

Community Update

State Representative Linda Ichiyama • 2012 Legislative Session



Aloha Neighbors,

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve you in the State House of Representatives. As the Legislature reaches the midpoint of the 2012 Session, I would like to offer you these "Mid-Session Highlights" as a guide to the key bills that have been passed by the House of Representatives and are now being considered by the Senate.

We will continue to discuss ways to improve these measures and fully address the issues that are important the people of our State. I encourage you to share your thoughts with me about proposed legislation and any other issues that are of concern to you. Please feel free to send me an e-mail at repichiyama@capitol.hawaii.gov or call my office at 586-6220.

I hope these highlights are informative and useful. I look forward to hearing from you as we continue our work this session.

Mahalo and Aloha!

Linda Ichiyama

Representative Linda Ichiyama
State Representative
31st District
Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu

BILLS INTRODUCED by REP. ICHIYAMA:

Hawaii's recovery from the recent recession has been slow but steady. Economic revitalization continues to be a top priority this legislative session. Rep. Ichiyama co-sponsored several bills to keep our economy growing:

Emergency Environmental Workforce (HB 2250, HD2)

The economic downturn had a huge impact on our economy, leaving many local workers unemployed. The State will use existing funds to hire 500-750 people to establish an emergency environmental workforce. These workers will maintain and improve our precious watersheds.

Workforce Training Program (HB 2655, HD2)

To assist Hawaii's unemployed and underemployed workers, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations will establish a State-funded training program to expand workforce development and job training. The training program will help several vulnerable populations, including veterans, those with disabilities or limited English proficiency, the homeless and those recently released from incarceration.

Helping Local Business (HB 2096, HD1)

As the State continues its economic recovery, HB 2096, HD1 helps local businesses to save hundreds of dollars per employee in unemployment insurance tax payments. The bill delays a scheduled rise in the unemployment insurance rates for one year. These savings may make the difference between staying open for business, hiring additional employees and preventing further layoffs. HB 2096, HD1 was signed into law as Act 6 on March 9, 2012.



The Salt Lake Seniors Club invited Rep. Ichiyama to speak about important legislation.

Mid Session Highlights of the 2012 Hawaii State Legislature

REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY:

The State Budget Bill (HB 2012, HD1)

The top priorities of the new budget are: continuing economic growth, promoting job creation and responding to the immediate needs of Hawaii's people. The budget restores essential services, including agriculture inspectors, school bus services, adult education, repair and maintenance for public libraries and core programs for seniors and children. The budget also provides for expansion in key sectors of our economy, including film and digital media, aerospace, renewable energy, infrastructure and construction, broadband, tourism and the military.

Economic Development- Key Projects (HB2145, HD2)

A diverse and bustling market is important for a healthy economy. To support new development, HB 2145, HD2 identifies several industries that are vital to economic growth in Hawaii. These key sectors include renewable energy, broadband, infrastructure and construction, aerospace, tourism, film and digital media and the military. The measure will promote specific projects within these sectors that are important to the long-term growth and success of these industries over the next ten years.

Accelerating Broadband (HB 2324, HD2 and HB 2325, HD2)

To promote advancement in Hawaii's technology sector, HB 2324, HD2 and HB 2325, HD2 will streamline the broadband permitting process to speed up the construction and development of broadband facilities. A more efficient process will improve the quality and speed of Internet access around the State.



Rep. Ichiyama sponsored a floor presentation to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX. She is pictured with family members of the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink and honorees, Justice Sabrina McKenna, Marilyn Moniz-Kahoohanohano, Jennifer Rose, Jill Nunokawa and Catherine Betts.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT:

Eradicating Pests: Agricultural Inspection Facilities (HB 1941, HD2)

In support of the State's initiatives to improve detection of invasive species, HB 1941, HD2 will establish and fund agricultural inspection or biosecurity facilities to properly inspect, control and treat imported cargo. These facilities will be constructed at the Honolulu International Airport, Kona International Airport, Kawaihae Harbor, Kamuela vacuum cooling plant and Honolulu Harbor.

Agricultural Incentives (HB 2668, HD2)

Approximately 85-90% of our food is imported. Not only is local food sustainability important for our security,

supporting local agriculture helps local farmers, creates new jobs and contributes to Hawaii's long term economic stability. In support of local agriculture and economic growth, HB 2668, HD2 grants tax credits to qualified livestock feed producers and increases tax credits for drought mitigation projects.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS:

Military Consumer Protection (HB 2409)

Our service members and their families may be particularly vulnerable to unscrupulous lenders. Multiple overseas deployments and coping with a spouse's prolonged absence from home can lead to a great deal of emotional and financial stress. HB 2409 authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to enforce existing federal laws protecting military members and their families from predatory lending.

Veterans Court (HB 2798, HD3)

Many veterans returning from recent deployment are experiencing unprecedented levels of mental stress, which sometimes may result in contact with the judicial system. In consideration of the impact that combat has on veterans, HB2798, HD3 establishes a veterans treatment court, a system that recognizes the psychological effects of deployment and will help our veterans to receive counseling and support services.



Members of the Women's Legislative Caucus honored Theresa Johnson, manager of the Tripler Army Fisher Houses and Chelsea Fernandez, veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve.

PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH:

Support for Organ Transplant Patients (HB608, HD3, SD1, CD2)

With the closure of Hawaii Medical Center last year, there is no local transplant center in Hawaii. For organ transplant patients, the lack of a nearby transplant center could be the difference between life and death. To save the lives of individuals combating organ and bone marrow failure, **HB 608, HD3, SD1, CD2** appropriates emergency funds to the Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. Organ transplant patients are now able to remain in the islands near their support networks and receive efficient and timely care. **HB608, HD3, SD1, CD2** was signed into law on February 4, 2012.

Expanding Long-term Care (HB 609)

As our kupuna population increases, so does the need for long-term care services. To better meet the needs of Hawaii's aging communities, **HB 609** authorizes the State hospital system to enter into a formal affiliation with the Hawaii Medical Center-East facility. This will potentially double the long-term care capacity on Oahu.

SAFE TRANSPORTATION:

The "Move Over" Bill (HB 2030, HD2, SD1)

In light of recent tragedies, **HB 2030, HD2, SD1** requires motorists to vacate the lane directly next to a stationary emergency vehicle or to reduce driving speed when passing a stationary emergency vehicle with its visual signals activated. This bill is dedicated to the memory of Officers Garret Davis and Eric Fontes of the Honolulu Police Department.

Safe Routes to School Program (HB 2626, HD2)

The Safe Routes to School Program makes walking and bicycling to school safe and accessible for our keiki. **HB 2626, HD2** establishes a Safe Routes to School Program special fund. A surcharge of \$25 for speeding violations in a school zone and a \$10 surcharge on other traffic violations will be used to fund the Safe Routes to School program.

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Biofuels Tax Credit (HB 2262, HD2)

Renewable biofuels represent a key



Rep. Ichiyama and Rep. Johanson meet with students at the Secondary Student Conference. Established in 1970, the annual conference gives students an opportunity to learn about the legislative process.

alternative to our high priced petroleum products. **HB 2262, HD2** encourages local production and use of renewable fuels by providing tax incentives for private investment.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Protecting Consumers (HB 1788, HD1)

As more people use the Internet, cybercrime is the fastest growing threat to consumers. **HB 1788, HD1** addresses cybercrime by adding new definitions to computer crimes, increasing the penalties for computer fraud and incorporating phishing and spyware into all offenses related to computer fraud and unauthorized computer access.

EDUCATION:

Funding for Adult & Community Schools (HB 2046)

As a result of the severe budget cuts, Adult Education Programs were close to being eliminated. These programs provide a way for those outside the traditional age

range of public school students to gain basic educational skills, complete a high school education and actively contribute to society. **HB 2046** creates a special fund to receive State funds and student fees.



Congratulations to Mr. Elden Seta of Moanalua High School, recipient of the prestigious 2012 National Bandwagon Legion of Honor Laureate Award.



Rep. Ichiyama reads about the adventurous Olivia to students at Salt Lake Elementary School.



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Join us at
"Lawmakers Listen"
 April 12, 2012



Rep. Ichiyama hosts "Lawmakers Listen"

Thursday, April 12, 2012 - 6:00-8:00pm
Salt Lake Elementary School Cafeteria

Lawmakers Listen provides an opportunity for the community to have a face-to-face discussion with district legislators, House leadership and Chairs of key House committees.

Speaker Calvin Say, Vice Speaker Joey Manahan, House Majority Leader Pono Chong, Speaker Emeritus & Transportation Chair Joseph Souki and Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro will discuss highlights of the 2012 legislative session.

Senator Glenn Wakai will also join us for a short discussion of community issues.

Delicious Chili and Rice will be served!

DISTRICT 31 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REQUESTS

The following projects were requested for the fiscal year 2013 budget:

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL

Design and construction of athletic field turf \$ 2,300,000

MOANALUA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Design and construction for air-conditioning expansion in Buildings B and F \$ 1,200,000

Design and construction for a new media technology center and renovations to existing computer labs \$ 5,000,000

MOANALUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Design, construction and equipment for a new technology center \$ 2,150,000

Design and construction for parking safety improvements, including additional parking and new drop-off lane \$ 300,000

SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Renovation of classrooms including central air-conditioning, electrical upgrades, equipment and video and data connectivity \$ 2,000,000

ALIAMANU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Design, construction and equipment for the expansion of the Administration building \$ 3,500,000