

District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

MARCH 2011



(Left to Right): Representative Della Au Belatti (D-Makiki-Tantalus), then-Representative Mina Morita (D-East-North Kauai), and Representative Sylvia Luke (D-Pacific Heights-Punchbowl-Pauoa) celebrate Rep. Morita's last day as a member of the Hawaii House of Representatives. On March 14, 2011, Rep. Morita was confirmed by the Senate as Governor Neil Abercrombie's new head of the Public Utilities Commission.

Rep. Morita served as the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee chair and was responsible for such important initiatives as the "bottle bill" for recycling beverage containers. A tireless advocate for renewable energy and my good friend, she will be greatly missed.

Aloha!

This month the Legislature passed an important deadline as bills originating in one body of the legislature were required to "crossover" to the second body for further consideration, discussion, and voting. Here, in this issue of *District 25 News*, I share with you brief summaries of a few of the lesser-known bills that were reviewed and passed by the House to meet this crucial legislative deadline.

Also this month, the Senate confirmed several of Governor Neil Abercrombie's executive branch appointments, including new Public Utilities Commissioner Mina Morita. Please join the Governor and myself as we welcome Mina at an informal talk story session on Thursday, April 14, at The Parish of St. Clement's, beginning 5:00pm. I hope to see you there.

And as always, please feel to contact me by email at repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov or by phone at 586-9425. I welcome your input and comments, and I look forward to working with you throughout the legislative session.

Aloha pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Della Au Belatti".

Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 25

Mid-Session Legislative Update for 2011

The 2011 Mid-Session Legislative Update is a preliminary report of some of the bills passed by the Hawaii House of Representatives up to First Crossover, or the midpoint of the 2011 Regular Session. As the legislative session is still in progress, the status of the measures listed here will continue to change as they move on to the Senate for consideration.



THE STATE BUDGET & TAXATION

Rainy Day Fund; Allocation. Temporarily redirecting funds from the tobacco settlement moneys allocated to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (i.e., The Rainy Day Fund)

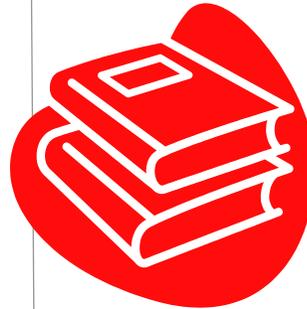
and the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, to the general fund for the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years (HB1267 HD1).

Transient Accommodations Tax; County Distribution. Requiring the counties to share in the responsibility of exercising fiscal restraint and responsibility during lean economic times by limiting the amount of transient accommodations tax revenues distributed to the counties to an aggregate total of no more than \$101,978,000, until June 30, 2015 (HB795 HD1).

Transient Accommodations Tax; Resort Time Share. Assisting the State in addressing its fiscal needs by:

- (1) Temporarily increasing, from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2015, the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) rate assessed on the occupants of resort time share vacation units by an additional two percent on the fair market rental value; and
- (2) Depositing revenues collected from the TAT increase into the general fund (HB809 HD2).

General Excise and Use Taxes; Suspension of Exemptions. Temporarily suspending general excise tax and use tax exemptions for certain sources of revenue and income and requiring those individuals and organizations to pay a specified tax rate that gradually increases from January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015 (HB799 HD1).



EDUCATION

Public School Lands Trust. Maximizes the use of public school lands and provides a mechanism to generate income to construct, repair, and retrofit public schools to meet current and future challenges by establishing the Public School

Lands Trust (Trust), to which all public school lands from the Department of Education are to be transferred, and establishes the Public School Lands Trust Commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to manage, administer, and control the Trust (HB952 HD1).

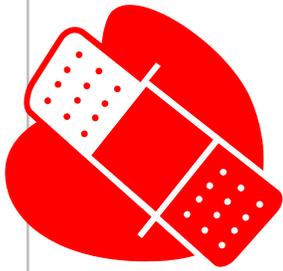
Charter School Facilities. Assists charter schools with the costs of facilities and facilities maintenance by establishing a funding formula by which the Department of Education must allocate funding specifically for charter school facilities (HB159 HD1).

Keiki Caucus; Safe Schools Act; Bullying. Creates a safe learning environment for all students in public schools by defining the terms "bullying", "cyberbullying", and "harassment" under Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HB688 HD2).

Hawaii-Grown Produce. Encourages the use of locally-grown produce by:

- (1) Establishing programs that increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables in public schools, facilitate the consumption of locally-produced nutritious snacks, and contract with local farmers to provide Hawaii-grown produce to low-income individuals through designated food banks; and
- (2) Authorizing schools to grow food in school gardens (HB1380 HD3).

Continued on page 3



HEALTHCARE

Tobacco Settlement Funds; Health Care and Social Service Appropriations. Ensures the continuation of vital programs and services by:

- (1) Appropriating funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund for costs associated with Medicaid programs and costs associated with comprehensive health care services;
- (2) Appropriating funds for a new eligibility system, the Preschool Open Doors Program, and the Kupuna Care Program, and for implementing the electronic health records program;
- (3) Appropriating funds for all purchase-of-service contracts for court substance abuse programs and the HOPE probation program; and
- (4) Appropriating funds to match the federal disproportionate share hospital allowance allocated to the State (HB1267 HD1).

Health care-Associated Infection Reporting.

Establishes health care-associated infection reporting requirements. Effective January 7, 2059 (HB 889 HD 2).

Hawaii Health Benefit Exchange. Allows the State to conform to new federal regulations under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, by establishing a private, non-profit Hawaii Health Benefit Exchange to facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans (HB1201 HD1).

Medicaid; Presumptive Eligibility. Provides efficient and effective processing of Medicaid applications by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Human Services (DHS) to apply Medicaid presumptive eligibility to patients who have been waitlisted for long-term care;
- (2) Disenrolling patients who are later determined to be ineligible for Medicaid after receiving services during the period of presumptive eligibility;
- (3) Providing reimbursement to the provider or plan for services provided during the time the wait-listed patient was enrolled pursuant to presump-

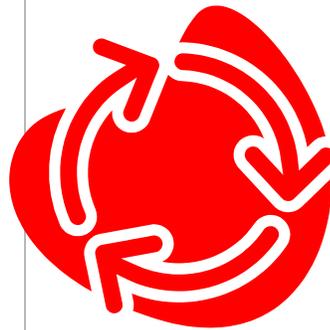
tive eligibility; and

- (4) Requiring DHS to conduct a study of computerized Medicaid application systems (HB596 HD1).

University of Hawaii; Medical Doctor Loan Program.

Establishes the Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan Program to provide low-interest loans with waiver provisions to:

- (1) Students who complete a state-approved medical school program at the University of Hawaii; or
- (2) Graduates of a medical school who received medical training from a Hawaii-based medical program,
- (3) who agree to practice medicine in rural areas of the State (HB902 HD2).



ENVIRONMENT

Renewable Energy; Third-Party Producers.

Supports the State's overall clean energy objectives by:

- (1) Specifying that certain third-party owners and operators of on-site renewable energy generating systems are exempt from being regulated as a public utility; and
- (2) Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to monitor the impact of net energy metering, including the costs and benefits of net energy metering (HB1520 HD2).

Renewable Energy; Transmission Cable. Acts to protect Hawaii's environment, attain Hawaii's independence from fossil fuel reliance, and support Hawaii's renewable energy policy and goals by establishing a regulatory structure under which inter-island undersea transmission cables for the transmission of electricity generated from renewable energy as its source can be commercially developed, financed, and constructed (HB1176 HD3).

Sustainability; Barrel Tax. Ensures Hawaii's energy and food security by increasing the allocated amounts for energy and food security from the environmental response, energy, and food security tax, commonly known as the barrel tax (HB1019 HD1).

a safe place for residents to gather, use the restroom and access drinking water. Evacuation shelters will be opened if needed following the ALL CLEAR given from government officials.

For maps of all the evacuation zones, check your telephone white pages or visit <http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/> and if your home is not located in an evacuation zone, find out if your workplace is. Then locate the

nearest Refuge Area by searching on www.staradvertiser.com.

As of this writing, C&C of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management had only issued a press release with the refuge locations.

Giving with Aloha to those in Japan

Hawaii business leaders, members of the Japanese American community, Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz and Japan Consul General Yo-shihiko Kamo convened to organize a coordinated, statewide effort to collect donations for victims of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan. Lieutenant Governor Schatz, who was asked by Governor Neil Abercrombie to help coordinate Japan relief efforts, also consulted all four county mayors by telephone.



Hawaii's largest banking institutions, including American Savings Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Central Pacific Bank, Finance Factors, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii National Bank, HomeStreet Bank, Pacific Rim Bank, and Territorial Savings Bank, have all agreed to serve as collection points for monetary donations. Those wishing to contribute to this relief effort can make donations directly with branch tellers at participating banks. Checks should be made payable to "Aloha for Japan." Donation checks can also be mailed to: Aloha for Japan, 2454 South Beretania Street, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96826.

Special "Aloha for Japan" T-shirts are being sold at HiLife/ButiGroove Hawaii (500 Piikoi St.); Fitted Hawaii (1438 Kona St., #B); In4mation locations, (Ward Warehouse and Pearlridge); Aloha Army (226 Lewers St.) and Barefoot League (880 Kapahulu Ave.). \$20 per shirt, with 100% of all proceeds going to relief efforts. For more information, please visit www.AlohaforJapan.com.



Additional ways to support relief efforts in Japan:

American Red Cross
Hawaii State Chapter
(808) 734-2101
www.hawaiiredcross.org

Japan America Society of Hawaii
(808) 524-4450
www.jashawaii.org

UNICEF
1-800-FOR-KIDS
www.unicefusa.org

International Medical Corps
1-800-481-4462
www.internationalmedicalcorps.org

Save the Children
1-800-728-3843
www.savethechildren.org

Please check local news sources for events and other ways of lending your support to relief efforts.

The Shortlist

Friday, April 1, 2011

**“Art at the Capitol” ,
Hawaii State Capitol
@ 5:00-7:00pm**

The Hawaii State Legislature will open its doors for April’s First Friday evening event with the 3rd Annual “Art at the Capitol,” an opportunity for the public to view over 430 works of art that are a part of the State’s Art in Public Places program.

Visitors can also enjoy entertainment featuring live music, take guided historical tours of the Capitol, and mingle with artists and lawmakers.

All are welcome.

**Thursday, April 14,
2011**

**Makiki Town Hall with
Public Utilities Commis-
sioner Mina Morita,
St. Clement’s Church, Parish Hall
@ 5:00-7:00pm**

What is the “Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative?” What is the PUC?

Come learn the answers to these questions and more at our next Makiki Town Hall meeting featuring *PUC Commissioner Mina Morita*. Special guests also include *Acting Chair of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee Denny Coffman*, and *Governor Neil Abercrombie*.

This Earth Day 2011 event is sponsored by Representative Della Au Belatti.

Call 586-9425 for more information.



Saturday, April 16, 2011

**Saturday Movie Night at Makiki
Community Library
Showing begins @ 6:00pm
Doors open @ 5:00pm with Keiki
activities**

All ages are invited to enjoy this “Makiki film house” viewing of the 2008 popular kids animation based on Kate DiCamillo’s Newberry Medal-winning book about an unusually sized hero with big brown ears who desires the love of a human princess above all else. Bring pillows or something soft to sit on, and be prepared to be transported by another great children’s fantasy story.

This event is hosted by the Friends of Makiki Community Library and Rep. Della Au Belatti.

Call the Library for more information at 522-7076.

Saturday, April 16 @ Noon-4:00pm

Sunday, April 17 @ Noon-4:00pm

Wednesday, April 20 @ 2:00-6:00pm

Saturday, April 23 @ Noon-4:00pm

**Scholastic Book Fair at Makiki
Community Library,
Makiki District Park
(1527 Keeaumoku Street)**

Looking for a new book for that special keiki in your life? Check out the Scholastic Book Fair at Makiki Community Library. Your purchase will help the Library get some new books too!

Free parking available, and the Library is located along the #4 and #17 bus lines.

For more information, contact the Library at 522-7076.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

**Makiki Neighborhood Security
Watch Meeting & HPD Training,
Jodo Mission of Hawaii, Iko Hall,
(1429 Makiki Street)
@ 5:00-7:00pm**

Join HPD and Rep. Belatti for the next step in developing your own NSW. HPD will provide a training session to help residents interested in NSW learn basic community policing skills including the history of NSW, what is suspicious behavior, how to identify a suspect, and how to work with 911 when you make the call.

This event is hosted by HPD District 1 Community Policing Team and Representative Della Au Belatti.

Call 586-9425 or email repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov for more information.

Saturday, May 7, 2011

**Earth Day Adopt-a-Stream Cleanup
at Makiki Stream, check in at
Washington Middle School parking
lot on Punahou Street
Check in @ 8:00am
Cleanup @ 8:30-11:00am**

In partnership with the Honolulu C&C Department of Environmental Services, residents work together to improve water quality in our community through the Adopt-a-Stream program. All are invited to participate in the land-based cleanup of Makiki Stream between South King and Phillip Streets. All volunteers must sign the City’s release form and participate in the safety orientation.

For complete information and an email with all the details, contact Iwalani Sato at (try email first) iwalanis5@gmail.com or (then her cell) at 780-8872.