

## Aloha Neighbors,

The 2010 legislative session recently closed, and the purpose of this newsletter is to inform you about some of the important measures that have become law or are poised to become law. I also want to take a moment to thank you for the privilege of representing you for the past ten years.

**Protecting core services:** the critical challenge this year was balancing the state's budget. At the beginning of the session, we faced a \$1.2 billion dollar budget deficit, on top of last year's \$2.1 billion dollar shortfall. We ensured that primary educational, health and safety services were maintained by responsibly reducing government spending and without raising the GET or income taxes.

**Education and jobs as priorities:** even with current economic constraints, the legislature provided funding to end next year's teacher furloughs, mandated minimum number of school hours, ensured that government jobs go to local workers, and strengthened protections for our environment. These and other measures are discussed inside – please take some time to learn more about them.

**The good news:** experts tell us Hawaii's economy is recovering, and with the sound fiscal policies we have enacted over the last few years, our state is positioned to take advantage of the recovery. There are already signs of improvement in the housing and tourism sectors.

With your help and support, we will continue to improve our neighborhood and community, and continue to move our state in the right direction.

I remain humbled and honored to represent you. Please feel free to contact me at anytime if I can be of assistance.

Mahalo,



Blake K. Oshiro



# Government For Our People

Legislative Newsletter • 33rd District • 2010 Session



## Community Receives Over \$82 million in New Projects

### 2010 District Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)

After much work, I am glad to report that our District is fortunate to be receiving funds for a number of projects that will improve our community, including – a traffic noise barrier along Ulune Street, Aiea Intermediate School's cafeteria stage expansion, a new Aiea Public Library, and Aiea Elementary School ground improvements. Over the past several years, I worked with our local schools, community groups, and neighboring legislators to identify and budget for these projects. Funding for these projects is increasingly competitive, but by collaborating with community leaders, our office was able to make the case for getting funds for these projects. I am pleased because not only do these projects have direct benefit to our community, but they also translate into jobs for local workers and increased property value for all in our community. Below is a list of projects that were funded by the Legislature this year:

**Noise Barriers – Laka Place and Ulune Street ..... \$7,528,000**

Design and construction of noise barrier walls near Ulune Street and Laka Place (near Aiea Hongwanji) to provide traffic noise reduction for the surrounding neighborhood.

**Aiea Intermediate School ..... \$1.74 million**

Design, construction, and equipment to expand and renovate the cafeteria stage, and add dressing rooms on either side of the stage; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances. (If you have not attended AIS's theater program, I encourage you to do so and experience the passion, work and talent of these students).

**Red Hill Elementary School ..... \$465,000**

Design and construction for electrical upgrades. Project to include ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

**Aiea Elementary School ..... \$100,000**

Design and construction for a covered walkway connecting building C with the cafeteria; Ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

**Interstate Route H-1 Culvert Repair, Waimalu Off-Ramp .. \$7 million**

Design and construction for culvert repairs and drainage improvements at the Waimalu off-ramp on Oahu.

**Aiea Public Library ..... \$10 million**

Plans, design, construction, and equipment to relocate Aiea Public Library from its current location to a parcel of land already owned by the State near the Old Sugar Mill property in Aiea; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

**Contraflow, Westbound H-1 ..... \$55 million**

Construction for a PM contraflow lane on H-1 from the vicinity of Radford Drive to the vicinity of Waikele. This project is aimed at long-term improvement of our ever increasing traffic congestion and is a necessary component to qualify for further federal aid financing and/or reimbursement.

**Pedestrian Safety Bridge – Halawa Heights Road ..... \$250,000**

Design and construction to provide for and improve existing ADA and pedestrian facilities on Halawa Heights Road, between Kaakau Place and Mikoi Place/Kealaluina Drive.

### HOW TO CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE OSHIRO

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# Top Accomplishments of the 2010 Legislature

*What happened and how will it affect our community...*

## Balancing the Budget

The Legislature successfully passed a balanced budget despite a \$1.2 billion dollar deficit and without raising the general excise or income taxes on Hawaii residents. Over 54% of the shortfall was made up through cuts and lapses in government services and programs – less than 4% were through tax increases.

Significant savings were made from general fund cuts and lapses totaling almost \$860 million dollars. The bill (HB2200) also included \$22 million to the Department of Education, added over \$1 million to restore 25 plant quarantine inspectors at the Department of Agriculture, restored \$3 million for state libraries, added \$4.3 million to restore state and federal funding for 112 Child Welfare Services and Child Support Enforcement positions, added \$3 million for Charter Schools, added \$64 million for payments owed to Medicaid providers, added \$1.3 million for Specialty Courts, added approximately \$2 million for community health centers statewide.

**CIGARETTE TAX HB1985** - Increases the cigarette tax by 1 cent per cigarette, raising about \$14.8 million per year in revenue.

**BARREL TAX HB2421** - Landmark legislation that sets the stage for Hawaii's future energy and food security and helps decrease the state's near total dependence of imported fossil fuel and food supply. Hawaii already spends \$8.6 billion out of state for imported fuel and food. This bill adds \$1 to the tax on a barrel of imported oil to fund energy and food security programs, renewable energy tax credits and agricultural inspectors. This realistically amounts to 2 cents per gallon of gas for the typical driver and a projected increase in household electrical costs of 78 cents per month.

### TRANSFER OF EXCESS BALANCES FROM SPECIAL FUNDS HB2542-

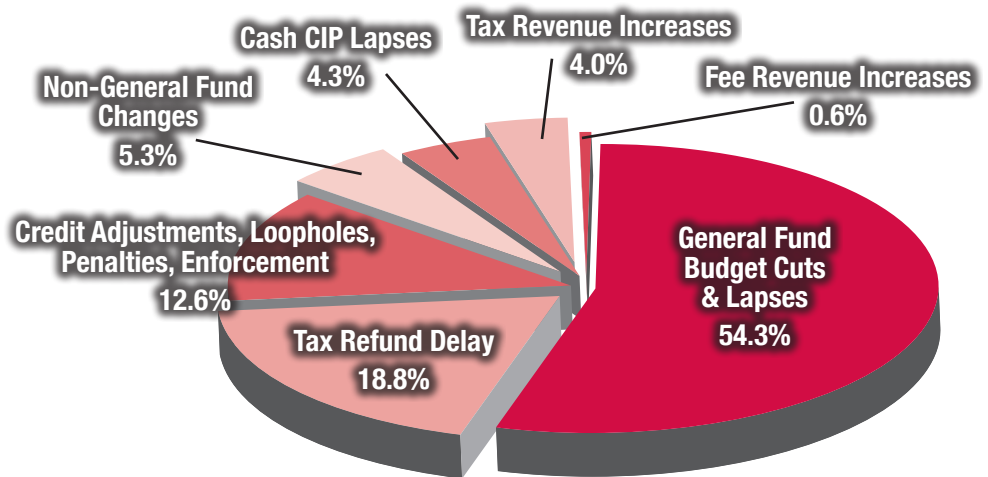
Collects \$46 million from various special funds and transfers excess to general fund.

**ESTATE TAX HB2866** - Sets the decedent exemption to the highest federal level of \$3.5 million before being subject to any taxes.

### DEFER HIGH TECH INVESTMENT CREDITS SB2401

-Temporarily suspends the claiming of credits, for three years, to 2013. Raises about \$93 million for general fund. SB2001 provides for early repeal of the state high tech credits but extends the tax credit for research activities by one year, saving the state \$13 million.

## How the 2010 budget was balanced...



## Education

### RESTORE SCHOOL FURLOUGH DAYS SB2124

- Appropriates \$67 million from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund for the purpose of funding teacher furlough days at the Department of Education for the fiscal year 2011.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT HB2376

- Proposes amending the Hawaii State Constitution to change the Board of Education from

an elected board to a board appointed by the Governor. **HB2377** Appointed Board of Education. Establishes a process by which the Governor appoints the Board of Education. New board will consist of nine voting members, one member respectively from Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui Counties, six from the City & County of Honolulu, and one non-voting public school student.

**MINIMUM HOURS HB2486** - For the 2011-2013 school years, public schools will be required to implement a school year of 180 days, excluding professional development and other non-instructional days. This will include 915 student instructional hours for elementary grades, and 990 student instructional hours for secondary school grades. Phases in greater instructional hours for future years.

## Health, Human Services and Safety

### HEALTH INSPECTIONS HB2688

- Allows monies from the Sanitation and Environmental Health Special Fund to be used for sanitation program activities and functions, including hiring of health inspectors.

### CIVIL DEFENSE COORDINATION SB2054

- Establishes within the civil defense agency a statewide communications coordinator to achieve effective

voice and data communications during routine and emergency civil defense situations.

**NOISE POLLUTION SB466** - This measure strikes a balance between the need to use leaf blowers in a considerate way and the neighbors whose daily lives are affected by the use of those leaf blowers.

*Congratulations to Pearl Ridge Elementary School for ranking in the top 20 public schools in our state according to Honolulu Magazine (May 2010).*

**FIREWORKS SB1059/HB1987** - Allows counties to enact ordinances regulating fireworks that are more stringent than existing state laws. Creates a task force.

## Housing

### PREVENTING FORECLOSURES

**SB2472** - Establishes the Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force to analyze factors affecting mortgage foreclosures in Hawaii, develop policies to improve how mortgage foreclosures are conducted, analyze current procedures, and evaluate the feasibility of establishing a state entity to address mortgagor concerns and provide consumer education.

### HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM

**HB2318** - Establishes the Housing First Special Fund to assist the homeless. Housing First aims to get the chronically homeless off the street and into stable housing, where they can better address related issues such as job training, employment, and healthcare.

## Crime and Civil Rights

**GRAFFITI HB2129** - Requires offender to remove graffiti within 30 days of sentencing, to perform community service within 100 yards of site of offense and reimburse property owners for costs incurred in removal.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING SB2045

- Establishes Class A and Class B felony offenses for sexual human trafficking and includes these types of cases in the investigations that are given greatest priority for witness protection programs.

### CAMPAIGN FINANCING HB2003

- Updates and organizes the state's campaign financing law, including clarification on the reporting requirements for corporations.

### CIVIL UNIONS HB444

- Extends equal rights, benefits, responsibilities, and protections of married couples to opposite-sex and same-sex couples in a civil union.

## Jobs/Employment

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**HB2169** - Significantly lowers the cost of unemployment insurance for businesses. Sets new employer contribution rates while maintaining maximum unemployment benefits.

### LOCAL JOBS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT SB2840

- Requires at least 80% of workers on state and county construction procurement projects to be Hawaii residents.

## Environment/Energy

**BEACH ACCESS HB1808** - Preserves public access to Hawaii's beaches by requiring Department of Land and Natural Resources to maintain beach transit corridors and prohibiting any obstruction

of the corridors by vegetation induced by adjacent property owners.

**SHARKFINNING SB2169** - Protects the delicate balance of the ocean ecosystem by making it a violation to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins; assigns penalties as high as \$50,000 and loss of property. Provides an exception for persons holding permits to conduct research or for educational purposes.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY AT CONDOMINIUMS HB2197

- Provides homeowners greater access to renewable energy by authorizing condominium boards of directors to install or allow the installation of solar energy and wind energy devices on the common elements of condominiums.

## Agriculture

**INVASIVE SPECIES HB1684** - Establishes or refines various fines and penalties for the intentional spreading or introducing of invasive species, causing harm to Hawaii's natural environment, economy, and quality of life.

### AGRICULTURE INSPECTION AND BIOSECURITY SB2523

- Strengthens and clarifies the state's law regarding pest inspection, plant quarantine, eradication of invasive species, and biosecurity. Includes requirements for various fees and charges, certifications, and exemptions.

## Transportation

### IGNITION INTERLOCK SB2897

- Promotes safety on Hawaii's roadways by enacting final recommendations of the Ignition Interlock Task Force, which includes the placement of a device that prevents a vehicle from being started and driven by an intoxicated individual.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY SB2449** - Maintains traffic safety by extending the statutory requirements for provisional driver's license for persons between the ages of 16-18, including conditions under which holders can operate a vehicle and allowing a provisional licensee to obtain a driver's license at the age of 18 without meeting the six-month requirement for maintaining a provisional license.

## State Law Enforcement Memorial

**House Concurrent Resolution 139** - This Session I had the opportunity of working with local representatives of the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation to pass **HCR139** which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services to work with interested parties to plan and construct the Hawaii State Law Enforcement Memorial on the grounds of the state capitol. This measure is a good example of a community group becoming involved with the legislative process to get something accomplished. Mahalo to all those who lobbied on behalf of this project.

## Visiting Blake at the Capitol

*Mahalo to all the students and their teachers for visiting me at my capitol office this past year. I enjoyed explaining the legislative process and answering all the good questions about our state government!*

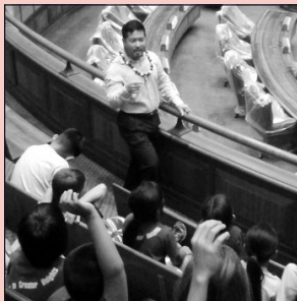


*Webling Elementary School visit*



*Middle school students interviewing me about the 2010 legislative session.*

*Third graders from Pearl Ridge Elementary School visiting me at the capitol.*



*Students from the University of the Ryukyus visiting me at the capitol to discuss issues before the Legislature.*



## Funding to Improve and Maintain our Schools...

### Aiea Intermediate School

Exhaust fans	\$24,000
Resurfacing bus waiting area	\$91,000
Replacement of gutters	\$35,000
Structural repairs	\$215,000

### Red Hill Elementary School

Campus irrigation replacement	\$31,000
Campus walkway, phase 2	\$78,000
Replace AC unit	\$259,000

### Webbling Elementary School

Reroofing	\$258,000
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### Aiea High School

Reroofing	\$330,000
Campus water lines, phase 2	\$303,000
Replacement of railings	\$350,000

### Pearl Ridge Elementary

Gutter replacements	\$56,000
Reroofing	\$260,000

### Waimalu Elementary School

Reroofing	\$119,000
Install ramp	\$51,000
Improve storage ventilation	\$17,000
Campus irrigation replacement	\$26,000

## Keeping Up With the Community...

### Kam Drive-In Update

The old Kam Drive-In site, currently home of the Kam swap meet, is being considered for redevelopment by the Robertson Properties Group (Los Angeles, CA). The proposed project will include residential and commercial components. My office will continue to keep surrounding residents apprised of the project as information becomes available. Consider reviewing minutes from the May 10 Aiea Neighborhood Board meeting when the developer heard concerns from our community.



Meeting with the APCBA to discuss economic challenges facing our state and the legislative process in general.



Honoring Arlene Ching for her outstanding work to preserve Aiea's cultural history, as well as her work as a librarian at the Aiea Public Library.

## Keeping Our Community Clean and Safe

### Community Traffic Awareness Partnership

Community members, our office staff and the Honolulu Police Department are continuing the successful Community Traffic Awareness Partnership (CTAP) on Kaonohi and Iwaiwa streets. The program has been successful in curbing the number of motorists speeding on these heavily used streets. Volunteers from throughout the community hold signs



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along both streets alerting drivers of their excessive speed. Contact our office for a schedule of upcoming CTAP events, 586-6340.

### Disaster Preparedness Community Meeting

On April 15th our office sponsored a community meeting focused on emergency preparedness – including H1N1 virus and tsunami. Experts from the Department of Health (DOH) and Hawaii Civil Defense joined together to provide an excellent overview of preparedness topics. Some key points from the meetings included: putting together an emergency preparedness kit, where emergency shelters are located, how to diagnose symptoms of H1N1 virus, and how the virus spreads. A copy of the DOH H1N1 presentation can be found here: [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemaj/oshiro\\_blake.html](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemaj/oshiro_blake.html)

General island-wide emergency preparedness plans are located here: [www.scd.hawaii.gov](http://www.scd.hawaii.gov)

### Good news for Aiea Seniors

Congress worked to ensure that Medicare will begin mailing out \$250 'donut hole' checks to tens of thousands of seniors in Hawaii. Under the recently enacted health care reform law, seniors who fall in the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage gap in 2010 will receive this one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate check. For more information:

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11464.pdf?Language=English>

### Pearl Ridge Senior Fair

Join us for this annual event that highlights issues facing our seniors – including health, security, identity theft, and well-being. Past participants included: HMSA, American Heart Association, Meals-on-Wheels, Veterans Hospital, and many more.

**Pearl Ridge Center, Uptown Center Stage**  
**Saturday, September 11th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

### Keiki ID Drive

Join us at the annual Keiki ID drive at the Pearl Kai McDonalds. The Keiki ID card includes a child's photo, fingerprints and contact information which will help police in case of an emergency. This service is free of charge.

**Pearl Kai McDonalds**  
**Saturday, October 23, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Results of community survey question:

**What do you prefer to help balance the state budget?**

A) Fewer government services; B) Raising taxes (GET, personal income, etc.); C) Combination of both.

**A – 34.7%    B – 32.6%    C – 32.6%**