

March 2014

# Holomua

*moving forward*

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

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Dear Friends,

The House of Representatives is currently engaged in the “second pass” through bills that have crossed over from the Senate. Over on the Senate side, they are doing the same with House Bills. By this time, 90% of the topics have already been discussed once before and we are vetting bills that will be taken in to joint House-Senate Conference Committees in a few weeks.

The Conference Committees will be charged with reconciling the different versions of the bills to come up with a final bill that will then be sent to the Governor for his consideration. The major policy document produced by the Legislature is the State Supplemental Budget—HB 1700, HD 1. This document will guide state spending through the second half of the biennium through June 30, 2015. Inside, you will find highlights of this important bill.

*Mark Nakashima*

# 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

I am happy to be able to provide you with a legislative mid-session report on a few budget highlights and resolutions that have a direct impact on District 1.

## The proposed State Budget for Fiscal Year 2015:

The House of Representatives has unanimously adopted House Bill 1700, House Draft 1 – Relating to the State Budget. This is the first step in the legislative process for the approval of the supplemental budget that will adjust expenditures for the remainder of the current fiscal year as well as set expenditure levels for the upcoming fiscal year 2015 (FY15) which begins on July 1.

Recently, the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism lowered their forecast for economic growth in Hawai'i for this year and next. This was done due to smaller-than-expected gains in visitor arrivals and spending based on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority report that visitor expenditures in our economy are down 4.7% when compared to last year. With this information, the Finance Committee adjusted budget projections accordingly by modifying the Council on Revenues assumptions downward from 3.3% to 1% growth for FY14.

In spite of these constraints, the budget still included a number of projects and programs to benefit

the State of Hawai'i, as a whole, and the Big Island, in particular. A few highlights of items proposed for funding in HB 1700, HD1 include:

- Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency (HIFMR): \$2,800,000. This Hilo Medical

fell victim to the House of Representatives insistence on addressing the repair and maintenance back log that included \$11 million in health and safety violations and moves by a number of legislators to try to move the program to O'ahu. This year in addition to a direct appropria-



Bill signing for the Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency last summer appropriating \$1.8 million for current fiscal year. L to R: Rep Clift Tsuji, Gary Yoshiyama, Lori Rogers, Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui, Boyd Murayama, Howard Ainsley, Dr. Judy McCoy, Sen Gil Kahele & Mark

Center program is committed to developing the physician leaders of the future in a Patient Centered Medical Home model. Medical doctors in this program will be trained in family medicine and also develop leadership skills to work within a team of health professionals – including pharmacists, advance practice nurses, and health psychologists – who together provide outstanding patient-centered and community oriented care.

- University of Hawai'i at Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy: \$33,000,000. Last year, the College of Pharmacy

tion for construction of the college in the budget, the House also passed out HB 1652 which would provide the College of Pharmacy both autonomy and fiscal self-sufficiency.

- Honoka'a Elementary School Student Drop Off and Parking: \$2,000,000. This is a joint effort between the State and County of Hawai'i to increase traffic safety and alleviate traffic on Pakalana Street by shifting the elementary drop-off/pick-up area to Puakalo Street, adjacent to the Honoka'a County Park. Councilwoman Valerie Poindexter is working to secure a commitment from the

County for a matching \$2,000,000 for this project.

Other budget items of interest:

\$9,175,000 for Realignment and Extending Saddle Road from Hilo Terminus to Ka'ahumanu Highway.

\$2,200,000 for the REACH program, which engages at-risk middle and intermediate school students in after-school activities.

\$1,000,000 for Construction of sidewalk from Lehua to Plumeria Street, connecting Honoka'a town with the North Hawai'i Education and Research Center.

**Next steps in the Budget Process:**

On 3/11/14, the Council on Revenues met and adjusted growth projections for FY14 to 0%, effectively cutting the budget allowance down by \$200 million. The Senate will now review the budget to reflect Senate priorities. A joint-committee will convene to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill. The budget will be finalized prior to the Legislature's adjournment on May 1.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION TIPS FROM THE DCCA**

**Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs** offers a few quick consumer protection tips: The state urges you to take advantage of **one year of free credit monitoring** in the wake of the Target data breach. Experian's "ProtectMyID" is offered to anyone who shopped at any Target. Enter your name & email address at <https://creditmonitoring.target.com> before 4/23/14. An email activation code and instructions to regis-

ter will be e-mailed to you within one to five days.

Monitoring your credit is a good way to detect identity theft. Mistakes or errors on your credit reports could also make it more costly for you to buy insurance or borrow money. You may **order a free credit report once every 12 months** from each of the three main credit bureaus by calling 1-877-322-8228 or at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Seniors are often targeted by phone, direct mail, TV, radio and newspapers advertisements about Medicare drug plans. The sales material may be designed to look like official government documents, but if you send money, it is likely that you may receive a useless card back with no benefit.

**Companies offering Medicare drug plans are not allowed to contact you unless you contact them first.** If you are interested

in benefits available to you as a Medicare beneficiary, visit the federal government's Medicare website ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)) or call 800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

**The DCCA also recommends limiting mail and phone calls from telemarketers by being added to the national DO Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or by visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) website.**

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**Hawaii Food Basket Fundraiser:**

This year we raised over \$500 for the Hawaii Island Food Bank.

A big mahalo to the Capitol staff who indulged their sweet tooth with Big Island Crunch Bars.

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As always, should you need assistance or have questions or concerns, you may contact me at 974-4000, ext 6-6680 or email me at [rep-nakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:rep-nakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov).



Meeting with members of the Big Island Contractors Association during the recent Contractor's Lobby Day - Carolyn Loeffler, Les Isemoto, and John Dill with Mark.



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**THE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**House Concurrent Resolutions**

Bills are not the only way to accomplish a goal. Sometimes, the legislature has to request other groups or individuals to make changes in what or how they operate, and this is where a resolution comes into play.

The Honoka‘a Peace Parade and Festival has been working to place a “Peace Pole” in the Honoka‘a civic area. **HCR 200** requests the Department of Accounting and

General Services and the State Foundation on Culture and the Art’s to investigate this possibility.

Peace Poles are Japanese in origin, but have inspired the world to strive for peace. Peace Poles have been established in communities where peace is a top priority and are used to recognize the importance of peace.

Another concern is the growth of coral in our small boat and commercial harbors. **HCR 198** seeks an exemption

for Hawai‘i from the federal Executive Order 13089 that requires federal approval for any actions related to the management of harbors that have an impact on coral reefs. While this goal is laudable, Hawai‘i’s unique position as a geographically isolated island state and its near absolute dependence on ocean surface transportation, means that the current process has proven to be overly long and burdensome.

