

Community Update

State Representative Linda Ichiyama • Spring 2014

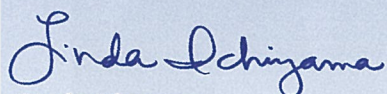
Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor to serve you and your family for the past four years in the House of Representatives. I am pleased to share with you some of the accomplishments of the 27th Legislature. The work of your Legislature and the people of Hawaii resulted in public policy that responds to our community's needs, including measures that better protect our seniors from financial abuse and support them with a variety of programs and services, raise the income of our lowest wage earners, provide needed improvements for our schools and protect our precious environment and economy from invasive species. This newsletter discusses many of the important bills that will affect you and our community.

Your area legislators worked closely to secure funds for the Moanalua High School Performing Arts Center, school classroom renovations and access road improvements for the Moanalua Gardens.

I remain committed to working with you to make our community a better place to live. Please keep in touch with me about your concerns. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,



Linda Ichiyama
State Representative
32nd District
Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu



Representative Ichiyama Supporting Our Kupuna

Enhanced Penalties Against Unlicensed Contractors (HB570)

The rise in elder abuse, such as theft and fraud, has prompted the need to protect the elderly from business scams and impersonators. **HB570** increases the fine up to \$20,000 or imprisonment against unlicensed contractors who commit licensing violations against elders. *(Introduced by Rep. Ichiyama)*

Executive Office on Aging - Long Term Care (SB2346, SD1, HD2, CD1)

The significant increase in Hawaii's elder population and the demand for services requires an ongoing commitment to ensure that our Kupuna are adequately cared for. **SB2346, SD1, HD2, CD1** appropriates \$6.6 million to the Department of Health (DOH) for community-based services and programs and requires the DOH Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on long-term care.

Fall and Injury Prevention (HB2053, HD1, SD1, CD1)

Among the elderly in Hawaii, falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries and injury-related hospitalizations. **HB2053, HD1, SD1, CD1** establishes a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch.



Salt Lake resident and artist Harry Tsuchidana and Mrs. Tsuchidana visit Rep. Ichiyama at the 2014 Art at the Capitol event. Mr. Tsuchidana's artwork is pictured above, and proudly hangs in Rep. Isaac Choy's office.

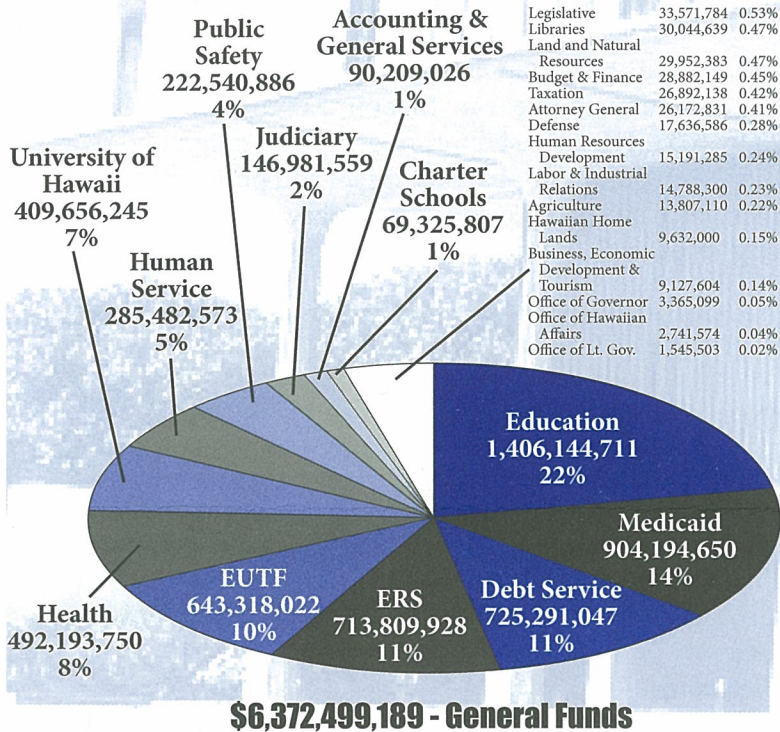


Highlights of the 2014 Haw

THE STATE BUDGET (HB1700, HD1, SD1, CD1)

The Hawaii Legislature approved the State Budget for the second half of the current biennium which includes \$10 million for Grant-in-Aid and over \$2 billion for Capital Improvement Projects for the upcoming 2014-2015 fiscal year. The State Budget reflects a measured and prudent approach to state government by carefully evaluating programs and services. The budget includes \$200 million to recapitalize our budget reserves and maintains significant financial contributions towards reducing our unfunded liability for health insurance. Among the top priorities: additional \$15 million for Weighted Student Formula to help public schools, \$1.5 million to continue the Housing First homeless initiative program, and \$650,000 for watershed protection statewide.

15 Agencies
(Each less than 1% of Total)
263,350,985
4%



Rep. Ichiyama with Sen. Wakai, Sen. Kim and Rep. Johanson at Moanalua Elementary School helping paint their mural, commemorating the school's 130th anniversary.

Invasive Species Council projects which include invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research and planning.

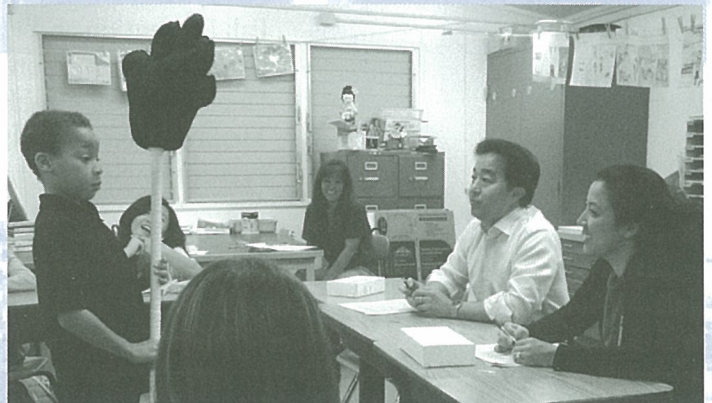
PUBLIC SAFETY

Habitual Property Crime (HB2205, HD1, SD1, CD1)

HB2205, HD1, SD1, CD1 imposes a mandatory minimum term of one year imprisonment upon conviction for the offense of habitual property crime. The bill authorizes probation only for a first conviction of the offense.

Criminal History Records Checks (HB2243, HD1, SD1, CD1)

To protect vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and disabled individuals, HB2243, HD1, SD1, CD1 allows qualified entities to conduct state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record checks on their applicants, employees, and volunteers who provide care for children, vulnerable adults, or individuals with disabilities and to receive the results directly.



Rep. Ichiyama and Sen. Wakai enjoy the morning with creative 4th graders at the Moanalua Elementary School Invention Convention.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT Invasive Species Council (HB1716)

The invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds and other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. One new pest, like the brown tree snake or the little fire ant, could forever change the character of our islands. HB1716 appropriates \$5 million for Hawaii

ii State Legislative Session

EDUCATING OUR KEIKI

Mandatory Kindergarten (SB2768, SD2, HD2, CD1)

High-quality kindergarten establishes a firm foundation for a child's educational future, helping to ensure growth and success as they move forward. On May 1, 2014, Governor Abercrombie signed into law **SB2768, SD2, HD2, CD1 (Act 76)**, a measure that makes kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least 5 years of age on or before July 31st of the 2014-2015 school year.



Rep. Ichiyama observes Moanalua Middle School students using their new laptops and computer programs as part of the school's Common Core Digital Devices Pilot Project.

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Advanced Grid Modernization (HB1943, HD2, SD2, CD1)

As Hawaii transitions from the early stages of its clean energy transformation, the State needs a more transparent and timely process for electricity customers to exercise their options to manage their energy use. **HB1943, HD2, SD2, CD1** amends the Public Utilities Commission guiding principles regarding the modernization of the electric grid to improve the overall reliability and operational efficiency of the Hawaii electric system.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Hawaii Health Connector (SB2470 SD1, HD1, CD1)

The successful and efficient operation of the Hawaii Health Connector is essential for the State, health insurers, and insured persons in Hawaii to comply with federal law. **SB2470 SD1, HD1, CD1** establishes the Connector Legislative Oversight Committee and



Rep. Ichiyama visits with Moanalua High School students to discuss the legislative process and answer their questions.

requires the Committee to annually review a report and sustainability plan prepared and submitted by the Connector.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Minimum Wage (SB2609, SD1, HD2, CD1)

The State's \$7.25 per hour minimum wage has not increased since 2007, while Hawaii continues to have the highest cost of living in the nation. **SB2609, SD1, HD2, CD1** provides our lowest paid workers with the economic stability and security they deserve. The increases are as follows: \$7.75 per hour beginning January 1, 2015, \$8.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2016, \$9.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2017 and \$10.10 per hour beginning on January 1, 2018; an increase in the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2015 and 75 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2016; provided that beginning January 1, 2015, the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7.00 more than the applicable minimum wage.



The House of Representatives honored the University of Hawaii Community College system for 50 years of educational excellence and for their leadership role in offering educational and employment opportunities for all.



Rep. Ichiyama with Jake Shimabukuro, who was recognized as a recipient of the 2014 Junior Achievement Hawaii Business Hall of Fame Award.



Rep. Ichiyama volunteers at the annual Salt Lake Elementary School Fun Fair.



Established in 1970, the Hawaii Secondary Student Conference gives students an opportunity to learn about the legislative process. Rep. Ichiyama met with young student leaders from Central District.



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 Moanalua, Salt Lake & Aliamanu

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DISTRICT 32 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following projects have been approved by the legislature and are in the State budget for fiscal year 2014 and 2015:

ALIAMANU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Upgrades to telecommunications and internet service \$100,000

ALIAMANU MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parking lot expansion \$576,000

Upgrades to telecommunications and internet service \$300,000

Reroof Dining Room \$11,000

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL

Design and construction of a new synthetic 8-lane track \$2,500,000

Plans, design and construction of Phase II of the Performing Arts Center \$5,000,000

Reroofing and ceiling repair \$164,000

SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Improvements and upgrades to Building F \$2,000,000

Interior renovation of classrooms including central air-conditioning, electrical upgrades, equipment and video and data connectivity \$1,400,000

Renovation of Portable P-2 and a restroom facility \$400,000

Upgrades to telecommunications and internet service \$100,000

MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION

Site improvements for Kamananui Valley Road \$1,200,000