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March 2011

(March 3, 2011)



Serving Hawaii's

Encompassing the following communities:

Senate District 12

Waikiki

~

Ala Moana

Kaka'ako

~

Downtown

Chinatown

~

Palama



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Addressing Homelessness in Our Community

As the issue of addressing homelessness becomes more pressing in our community, lawmakers are considering an array of solutions to tackle this multi-faceted issue. Lawmakers acknowledge that there are many reasons why individuals and families end up homeless, and that any solution should be multifaceted and a coordinated effort by all levels of government as well as the private sector, service providers, and the community at large.

Today, March 3rd, eight Senate Committees cosponsored an information briefing to discuss the state of homelessness and affordable housing in Hawaii. Goals of this briefing include understanding what homeless and affordable housing projects are underway, identify existing public and private sector rentals that may be available if renovated. Goals also include discussing potential opportunities to build affordable housing units and renovate existing public housing stock as well as identifying and locating appropriately zoned land where new affordable housing projects can be built that have adequate infrastructure capacity.

On Friday, March 4th, I will be participating in Governor Neil Abercrombie's "Interagency Leadership Forum: Ending Homelessness in Hawaii", where elected officials will discuss with the United States Department of Veterans affairs and the State Department of Human Services to improve coordination on ending homelessness in Hawaii.



(L to R): Sen. Ige, Rep. Awana, Sen. Galuteria, Sen. Chun Oakland, Sen. Fukunaga



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WAIKIKI

KAKA'AKO/ALA MOANA



DOWNTOWN



CHINATOWN



PALAMA



WHAT A DIVERSE COMMUNITY!

Town Hall Meeting Calendar

As we mark the half way point of the 2011 legislative session, I invite you to participate in our Town Hall/Community Briefings throughout the various neighborhoods of Senate District 12. This is a great opportunity to meet your area legislators and to find out recent developments at the State Capitol and City Hall. My office is always available to assist you with any concerns or assistance, so please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

Saturday, March 5th: Ala Moana Town Hall

9am-11am | Makiki Christian Church Sponsored by: Senators Chun Oakland, Fukunaga, and Galuteria; Representative Rhoads; and Councilmember Kobayashi.

Saturday, March 12th: Downtown Town Hall

9am-11am | Hawaii Capitol Auditorium Sponsored by: Senators Chun Oakland and Galuteria Representatives Manahan and Rhoads and Councilmember Gabbard

Saturday, March 19th: Waikiki Town Hall

9am-11am | Jefferson Elementary School Cafeteria Sponsored by: Senator Galuteria and Representatives Brower and Nishimoto and Councilmember Chang Guest Speaker: Marc Alexander, State Homelessness Coordinator

Update: Legislative Noise Pollution Task Force

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15 and Senate Resolution No. 5: Convening a Legislative Noise Pollution Task Force have passed the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and has been referred to the committee on Ways and Means. Thank you to those who testified in support of these measures. I ask that you continue to support these measures as it progresses in the Legislature.

For Your Information

Bill Status and Documents

You may sign up for Hearing Notices via e-mail, review legislative packages, conduct research on bills, and submit testimony at www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011

Hawaii Senate Majority

To follow along with what the Senate Majority Caucus is doing this session, please log onto www.hawaiisenatemajority.com



hawai`i public access room

The Public Access Room provides numerous services and resources that are made available to the public. The following are a few of the services that are available:

- large-print reading materials
- Complete copy of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and annual updates, including Session Laws
- Dictionaries in various languages and almanacs
- Computers and office supplies to prepare testimony for Legislative hearings
- Information sheets on various topics