sustainability in Hawai'i. In keeping with the theme of energy independence, the Legislature passed Act 204, which required new single family homes built after January 1, 2010, to be built with solar water heaters. Act 204, the first of its kind in the nation, was a positive way for the State to increase its use of renewable energy.

A 2007 informational briefing held by the Senate Committee on Tourism and Government Operations uncovered possible procurement improprieties within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

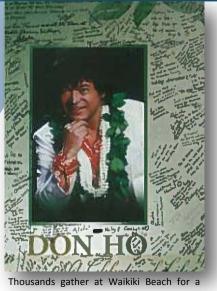


In response, the Senate formed the Special Investigative Committee on the Hydrogen Investment Capital Special Management Contract Award during the 2008 Session. Chaired by Senator Donna Mercado Kim, the Special Investigative Committee held numerous hearings to look into DBEDT's award of an \$8.7 million management contract for the Hydrogen Investment Capital Special Fund (Hydrogen The Special Investigative Committee's report eventually concluded that the Director of DBEDT sought to manipulate the procurement process to award the Hydrogen Fund contract to the third-ranked H2 Energy LLC over the topranked bidder Kolohala Holdings LLP. The committee's report made numerous recommendations, including requesting further action into the matter by the Department of the Attorney General and the State Ethics Members of the bipartisan Commission. committee noted that the investigation was important to preserve public trust in how the State purchased goods and services.

As the 2008 Regular Session drew to a close, the United States' mortgage crisis was spiraling into what the International Monetary Fund considered the largest financial shock since the Great Depression, and states across the country felt the effects of rapidly weakening economies. Unfortunately Hawai'i also felt the financial impact from the mortgage crisis forcing legislators to cut \$44.7 million out of a \$5.3 billion state budget. However, amid the financial crisis legislators were still able to prioritize areas of education, health and human services, and public safety.

Throughout the year, labor markets continued to deteriorate. The fall of housing prices caused a sharp rise in mortgage foreclosures, consequently resulting in hundreds of billions of dollars of losses among the nation's leading banks and a tightening of credit by the banks. By the end of 2008, the effects of the ensuing recession from the mortgage crisis was felt throughout the country and world.

### 2007 - 2008



Thousands gather at Waikiki Beach for a concert that followed the memorial services for entertainer Don Ho. May 5, 2007. (Richard Walerk)



A boisterous crowd of employees was on hand at Gate 54 at Honolulu Airport's interisland terminal to greet passengers as they deplaned Aloha Airlines' last flight, No. 261, from Kahului on March 31, 2008.



COLLEEN HANABUSA President



ROSALYN BAKER



ROBERT BUNDA President Emeritus



SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND Co-Majority Whip



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The nationwide economic downturn that began in 2008 continued to create challenges for state and local governments throughout the country. Accordingly, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature opened the 2009 Regular Session by urging fiscal prudence in light of declining state tax revenue. However, legislators also took the time to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American President and the first President born, raised, and educated in Hawai'i.

After the Council on Revenues estimated a \$2 billion deficit for the biennium, the legislative priority for the session focused on balancing the budget. Lawmakers were faced with many tough choices as they worked toward a balanced budget that enhanced government efficiency and minimized impacts to vital state services. Eventually, the Legislature passed Act 162, which closed the budget deficit through a combination of spending cuts, program reductions, and the elimination of 200 mostly vacant state jobs.

The State also received over \$1.6 billion in contracts, grants, and loans from the federal government under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The ARRA included measures to modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. The ARRA imposed a limited time frame for states to expend federal monies to stimulate the economy in the shortest possible time. Accordingly, Act 150 provided temporary exemptions from statutes relating to procurement, rulemaking, and employment to allow Hawai'i to expedite the implementation or expansion of programs, services, and benefits authorized by the ARRA. Act 150 also appropriated Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds provided to the State under the ARRA, which was an essential way to bring enhanced social services to Hawai'i's neediest individuals and families during trying economic times.

#### 2009 - 2010

The Legislature reconvened for a veto override session after the close of the 2009 Regular Session. The Legislature recognized that hospitals and emergency rooms were a critical part of the State's safety net and that it was important to maximize federal funding wherever possible. Accordingly, Act 23, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, provided \$12.3 million in state funds to be matched by \$15 million in federal funds that would help offset the rising costs of health care for the unemployed and uninsured.

2009 was also the 50th anniversary of Hawai'i's statehood. The year-long commemoration of the anniversary culminated in a conference on Admission Day at the Hawaii Convention Center. Other notable commemorative events included the unveiling of the Hawaii's state quarter; various educational initiatives, including a statehood-themed essay contest and a time-capsule project; and a ceremony at the State Capitol and joint session of the Legislature.

Serious economic concerns remained throughout the year. The Council on Revenues added an additional \$730 million to the projected \$2 billion budget shortfall in May, which prompted discussions of furloughs for state employees. In October 2009, Governor Lingle announced details of a plan that furloughed certain state workers two days per month for 20 months. The state Board of Education also announced 17 "Furlough

Fridays" for students and employees in the public school system, which lasted until May 2010. This drastic cost-cutting measure garnered national attention and earned Hawai'i the unfortunate distinction of having the fewest student instructional days in the nation.

The far-reaching effects of the global recession were still being felt in Hawaii at the beginning of 2010. The Legislature opened the 2010 Regular Session with an abbreviated Opening Day ceremony featuring brief, mostly somber floor speeches with calls for collaboration and austerity. The continuation of Hawaii's recession forced the Legislature to deal with a budget deficit of \$1.2 billion, and legislators warned of difficult decisions ahead.

Despite challenging decisions and sacrifices necessary to ensure core government services were maintained, the Legislature managed to eliminate the deficit with the passage of Act 180, a \$10.2 billion budget bill that relied on tax revenue increases but avoided a broad hike in general excise taxes.

The public school system's "Furlough Fridays", one of the most controversial and highly contentious chapters in the history of the State's public education system, came to an end that May. The Legislature demonstrated its commitment to education and ending teacher furloughs with Act 143, which made \$67 million available from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to restore educational furlough days. Legislators described Act 143 as their contribution to ending the furlough stalemate but understood that it would be up to Governor Lingle to sign the measure and release the appropriated funds. The Governor and the Board of Education later explained that the agreement to return nearly 17,000 school children to the classroom would include \$57.2 million from



Nancy Quinn, wife of late Gov. William Quinn; Sheenagh Burns and Jim Burns, daughter and son of late Gov. John Burns; Gov. George Ariyoshi; Gov. John Waihee; Gov. Benjamin Cayetano; and Gov. Linda Lingle gathered at the state Capitol on March 18, the 50th anniversary of the day in 1959 that Congress approved Hawai'i's entry into the union. The 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission is also sponsoring a conference on Aug. 21, Statehood Day, as an opportunity for Hawai'i residents to reflect on Hawai'i's past and on issues that will determine the state's role in the 21st century. (Honolulu Advertiser photo)

the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund, \$2.2 million in federal funds, and six planning days teachers gave back to the State.

Legislators also took steps to ensure teacher furloughs would never happen again. Act 167 required public schools under the Department of Education to have at least 180 days of instruction per school year. Act 167 also mandated an increased minimum instructional time for schools, from 915 hours for elementary schools and 990 hours for middle and high schools during the 2011 school year to 1,080 hours for all schools by the 2013 school year.

Legislators additionally recognized that the economic downturn and the resulting state cutbacks to services had a severe impact on Hawai'i's vulnerable population. Accordingly, Act 191 repaired some of the damage to Hawai'i's safety net by appropriating \$23.7 million from the "rainy day fund". In total, 39 social services programs throughout the State received funding,

including Kupuna Care, Healthy Start, services for domestic violence victims, mental health programs, and numerous services for the poor, such as legal aid and cash benefits.

In July 2010, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Donna Mercado Kim, launched a series of hearings to investigate employee and contractor complaints about Department of Transportation contracts and The Committee scrutinized personnel issues. transactions surrounding the State's subleasing of a Honolulu office space and a corresponding \$570,000 contractor reimbursement, questioned a \$16.5 million planned land deal adjacent to Lihue Airport on Kaua'i, and delved into the handling of personnel matters at the Airports Division. The Committee also further investigated a series of alleged management problems at Lihue Airport, including reports of embezzlement, security violations that resulted in fines by the federal Transportation Security Administration, and other personnel concerns. In August, the Deputy Transportation Director for Airports abruptly

#### 2009 - 2010

resigned. A year later, the manager of Lihue Airport was fired by the State. State transportation officials stated in August 2011 that management changes were underway to improve operations at all the State's airports.

By the end of 2010, there was some positive news in the wake of months of economic uncertainty. Local economists noted that Hawai'i's economy was slowly recovering, with visitor spending and arrivals on O'ahu making the most gains. The tourism rebound was expected to spread to the neighbor islands in 2011, and positive job growth was expected in most private sectors.



#### 50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

A 2009 United States postage stamp celebrating 50 years of statehood for Hawai'i, the 50th state. Designed by Hawai'i artist and historian Herb Kawainui Kane.



COLLEEN HANABUSA





**President Emeritus** 



OAKLAND Co-Majority Whip









MIKE GABBARD







**CLAYTON HEE** 



Minority Leader



GARY L. HOOSER Majority Leader



DAVID IGE Majority Technology Leader



Majority Policy Leader



MICHELLE N. KIDANI



DONNA MERCADO



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN Vice President



CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA



NORMAN SAKAMOTO Majority Floor Leader



SAM SLOM Minority Floor Leader



DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI



JILL N. TOKUDA Co-Majority Whip



SHAN S. TSUTSUI **Majority Caucus** Leader



LAURA FIGUEIRA\*



RONALD D. KOUCHI\*\*



CAROL TANIGUCHI Clerk



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON Assistant Clerk



BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



JAYSON M. WATTS Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

<sup>\*</sup> The Governor appointed Laura A. Figueira to the Senate on September 7, 2010 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Robert Bunda from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The Governor appointed Ronald D. Kouchi to the Senate on September 7, 2010 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gary Hooser from the 7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District.

#### The Twenty-Sixth Legislature

opened the 2011 Regular Session with signs that the worst of the global recession had passed and with hope that the State was finally on a slow path to economic recovery. Newly-appointed Senate President Shan Tsutsui, the youngest person to serve as Senate President since statehood, asserted that better days were ahead for Hawai'i but acknowledged that many of the same challenges from previous years remained, including a projected \$800 million budget deficit through 2013. Legislators and the new Governor, Neil Abercrombie, agreed that the focus during the legislative session should include the economy, education, energy, and health and human services.

Legislators acknowledged that the budget would remain their top priority but moved quickly on a bill that would legalize same-sex civil unions in Hawai'i. Act 1 allowed couples to enter into a civil union, a legal status with the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities offered to spouses in a marriage. Act 1, which was similar to a bill then-Governor Linda Lingle vetoed the previous July, was signed by Governor Abercrombie the

same day the Obama Administration reversed its previous position on same-sex marriage and said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Supporters of Act 1 called it a step forward for equality throughout the State.

Legislation that would shape the future of the state Board of Education also passed during 2011. The initiative for an appointed Board of Education gained momentum in 2010 after the unpopular "Furlough Fridays". Voters then ratified a constitutional amendment to replace the elected Board with one appointed by the Governor. The Legislature also recognized the importance of advancing the State's public school system and fast -tracked Act 5, which permitted the Governor to appoint all nine members of the Board of Education. Act 5 also provided guidelines for board member nominees, who would be subject to final confirmation by the Senate. Governor Abercrombie appointed the new Board of Education members at the end of March, and the Senate unanimously confirmed all nominees during April.

## 2011 - 2012

Another significant area of legislation during 2011 concerned Native Hawaiian recognition. United States Senator Daniel Akaka, the country's first Native Hawaiian Senator, originally introduced the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act to Congress in 1999. The Act, otherwise known as the Akaka Bill, would provide federal recognition of Native Hawaiians, similar to that offered to American Indians and native Alaskans. While the federal recognition bill stalled in Congress, a bill was introduced in the Hawai'i Senate that supported Senator Akaka's efforts on a state level. Act 195 formally recognized Native Hawaiian people as the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli people of Hawai'i and sent a signal to the nation's capitol that the people of Hawai'i were in agreement with the Akaka Bill. Act 195 required the Governor to appoint a Native Hawaiian Roll Call Commission to create and publish a list of people who are of Native Hawaiian descent. Supporters of Act 195 considered it an important step in a journey toward recognition, self-governance, the protection of cultural rights, and the appropriate use of ceded lands.

Problems in the housing industry, including unscrupulous lending practices by some of the nation's largest mortgage servicers, combined with the effects of the global recession, resulted in a record-high level of foreclosures in several states. Hawai'i was not immune from those circumstances, in fact Hawai'i gained the unfortunate distinction of having one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation by 2010. By 2011, the momentum for mortgage reform was growing. In response, the Legislature passed Act 48, a comprehensive, detailed response to the foreclosure issues facing many Hawai'i families. Act 48 overhauled state law on

nonjudicial foreclosures and included a dispute resolution process intended to allow homeowners a better opportunity to enter into loan modifications and remain in their homes. Act 48, a necessary response to mortgage lender abuses, also ensured homeowners received enhanced notice of foreclosure actions and allowed borrowers who contended a lender was improperly foreclosing to bring their case before a state judge. The following year, Act 182, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, built on the work of Act 48. Together these laws were intended to represent a balanced mortgage foreclosure process that worked for lenders and homeowners in Hawaii.

The Legislature made various amendments to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to address the unfunded liability of the ERS, which stood at a staggering deficit of \$7.1 billion. The amendments changed contribution rates, retirement allowance or benefits, calculation of average final compensation, and vesting dates for public employees entering the ERS after June 30, 2012.

Despite a massive earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis in Japan in March, by the end of 2011, consumer confidence in the state economy seemed to be slowly improving. State unemployment was lower than the national average, and local housing prices held steady. The Hawaii Tourism Authority predicted arrivals and visitor spending would steadily increase through 2012, further bolstering Hawaii's economy.

State legislators opened the 2012 Regular Session with cautious optimism and called for the protection of a slowly recovering economy, promotion of job growth, and stabilization of the state budget. Senate leaders also expressed support for the bipartisan "Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012", which set forth an aggressive multi-million dollar capital improvement project package designed to cut into the State's deferred repair and maintenance backlog and create jobs for local residents.

The Legislature focused on the issue of ceded lands with the passage of Act 15, which saw the resolution of a nearly three-decades-old ceded lands dispute between the State and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Act 15 conveyed to OHA prime waterfront land in Kakaako valued at \$200 million, an amount the State and OHA agreed was a reasonable compromise that represented the amount owed to OHA from

revenues generated by lands that once belonged to the Hawaiian Kingdom. In return, OHA agreed to waive all claims to past due ceded lands payments. After the signing of Act 15, the Chair of the OHA Board of Trustees stated that the agency was planning on moving quickly to create a master plan for the Kakaako Makai property.

Following several controversies and a highly critical State Auditor's report, a need for greater accountability over the State's charter schools prompted the introduction and passage of a bill to completely overhaul Hawai'i's charter school system. Act 130 established changes in the charter school system based on recommendations from a charter school task force created by the Legislature in 2011, including placing charter schools on performance contracts, strengthening monitoring of the charter system, and requiring a new Public Charter School Commission to authorize and oversee the schools. Act 130 ensured that charter schools maintain the autonomy and flexibility they need to remain innovative and also provided the necessary level of accountability. Thanks to the reform efforts of Act 130, Hawai'i's charter school law steadily improved amongst the states from 43rd place in 2011, to 35th place in 2012, to 14th place in 2013.

After a news investigation found that taxpayers had overpaid state workers more than \$2 million and that hundreds of thousands of dollars in salary overpayments had been written off as not collectable, the Senate convened a Special Committee on Accountability. Led by Senator Donna Mercado Kim, the Special Committee held hearings where state Cabinet members and other state department officials were questioned over the lack of accountability and a perceived disregard for taxpayer money. The Special Committee advanced a Concurrent Resolution asking the State Auditor to audit certain state agencies and department practices relating to the use of overtime pay, unpaid leave, pension spiking, and other concerns raised during the Special Committee's investigative The full Senate later approved the hearings. Concurrent Resolution.

By the end of the 2012 Regular Session, the Legislature had approved a \$11.2 billion state budget. This was the first time in a number of years that legislators did not have to contend with a budget deficit in excess of \$1 billion. Although legislators were not able to fund every project, they were able to shore up the State's safety net, with \$11.6 million going for social services programs.

#### The Department of Education

also received significant funding, along with the University of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. In recognition of the Invest in Hawaii goal from the beginning of the 2012 Session, the Senate also included more than \$414 million for repair and maintenance projects in the capital improvement program budget. This funding was intended to allow the creation of more than 4,000 shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry.

Issues of transparency and accountability at the University of Hawai'i (UH) arose after the Legislature adjourned sine die. In July, UH announced that a planned Stevie Wonder concert to benefit the UH athletics department had been cancelled because the performer and his representatives had not authorized the event. UH also stated that it may have been defrauded out of a \$200,000 concert deposit. After the public began demanding answers to the failed concert, including the subsequent and controversial reassignment of UH's former athletic director, the Senate launched an investigation, led by Senator Donna Mercado

Kim as Chair of the five-member Senate Special Committee on Accountability. The Special Committee held two public hearings to investigate the failed concert and issues related to the operational and financial management of UH. The Special Committee's report contained several recommendations for UH, including a legislative audit of the UH System and training for the UH Board of Regents. Senator Kim expressed hope that UH would take the Special Committee's recommendations into serious consideration and make progress toward greater transparency and accountability. During the 2013 Regular Session, the Legislature passed several bills addressing issues unveiled during the Special Committee's hearings, covering topics such as Board of Regents membership and UH procurement contracts.

As 2012 drew to a close, Hawaii and the nation mourned the loss of United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye, who passed away on December 17, 2012, at the age of 88. Senator Inouye was a World War II hero, Medal of Honor winner, nineterm United States Senator, and the longest-serving member of the United States Senate. Senator Inouye was also an unwavering advocate

## 2011 - 2012

for Hawai'i who was known for his ability to bring federal money to the State and who used his influence to change federal policy to benefit Hawai'i, promote civil rights, and preserve native cultures. Congress passed a concurrent resolution granting Senator Inouye with the rare honor to lie in state at the United States Capitol for two days. Senator Inouye's body was then brought to Hawai'i to lie in state at the State Capitol — where Hawai'i residents said their final alohas — prior to his final memorial service at the National Memorial Center of the Pacific at Punchbowl. His passing set off a cascade of changes in the political landscape in Congress and at the state level.



#### **APEC**

2011 APEC summit, with leaders from the 21 member economies convening on the island of O'ahu.



SHAN S. TSUTSUI President



ROSALYN BAKER



SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND Co-Majority Whip



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BIENVENIDO C. VILLAFLOR Sergeant-At-Arms



JAYSON M. WATTS Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

Hawai'i's political organization faced numerous changes even before the 2013 Regular Session convened. With the passing of long-time United States Senator Daniel K. Inouve, Hawai'i had to carry out the operational impact of a vacancy in Congress. Filling the vacancy would have a profound impact on certain elected positions in state government. Specifically, in late December Governor Neil Abercrombie appointed then-Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz to succeed the late Senator Daniel Inouye in Congress. The appointment of Brian Schatz to Congress left a vacancy in the Lieutenant Governor's office. Under the existing law for the order of succession of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the powers and duties of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor devolve upon the President of the Senate in the Lieutenant Governor's absence, and Senate President Shan S. Tsutsui formally resigned as Senate President and officially accepted the position of Lieutenant Governor. With a vacancy in the Senate President's Office, the Senate quickly reorganized to minimize disruption and elected Senate Vice President Donna Mercado Kim to



President Bill Clinton awards U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye with the Medal of Honor at the White House in Washington on June 21, 2000.

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succeed Senator Tsutsui as Senate President. Senator Ronald D. Kouchi was elected as Senate Vice President. In a separate shift in leadership at the Legislature, Representative Joe Souki began a second tenure as Speaker of the House, unseating Representative Calvin Say who was Speaker of the House for the previous 13 years.

On the Opening Day of the Regular Session of 2013, members of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature were met with new leadership in the Senate and House, a modest budget surplus, lower unemployment, and indications that the construction and housing sectors of the economy would rebound as tourism had in 2012. The state budget remained a major priority for lawmakers, along with food and energy independence and education. Senate President Kim urged caution during the economic recovery and also noted that a reevaluation and reassessment of existing state programs would be needed to ensure a more efficient and effective state government.

By the time the Legislature adjourned sine die, leaders from both chambers remarked that it had been one of the most cooperative and transparent sessions in recent memory. The spirit of cooperation was primarily noticeable in the state budget, which legislators passed three days before the end of session. The unanimously approved budget provided millions of dollars for capital improvement projects and investments in information technology. Budget negotiators in the House and Senate also agreed to make a substantial down payment to address the \$16 billion unfunded liability in the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust

Fund, the health care fund for public workers and retirees. These first steps to pay down the unfunded liabilities were intended to create a positive impact on the State's bond rating and ensure Hawai's future was not impeded by burdensome debt.

Cooperation was also evident with the repeal of the Public Land Development controversial Corporation and the passage of Act 27, which required Hawai'i hospitals to provide female sexual assault victims with medically and factually accurate information regarding emergency contraception and provide access to emergency contraception to all women who accepted or requested it. Similar legislation had been introduced for nearly 20 years, and supporters of Act 27 credited legislators from both parties, as well as the Governor and his Administration, with its passage in 2013. Act 27 also brought Hawai'i hospitals into compliance with standard of care policies of the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The Legislature also demonstrated its continuing support of the State's keiki with the passage of Act 169, a measure that expanded early childhood education in Hawai'i. Act 169 expanded the State's existing Preschool Open Doors program by providing \$1.6 million in administrative costs and \$6 million in subsidies to help approximately 900 low-income four-year-olds. Act 169 also required providers to conduct school readiness assessments and represented a concrete investment for Hawai'i to join other states that direct resources toward school readiness and early learning. Another critical

component of the Legislature's effort to reform Hawai'i's early education system was a proposed constitutional amendment to allow the State to use public money for private preschool. This question will be placed on the November 2014 general election ballot.

When the legislative session ended in May, Senate President Kim acknowledged that the legislators' work would continue throughout the year, but few anticipated the magnitude of time and energy that legislators would devote to one controversial issue later that year. In June 2013, the United States Supreme Court struck down section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, creating an impetus for Governor Abercrombie to call the Legislature into a second special session to consider the issue of same -sex marriage in Hawai'i.

The two-week special session began on October 28, 2013, and included an unprecedented amount of written and oral testimony on S.B. 1, the Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act of 2013. The public submitted thousands of pieces of written testimony and turned out in droves to give often passionate oral testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and, later, the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance. Over the two-week special session legislators on the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance heard more than 70 hours of After a marathon five-day public testimony. hearing before the House Committees, S.B. 1 was amended to broaden the measure's existing religious exemption. The final vote in the House was 30 for,



Same-sex marriage advocates and protestors voiced their positions at the State Capitol rotunda during the Second Special Session of 2013. (Carl Miura)

19 against, and two excused. The amended S.B. 1 was returned to the Senate, where it was quickly passed by a vote of 19 for, four against, and two excused. Governor Abercrombie signed S.B. 1, H.D. 1 into law as Act 1, Second Special Session of 2013, making Hawai'i the fifteenth state in the country to legalize same-sex marriage. The Act's passage gained nationwide attention, including praise from Hawai'i-born President Barack Obama.

By the end of 2013, legislators began final preparations for the beginning of the Regular Session of 2014. Although the full impact of federal sequestration on Hawai'i is still unclear in 2013, the Governor announced that the State carried over a record \$844 million balance from fiscal year 2013, creating opportunities to further address the State's unfunded liabilities and progress in areas such as early learning in a fiscally responsible manner.



## facebook

State legislatures across the country are gradually embracing social media as a way to engage with constituents and share information. In 2012 the Hawai'i State Senate led the way with one of the first social media use policies for a state legislature, and by 2013, many of the Senate's members, committees, and caucuses actively post to Flickr, Facebook, and Twitter accounts during the legislative session.

# 2013 - 2014





DONNA MERCADO KIM President



ROSALYN BAKER



OAKLAND



DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ



J. KALANI ENGLISH



WILL ESPERO Majority Floor Leader



MIKE GABBAR



BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA Majority Leader



JOSH GREEN



CLAYTON HEE



DAVID IGE



LES IHARA, JR. Majority Policy Leader



GILBERT KAHELE Majority Whip



GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN



MICHELLE N. KIDANI Assistant Majority Leader



RONALD D. KOUCHI Vice President



CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA



RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN



MAILE S. L. SHIMABUKURO



SAM SLOM Minority Leader Minority Floor Leader



MALAMA SOLOMON



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI



LAURA H. THIELEN



JILL N. TOKUDA Majority Whip



GLENN WAKAI



CAROL TANIGUCHI Clerk



JENNIFER CHOW Assistant Clerk



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2007-2010: Majority Leader
Hulten, John J. (D)
Senate: 1963-1978
1963-1966: Chair, Government Relations and Efficiency
1967-1968: President
1969-1970: Chair, Ways and Means
1971-1974: Chair, Government Operations
1975-1978: Assistant Majority Floor Leader
1975-1978: Chair, Intergovernmental Relations
Ico Dovid V (D)
<b>Ige, David Y. (D)</b>
Senate: 1995-2014; House: 1986-1994
1995-1996: Chair, Higher Education, Culture, and Arts
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Information Technology
1999-2000: Chair, Education and Technology
2003-2004: Chair, Science, Arts, and Technology
2005-2006: Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs
2007-2008: Majority Floor Leader
2007-2010: Chair, Health
2009-2010: Majority Technology Leader
2011-2014: Chair, Ways and Means
Ige, Marshall (D)83, 8
Senate: 1997-2000; House: 1979-1994
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Government Operations and Housing
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Senate: 1995-2014; House: 1987-1994
1995-1996: Majority Floor Leader
1997-1998: Co-Majority Leader
1999-2000: Majority Leader
2007-2014: Majority Policy Leader
Ikeda, Donna R. (R) 1975-1988, (D) 1988-1996
Senate: 1987-1996; House: 1975-1986
1989-1990: Assistant Majority Leader
1989-1990: Chair, Agriculture
1991-1992: Chair, Consumer Protection and Business Regulation
1993: Majority Floor Leader
1993: Chair, Consumer Protection
1994-1996: Chair, Ways and Means
Inouye, Lorraine R. (D)
Senate: 1999-2008
1999-2000: Chair, Economic Development
2001-2002: Chair, Water, Land, Energy, and Environment
2003-2004: Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture
2005-2006: Chair, Transportation and Government Operations
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Iwase, Randy (D)
Senate: 1991-2000
1991-1992: Majority Whip
1993-1994: Assistant Majority Floor Leader
1993-1996: Chair, Planning, Land and Water Use Management 1997-1998: Co-Chair, Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
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Senate: 1965-1966
1965-1966: Chair, Public Employment
Kahele, Gilbert (D)
Senate: 2011-2014
2013-2014: Majority Whip
2013-2014: Chair, Tourism
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Senate: 1993-2006
1993: Chair, Agriculture
1994: Chair, Labor and Employment
1995-1996: Chair, Agriculture, Labor, and Employment
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Human Resources
1999-2000: Co-Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection
2001-2002: Chair, Judiciary
2003-2006: Chair, Labor
<b>Kawamoto, Cal (D)</b>
Senate: 1995-2004
1995-1996: Majority Caucus Leader
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Transportation and Intergovernmental
Affairs
1999-2000: Chair, Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs
2001-2002: Majority Leader
2001-2004: Chair, Transportation, Military Affairs, and
Government Operations
2003-2004: Majority Floor Leader
Kawasaki, Duke T. (D)23, 27, 31, 35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 59
Senate: 1967-1986
1967-1970: Assistant Majority Floor Leader
1967-1970: Chair, Federal-State-County Relations and
Government Efficiency
1971-1974: Assistant Majority Leader
1971-1974: Chair, Inter-Governmental Relations
1975-1982: Vice President
1975-1980: Chair, Government Operations and Efficiency
1981-1982: Chair, Government Operations and
Intergovernmental Relations
1983-1984: Chair , Government Operations and County Relations
1985-1986: Vice President
1985-1986: Chair, Government Operations

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Senate: 2009-2014	
2011-2012: Assistant Majority Floor Leader	
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Senate: 1963-1966	
1963-1966: Chair, Accounts and Printing	
1963-1966: Chair, Oʻahu Select	
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Senate: 2001-2014; House: 1983-1986	91, 93, 93, 103, 107, 111, 113
2001-2002: Chair, Tourism and Intergovernmental Affairs	
2003-2008: Vice President	
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2009-2010: Chair, Ways and Means	
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2013-2014: President	
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1975-1978: Chair, Ecology, Environment and Recreation	
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Senate: 1959-1966	
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1981-1982: Chair, Ecology, Environment and Recreation	
1988: Minority Floor Leader	
1989-1990: Majority Policy Leader	
1991-1992, 1994: Chair, Leadership Committee on	
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1993: Chair, Ways and Means	
1994: Vice President	
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1983: Chair, Special Committee on Red Tape	
1984: Chair, Transportation	
1985-1988: Chair, Health	
1987-1988: Majority Policy Leader	
1989-1990: Assistant Majority Policy Leader	
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1993: Chair, Public Safety and Corrections	
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2005-2006: Assistant Majority Leader	
2005-2006: Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture 2007: Chair, Water, Land, Agriculture and	
Hawaijan Affairs	
2007-2008: Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection and	
Affordable Housing	
2009-2010: Vice President	
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Senate: 2010-2014	
2011-2012: Majority Caucus Leader	
2013-2014: Vice President/Majority Caucus Leader	
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1959-1962: Chair, Public Health and Welfare	
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1967-1970: Assistant Majority Leader	
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1972-1978: Chair, Consumer Protection	
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1979-1984: Chair, Tourism 1983-1984: Vice President	
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1987: Chair, Culture, Arts and Historic Preservation	
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1967-1968: Chair, Consumer Protection and Criminal	
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1967-1970: Chair, Lands and Natural Resources 1969-1970: Assistant Majority Floor Leader	
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1995-1996: Minority Leader	
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1993-1994: Chair, Science, Technology and Economic Development	
1994: Majority Policy Leader	
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1985-1986: Chair, Energy	
1987-1988: Assistant Majority Leader	
1987-1988: Chair, Agriculture, Energy and Ocean Resources	
1989-1990: Chair, Energy and Natural Resources	
1991-1992: Chair, Science, Technology and Economic Development	
1993: Majority Leader	
1994: Chair, Special Committee on the Employees' Retirement Syste	em
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1995-1996: Chair, Human Services	
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1989-1990: Assistant Majority Policy Leader	
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1994: Chair, Education	
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	1969-1974: President	
	1974: Chair, Special Committee on Energy Resources	
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	1965-1966: Assistant Minority Leader	

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1979-1980: Majority Floor Leader	
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1985-1988: Assistant Majority Floor Leader	
1987-1988: Chair, Education	
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1991-1992: Chair, Employment and Public Institutions	
1993: Majority Whip	
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1993: Chair, Tourism, Recreation and Transportation	
1994: 2nd Vice President	
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Senate: 1969-1978	
1969-1970: Chair, Consumer Protection and Criminal Code Revisio	on
1971-1974: Chair, Economic Development	
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1963-1964: Chair, Economic Development, Tourism and	
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1963-1964: Chair, Maui Select	
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1959-1962: Vice President	
1962: Majority Floor Leader	
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1965-1966: Chair, Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation	
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1989-1994: Minority Floor Leader	
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1981-1982: Assistant Republican Leader	
1981-1982: Chair, Higher Education	

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Senate: 1997-2010	
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Transportation and	
Intergovernmental Affairs	
2001-2004, 2007-2008: Chair, Education	
2005-2006: Majority Policy Leader	
2005-2006: Chair, Education and Military Affairs	
2007-2008: Co-Majority Whip	
2007-2008: Chair, Education	
2009-2010: Majority Floor Leader	
2009-2010: Chair, Education and Housing	
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2013-2014: Chair, Hawaiian Affairs	
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2011-2014: Minority Leader/Floor Leader	
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1979-1980: Assistant Minority Floor Leader	
1981-1982: Assistant Republican Floor Leader	
1981-1982: Chair, Public Utilities	
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Solomon, Malama (D)	55, 59, 63, 67, 71, 75, 79, 83, 111, 115
Senate: 1983-1998, 2011-2014	
1983-1984: Assistant Majority Floor Leader	
1983: Chair, Youth and Elderly Affairs	
1983-1984: Chair, Education	
1985-1986: Chair, Agriculture	
1987-1990: Chair, Higher Education	
1989-1990: Assistant Majority Policy Leader	
1991-1992: Majority Floor Leader	
1993: Assistant Majority Whip	
1994; Majority Leader	
1995-1996: Chair, Executive and Judicial Appointments	
1997-1998: Co-Chair, Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs	
2013-2014: Chair, Water and Land	
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Senate: 1971-1978; House: 1963-1970	
1971-1977: Majority Floor Leader	
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1967-1970: Chair, Public Employment 1971-1974: Chair, Military and Civil Defense	
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Tokunaga, Bernard H. (R)
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1959-1962: Chair, Accounts and Printing
1959-1962: Chair, Maui Select
<b>Toyofuku, George H. (D)</b>
Senate: 1971-1982; House: 1965-1968
1971-1980: Assistant Majority Leader
1971-1980: Chair, Human Resources
Trask, Jr., David K. (D)
Senate: 1964-1966; House: 1959-1964
1965-1966: Chair, Education
Trimble, Gordon (R)
Senate: 2003-2008
2005-2006: Minority Policy Leader
2000 2000. Hilliothly Folicy 200001
Tsutsui, Shan S. (D)
Senate: 2003-2012
2003-2010: Majority Caucus Leader
2011-2012: President
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Tungpalan, Eloise Yamashita (D)
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Senate: 1988-1994; House: 1981-1988
1988-1992: Chair, Culture, Arts and Historic Preservation
1989-1990, 1993: Assistant Majority Leader
1993-1994: Chair, Higher Education, Culture, Arts and
Historic Preservation
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<b>Ushijima, John T. (D)</b>
Senate: 1959-1982
1963-1964: Assistant Majority Leader
1963-1964: Chair, Public Employment
1965-1966: Chair, Lands and Natural Resources
1965-1970: Chair, Hawaiʻi Select
1967-1974: Chair, Judiciary
1971-1974: Vice President
1975-1978: President
1979-1980: Chair, Intergovernmetal Relations
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Senate: 1981-1984; House: 1977-1980
1981-1982: Chair, Human Resources
1983: Chair, Transportation
1983-1984: Majority Leader
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Senate: 2011-2014; House: 2003-2010
2013-2014: Chair. Technology and the Arts

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2003-2004: Minority Policy Leader	
2007-2008: Minority Floor Leader	
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1971-1974: Chair, Higher Education	
1975-1978: Majority Policy Leader	
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1987-1988: Chair, Military and Civil Defense	
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Senate: 1975-1992; House: 1967-1974	
1975-1978: Chair, Ways and Means	
1979-1992: President	
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Senate: 1968-1992; House: 1959-1968	
1968-1970: Chair, Accounts and Printing	
1968-1970: Chair, Maui Select	
1971-1980: Assistant Majority Floor Leader	
1971-1980: Chair, Legislative Management 1981-1992: Chair, Ways and Means	
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Yano, Vincent H. (D)	
Senate: 1963-1970	
1963-1966: Chair, Public Health and Welfare	
1967-1968: Chair, Ways and Means	
1969-1970: Chair, Public Health, Welfare and Housing	
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Senate: 1959-1966	
1959-1962: Chair, Public Employment	
1959-1962: Chair, Hawai'i Select	
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Senate: 1967-1982; House: 1959-1962	
1971-1980: Minority Leader	
1981-1982: Republican Leader	
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1975-1978: Chair, Energy, Natural Resources 1979-1980: Chair, Economic Development	
1579-1900. Chair, Economic Development	

Yoshinaga, Nadao (D)
Senate: 1959-1974
1963-1964, 1967-1970: Chair, Labor
1963-1964: Chair, Kauaʻi Select
1965-1966, 1971-1974: Chair, Ways and Means
1967-1970: Chair, Oʻahu Select
Young, Patsy K. (D)
Senate: 1975-1988; House: 1973-1974
1975-1982: Chair, Housing and Hawaiian Homes
1979-1980: Assistant Majority Floor Leader
1981-1984: Chair, Legislative Management
1983: Chair, Hawaiian Programs
1983-1986: Majority Policy Leader
1983-1984: Chair, Housing and Urban Development
1985-1986: Chair, Housing and Community Development
1985-1988: Chair, Legislative Management
1987-1988: Vice President
1987-1988: Chair, Public Utilities



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