



South Maui Community News

Representative George Fontaine
House District 11: Kīhei, Wailea, Makena

Inside this issue:

Session Midpoint	2
Hale Kau Kau	2

Greeting from Representative Fontaine



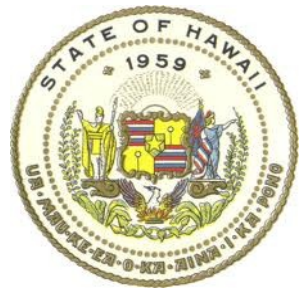
We are at the midpoint of the current legislative session. Many of you have shared thoughts and ideas about current legislation that is moving through the process. It is your participation that makes our state and republic vibrant.

some practical ideas of how you can help the people of Japan on my website.

Sometimes government may not be the best solution for a problem. On March 5, I was able to celebrate Hale Kau Kau's 25 years of service to our community. This is a prime example of how a non-profit organization can work with volunteers, and many other groups to serve our community.

Once again, if you have an issue that you feel you need to bring to my attention, you may contact my office at (808) 586-8525. Mahalo,

This year's legislative session is extremely challenging. The state budget is facing a deficit of over \$900 million. The March 10 earthquake in Japan will have ripple effects in Hawai'i, since Japanese visitors are a significant portion of the visitors to our state. I have placed



Talk Story-community meeting in Kihei

On Saturday, February 26 there was a "Talk Story" for the South Kīhei community at the Kīhei Charter School. This was the second joint Talk Story held with Representative Fontaine and Senator Rosalyn Baker.

There was much discussion about the Kaiwahine housing project. This proposed project is for a multi-unit housing development in Kihei.

The Maui News reported on March 3rd, "Developer Royal Main Properties LLC proposes to build Kaiwahine Village as a 120-unit multifamily subdivision with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units in 15 buildings, off-street parking and other improvements on 9.3 acres off Hale Kai Street in Kihei."

Many who attended the Talk Story oppose the Kaiwahine project because it will increase traffic and density on roads that are already at capacity. Even though many South Maui residents oppose the Kaiwahine project the Maui County Council voted 5-2 to move the project forward in a "fast-track" manner.



Representative Fontaine and Senator Baker

Another topic that was of interest was the mortgage foreclosure bill—HB 1411 HD2. This bill clarifies a new nonjudicial foreclosure process and strengthens laws regarding mortgage servicers. HB 894 also relates to mortgages. It creates a five month foreclosure moratorium immediately upon passing.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding future Talk Story events in South Maui. You can also go to <http://repfontaine.ning.com> to request this newsletter which will have dates for future Talk Story events.

Rep. George R. Fontaine
House District 11
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 311

phone: (808) 586-8525
fax: (808) 586-8529

repfontaine@capitol.hawaii.gov

<http://repfontaine.ning.com>

Midpoint for the 2011 Legislature Session

“This will increase the taxes to operate motor vehicles in the state, essentially raising the cost of living for everyone” Rep. Fontaine

Watch the “Fontaine Factor” Akaku2 Channel 53 Wednesdays 8:00pm



Rep. Fontaine Speaking on the Statehouse Floor

We are half-way through the 60 day legislative session. The Statehouse has completed over 300 bills that have now crossed over to the senate.

Our state is facing a deficit of over \$900 million dollars. The Hawai'i Constitution mandates a balanced budget. In the midst of this crisis, Governor Abercrombie has proposed almost \$500 million in additional spending. This translates to about \$800 of additional taxes for each taxpayer during fiscal year 2012. Raising taxes on the citizens of Hawai'i and increasing the state budget at a time when we are \$900 million short is the wrong approach.

I will continue to speak out against tax increases in Hawai'i. Unfortunately, the majority party is pushing through several bills to raise your taxes; here are some examples.

Tax Pensions— HB 1092: The governor proposed raising taxes on pension incomes of \$37,500 or more.

The legislature has amended the bill to tax pensions of \$100,000 or more.

Increase Vehicle Tax— HB 1101: This will increase the state vehicle registration fee from \$25 to \$45 with revenue going to the state highway fund. I proposed an amendment to this bill, on the floor of the Statehouse, to mandate that this money must remain in the state highway fund. Unfortunately, this amendment was voted down after discussion on the floor. It should be noted that the legislature has a history of raiding funds. HB 1043 is a current bill which raids \$42 million from the Hawai'i Hurricane relief fund for transfer to the general fund.

Cap County TAT Revenue—HB 795: This bill will place a four-year limit on the amount of transient accommodations tax revenues distributed to the counties. This measure caps county revenues to \$102 million (amount collected in 2010). By limiting the amount distributed to counties, county mayors may be forced to raise taxes in the future.



Increase Vehicle Weight Tax - HB 1102 will increase the vehicle registration fee from \$25 to \$45 with revenue going to the state highway fund. Like HB 1101 this will increase the taxes to operate motor vehicles in the state, essentially raising the cost of living for everyone. Even if you don't own a car, food is delivered by trucks and these higher taxes are ultimately passed on to the consumer.

Hale Kau Kau –25 years of community service in Kīhei

Hale Kau Kau received a commendation certificate from the Hawai'i State Legislature on March 5 at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort and Spa. Over 500 people attended, including Mayor Arakawa, Councilwoman Cochran, Representative Fontaine and Senator Baker.

Hale Kau Kau is a non-profit organization that began in 1991 when a small group of people recognized a need to feed the hungry in South Maui. From that humble beginning, Hale Kau Kau has grown to a regular staff which now provides daily free

meals, to over a hundred men, women and children at St. Theresa church in Kihei.

The mission of Hale Kau Kau is to “feed the hungry and the homebound” in the community of South Maui. Hale Kau Kau provides hot meals to the elderly, sick and disabled, and emergency food supplies to needy families.

Over the years, Hale Kau Kau has served over 1,000,000 meals to families and individuals in need. For more information go to: <http://www.halekaukau.org/>



Rep. Fontaine and Monsignor Terry Watanabe



Rep. George R. Fontaine
House District II
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 311
phone: (808) 586-8525