



Denny Coffman

Representing the 6th House District – North Kona, Keauhou, Kailua-Kona and Honokohau

FIRST EDITION

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I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue my public service as your state house representative. The 2011 Legislative Session began on January 19, 2011, with some optimism. Our economy is slowly improving with an increase in tourism and we welcomed a new governor. However, we still have serious issues to address. With the continued rise in the cost of crude oil, we must remain focused on our transition to renewable energy resources. The price of oil impacts everything in our state.

Hawaii County remains the hardest hit by the recession. Our unemployment is high and our families are struggling to break even. The State budget faces a revenue shortfall approaching \$800 million over the next two years. Our government is already operating with limited resources. The elimination of many social programs, employee layoffs and employee furloughs has taken its toll. This may sound overwhelming, but with your help and the help of our new administration, we will solve these problems and create a better future for everyone in Hawaii.

-Denny

Rep. Morita Appointed as Public Utilities Commission Chair

Honolulu – In a move to direct Hawaii toward energy independence, Governor Neil Abercrombie appointed Representative Hermina Morita as the chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Her Senate confirmation hearing is still pending.

The PUC is comprised of three members and is a rate-setting agency for franchised or certificated public service companies that operate in the State. The PUC also determines the allowable rate of earnings and issues guidelines concerning the management of utility businesses. It also acts on requests for the acquisition, sale, disposition or other exchange of utility properties, including mergers and consolidations.

Congratulations Rep. Morita!

With Rep. Morita's pending move to the PUC, Rep. Coffman is acting chair and vice chair of the House Energy & Environmental Protection committee.

Proposal Update

Representative Coffman currently has two bills moving through the House of Representatives.

- HB 1552 HD1 – Restricts the use of the geographic origin of Hawaii-grown coffee on labels.
- HB 1553 HD1– Appropriates funds to mitigate the effects of the coffee berry borer in the Kona region on the island of Hawaii.

To check the status of these bills, visit <http://capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011>.

Get Involved! It's Just a Few Clicks Away

Here's the situation, you've been watching the news, you hear about a bill that you support (or hate). You don't know what to do. We've all been there before. You want to get involved with the process, but don't know how to submit testimony.

It's a lot easier than you think.

Go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov . From this page, you'll be able to find out what the bill number is by clicking the "[Bill Status & Documents](#)" link.

Once you know the bill number, just click on the "[Submit Testimony](#)" link, follow the directions and click the "Submit" button. Quick, easy and painless.

If you need additional assistance, please contact us at (808) 586-9605.

Doing Business With The State

From time to time, you (businesses, vendors, contractors, service providers, and industry representatives) may want to provide the State with services or products you may offer. Information on how to do this is available at <http://hawaii.gov/spo> ; click on "Doing Business With The State: Information for Vendors, Contractors and Service Providers." The State Procurement Office (SPO) has been conducting these training workshops for the past few years and are separated as:

- Session 1: For vendors, contractors and service providers of goods, services and construction; and
- Session 2: For serviced providers delivering health and human services.

The SPO conducts these workshops on a quarterly basis and more frequently based on demand. The next available sessions are:

- Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. for Session 1;
- Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. for Session 2; and
- Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. for Session 1.

There is no fee to attend and registration is online at <http://www4.hawaii.gov/spo/tng/wkshpRegistration04.asp> , by selecting the session you wish to attend, filling in the requested information and clicking "Register Now." You and your staff are also welcome to attend.

If you have questions, please contact Aaron Fujioka at (808) 587-4700.

Contact Us

If you want to receive this newsletter via email, please send an email to miura@capitol.hawaii.gov, subject "SUBSCRIBE."

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