

Aloha! The 2012 Regular Session of the State Legislature faced the welcome news that, for the first time in four years, we were not faced with a



revenue shortfall of more than a billion dollars. As such, we balanced the state budget without any major revenue enhancements and while still supporting programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people.

Rather than simply restore funds to every program that had faced cuts in the past, the Legislature focused on the "3 R's" of Reprioritizing, Rehabilitating, and Renewing government service for Hawaii's people. We wanted to ensure that the most basic needs of Hawaii's people were met and to support long-term planning and accountability efforts to fundamentally change the character and delivery of government services.

Details provided in this newsletter show how your Legislature and Governor Abercrombie stepped up to make the difficult choices needed to balance the budget and address the needs of our most vulnerable. To be clear: our work is not over, despite brightening economic news. There are numerous services still affected by years of budget cuts throughout government that could cause problems for our state in the coming months and years.

I look forward to working with my community, my colleagues, and others throughout the State as we continue to develop funding priorities for our future. To give you a clearer understanding of some of our accomplishments, this newsletter provides summaries of what was achieved at the Legislature and within the 39th District.

It has truly been an honor to represent you at the Legislature. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 586-6200.

Sincerely,

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro

COMMUNITY REPORT

email: repmoshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov Ph: 586-6200 Fax: 586-6201 2012 Legislative Session

Representative Oshiro is Proud to Announce Funding for District 39 Improvement Projects

2012-2013 Capital Improvement Projects

- \$28,000,000** To upgrade and expand Hale Kula Elementary School's campus facilities.
- \$3,600,000** For an agricultural packing and processing facility in Whitmore Village
- \$3,750,000** For modernization and expansion of Wahiawa General Hospital's emergency department; and to resurface the parking lot.
- \$2,916,000** For lump sum repair and maintenance at Helemano, Iliahi, and Wahiawa Elementary; Wahiawa Middle; Leilehua High; and Wahiawa Storefront.
- \$1,320,000** For site and building improvements at Kauhale Nani Homes and Wahiawa Terrace.
- \$750,000** For an irrigation system, including a reservoir, to provide water to about 1,700 acres of Galbraith lands.



Barbara Awo, Alvin Takeshita, George Abcede, Bob Loy, Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Pratt Kinimaka, Christopher Dacus - Working on plans for Wahiawa Bridge beautification and a dog park.



Rep. Oshiro with Community Television reporters from Leilehua High School at the State Capitol. Dylan Chang, Jacob Titus, Jolanie Martinez and Sydney Lee-Manzano.

WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL — \$1,750,00 operating grant

This hospital, which serves the Central Oahu and the North Shore communities, also serves a critical role as the nearest full-service emergency service for Kahuku, Haleiwa, Waialua, Schofield, Wahiawa, Mililani, Kunia, and Kapolei. This role has expanded to the Ewa plain with the closure of Hawaii Medical Center. Wahiawa General Hospital is an essential and important piece of critical health care services on Oahu.

Rep. Oshiro and Community members at the 2012 Mid-Session Legislative Forum .



End of Session Highlights—2012

The economy is still the number one concern of Hawaii residents. The legislature's priorities in 2012 included economic recovery, assisting new industry, and job creation. For the first time in four years, the State was not faced with a revenue shortfall in excess of a billion dollars. Lawmakers were able to balance the state budget without new taxes and provide greater support to programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people.

How the Budget Was Balanced

HB2012 State Budget Bill. In 2012, the Legislature passed a state budget that supports the state's core functions, recognizing that while the economy is improving, prudence requires measured optimism. The appropriation for operations totals \$11.2 billion in all means of financing. \$5.6 billion is comprised of general funds. A 3% growth from 2011.

Funding for capital improvement projects amount to \$3.2 billion for all means of financing. About \$830 million is comprised of general obligation and reimbursable general obligation bonds. In addition to giving priority to "shovel-ready" projects, the legislature considered projects that addressed critical health, safety, and code requirements; reduced the current repair and maintenance backlog; and provided jobs for unemployed and underemployed residents.

Economic Recovery

HB2319 Venture Accelerator Program. Establishes a State grant program under the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation to assist local start-up technology and IT businesses to compete for investment capital.

HB2526 and SB2236 Broadband Initiatives. Requires telecommunication and cable television providers to submit to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs data necessary to evaluate broadband services in the State. Authorizes use of state funds for planning, permitting, designing, constructing, equipping, and operating broadband internet throughout the State.

HB1671 and HB2265 Procurement Reform. Provides more flexibility in the procurement process for state and county projects. Intended to expedite the construction of such projects so that jobs are created and necessary infrastructure is built sooner.

Tourism

HB2314 Convention Center Repair and Maintenance. Allows the Hawaii Tourism Authority to expend moneys in the convention center enterprise special fund for repair and maintenance of the convention center.

SB490 Expanded Visa Program. Sets aside \$2.0 million of hotel tax revenues for an expanded visa program to increase travel opportunities for international visitors.

Health

HB608 Kidney and Liver Transplant Facility. Responds to the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center and appropriates emergency funds, subject to dollar-for-dollar private matching funds, to be expended by the Department of Health for grants to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program.

HB1953 Emergency Medical Care. Provides for the medical needs of Leeward and Central Oahu in light of Hawaii Medical Center's two hospitals closing, by appropriating \$1.0 million to increase the availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services.

HB2273 Concussion Awareness Program. Requires the Department of Education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

HB2275 Hospital Sustainability Fee and SB2466 Nursing Facility Sustainability Fee. Enhances the financial viability of private hospitals and nursing facilities by creation of a service fee to attract more federal Medicaid funds. The fees were endorsed by the Hawaii Hospital Association and nursing facilities.

SB2958 Bone Marrow Transplantation Program. Establishes a stem cell collection program and appropriates \$500,000 to support pediatric bone marrow transplantation to serve all young children to adulthood.

Human Services

Appropriations for Human Services Programs. The state budget bill includes an appropriation of \$22.8 million for Medicaid payments and \$18.0 million more for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. HB2012 includes \$6.8 million for child welfare services, \$1.5 million for domestic violence contracts, and \$390,000 for spouse and child abuse support programs.

SB2261 Weed and Seed. Appropriates \$336,000 for the "Weed and Seed" programs in Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa.

SB2320 Kupuna Care. Provides essential home and community-based services for Hawaii's elderly. Codifies the authorization for the establishment of the *kupuna* care pro-

gram and appropriates \$4.9 million to support the needs of Hawaii's older adults.

SB2779 Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Authorizes the establishment of and appropriates \$1.4 million for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) in each county. The centers will be "one-stop" centers for services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers.

Hawaiian Affairs

SB2783 OHA Settlement: Kakaako Makai Lands Transfer. Transfers approximately 25 acres of land in Kakaako Makai valued at \$200 million resolving all disputes and controversies relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' portion of income and proceeds from the Public Trust Lands between November 7, 1978 and June 30, 2012.

Housing

HB2302 Repair and Maintenance of Public Housing Units. Temporarily exempts from the state civil service, persons hired to repair and maintain vacant state housing units. This will speed up the reconditioning of units for more rental units. Complements the \$60.0 million appropriation for this purpose in HB2012, State Budget Bill.

Natural Resources

Appropriation for Watershed Protection. For watershed protection. The state budget bill includes appropriations of \$3.0 million in general obligation bonds and \$2.5 million in special funds.

SB2277 Safe Harbor Agreements. Extends the law authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources to approve habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and incidental take licenses with landowners. Conservation efforts on private property are promoted under such plans, agreements, and licenses.

Renewable Energy

SB2785 Interisland Renewable Energy Cable Regulatory Framework. Establishes a regulatory framework for the review of proposals to construct an interisland cable to transmit renewable energy between the islands. Establishes procedures, terms, and conditions for the selection of a company to construct the cable if the proposal is viable.

SB2001 and SB 3003 Promoting Geothermal Energy. Amends the Hawaii State Planning Act to include promoting the development of geothermal energy resources located on public lands as a source of firm power. Amends land use and permitting laws to facilitate the expeditious exploration for geo-



Rep. Oshiro with House Finance Committee members to present a check of \$473 to the Hawaii Food Bank.

thermal resources.

Agriculture

HB1942 Electronic Importer Manifest Program. Allows moneys in the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund to be spent for the Electronic Importer Manifest Program, a Department of Agriculture program that provides for the timely transfer of cargo data to the plant quarantine inspector on shipments to Hawaii by aircraft or ship. Allows for the best deployment of limited resources and inspectors.

HB1943 Invasive Species Detection Program. Makes an appropriation of \$162,540 to match the grant provided by the federal Office of Insular Affairs to restart the plant quarantine detector-dog program. One half-time inspector/detector-dog trainer and three half-time inspector/dog handler positions will be created to inspect incoming airline baggage and small-package air cargo shipments.

SB2695 Livestock Feed Pilot Program. Appropriates \$250,000 towards a livestock feed pilot program to explore producing and processing livestock feed within the state. Also appropriates \$250,000 for a livestock feed subsidy program to support existing farmers faced with the high cost of feed.

HB2244 Agriculture Inspections. Calls for the establishment and enforcement of agreements with federal or other state departments of agriculture. Authorizes agriculture inspectors from the state of origin or state agricultural inspectors to monitor the growing and packing of plant commodities and any treatment procedures to ensure compliance with Hawaii quarantine laws. The State Budget Bill also includes general funding for 29 plant and pest inspection related positions.

Lower Education

SB2115 Charter School Reform. Establishes new laws governing charter schools based on the recommendations of the Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority Task Force. Creates a structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability to foster improved student outcomes.

Appropriation for Weighted Student

Formula. The State Budget Bill also includes \$14.0 million more for increased expenditure by all schools for their students.

Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects. The State Budget Bill also includes the following in general obligation bond appropriations for the Department of Education:

- (1) \$116.5 million for school renovation and improvement;
- (2) \$10.0 million for electrical upgrades;
- (3) \$30.0 million to health, safety, ADA, and special education needs.

Higher Education

SB809 UH Revenue Bond Authorization. Authorizes the University of Hawaii (UH) to issue \$300 million in revenue bonds. Intended to expand the ability of UH to build and maintain much needed facilities.

Appropriation for Repair and Maintenance. The State Budget Bill includes an appropriation of \$80.0 million for capital renewal, health, and safety improvements at UH and Community Colleges.

Transportation

HB1666 Vulnerable Highway Users. Amends the offenses of negligent homicide to include provisions for incidents in which "vulnerable highway users" are involved to promote highway safety and increase driver awareness. A vulnerable highway user includes pedestrians, bicyclists, moped riders, roadway workers, police, fire, and emergency responders.

SB3010 Bridges Exemptions. Temporarily exempts the Department of Transportation and its contractors from certain requirements for 12 bridge rehabilitation projects. The old Kipapa Bridge is included.

Appropriation for Transportation Projects. HB2012, includes revenue bond appropriations as follows:

- (1) \$1,166,998,000 for airport projects;
- (2) \$161,650,000 for harbor projects;
- (3) \$48,130,000 for highway projects.

Judiciary/Crime

HB246 Appropriations to the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney. Appropriates over \$500,000 to the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney for the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Career Criminal Unit, Drug Court, and other law enforcement programs.

HB1755 Electronic Voter Registration. Updates voter registration laws, authorizing the acceptance of electronic applications to register to vote, beginning with the primary election of 2016. Appropriates \$500,000 for an online voter registration system.

SB2222 Sex Images Produced by minors. Prohibits adults from soliciting minors to electronically transmit nude images of minors; prohibits minors from electronically transmitting nude images of themselves or other minors or soliciting other minors to do so.

Consumer Protection / Business Concerns

HB2096 Unemployment Insurance. Purposefully fast-tracked to go into effect before a significant increase in employer contributions was scheduled to take place. Sets the employer contribution rate at schedule F for calendar year 2012 saving businesses about \$107 million this year.

HB1875 Mortgage Foreclosure. Amends the mortgage foreclosure law to provide additional protections for Hawaii's homeowners. Establishes a lien collection and foreclosure process for condominium, homeowner, and planned community associations. Also makes the dispute resolution program permanent.

HB1295 Unlicensed Contractors. Establishes unlicensed contracting activity as a misdemeanor and habitual unlicensed contracting activity and unlicensed contractor fraud as felonies.

HB1964 Cancer Treatment Insurance. Limits the out-of-pocket costs for cancer treatments under health insurance plans.

Highway Safety “Move Over Bill”

HB 2030 Highway Safety. This year saw the death of one of our own Wahiawa-based police officers, Officer Garret Davis, who was killed when he pulled over to help a stalled vehicle on the H-1 freeway and his car was struck from behind by the driver of another car.

His death brought to the Legislature’s attention the need for “move-over” legislation—legislation that requires motorists to “move over” when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway and that requires drivers to slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe under the circumstances when an emergency road situation exists ahead of the driver.

Supporting Our Military Ohana

HB 2410 Support for Military. Directs the Governor, on behalf of the State, to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense to enhance the State's relationship with the military and provide continued support for the military's presence in Hawaii.

HB 2258 Military Training, Professional and Vocational Licensing. Allows professional and vocational licensing authorities to accept military training, education, and service towards licensing requirements.

HB 2639 College Credits for Military Training. Authorizes the University of Hawai'i system to grant military members with college credits for military experience.

HB 2012 The State Budget. Provides \$150,000 for the Hawaii National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.



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Rep. Oshiro with Olomana members honored in the House Chamber.



Rep. Oshiro with Leilehua High School Principal Samiann “Aloha” Coleman, 2011 Metlife/NASSP Hawaii High School Principal of the Year, honored in the House Chamber.



Rep. Oshiro with Ms. Rose Lee, retired military and community seamstress, honored in the House Chamber, her husband, retired Army Sgt. Maj. Henry Lee, and Rep. Linda Ichiyama.

Rep. Oshiro’s Post Session Forum Tuesday, July 10, 2012; 6:00-8:30 p.m. Wahiawa District Part — Hale Koa Room

Want to learn more about the accomplishments of the 2012 Legislative Session? Please join Rep. Oshiro for a fun-filled evening of refreshments and discussion on the issues affecting Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, and Launani Valley.

Please call my office at 586-6200, should you have any questions.