

Community Update

State Representative Linda Ichiyama • Legislative Session • March 2013

Aloha
Neighbors,

Thank you for
the honor of
serving you
in the State
House of
Representatives.

As the
Legislature
reaches the midpoint of the 2013
Session, I would like to offer you
these "Mid-Session Highlights" as a
guide to the key bills passed by the
House of Representatives and now
being considered by the Senate.

We continue to discuss ways to
improve these measures and fully
address the diverse issues that are
important to 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 nui loa,



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



Bills Supported by Rep. Ichiyama

Public Long Term Care Insurance (HB1, HD2)

As our senior population increases, the need for long-term care services will undoubtedly grow. **HB1, HD2** requires the Director of the Executive Office of Aging to perform a study on a long term care insurance program for the State's working population. The program seeks to provide affordable insurance to support the long-term care needs of Hawaii's people.

Unemployment Insurance and Increasing the Minimum Wage (HB1028, HD2)

During these tough economic times, **HB1028, HD2** assists both employees and employers by maintaining the individual weekly unemployment benefit amount at 75 percent and maintaining the unemployment insurance contribution rates for employers so that employers do not need to pay a higher contribution rate. This will significantly help our local businesses as they continue their economic recovery.

This bill also provides for an increase in the minimum wage as follows:

\$7.75 per hour beginning on January 1, 2014

\$8.25 per hour beginning on January 1, 2015

\$8.75 per hour beginning on January 1, 2016

\$9.00 per hour beginning on January 1, 2017

Independent Audit Committee for the University of Hawaii (HB114, HD3)

The Legislature finds that the prudent and transparent management of public funds expended by the University of Hawaii is a matter of statewide concern. **HB114, HD3** addresses governance at the University of Hawaii and ensures the responsible use of fiscal resources by establishing an Independent Audit Committee within the Board of Regents. This bill will also transfer the oversight of contracts and professional services from the University President to the Administrator of the State Procurement Office.



Rep. Ichiyama at the first 2013 Higher Education Hearing with Chair Isaac Choy and Rep. Roy Takumi.

Mid Session Highlights of the 2013



Rep. Ichiyama delivers the invocation during the 19th day of regular session.

THE STATE BUDGET (HB200, HD1)

The goal of the new budget is to reprioritize and restructure government services, creating a sustainable and robust economy for future generations. Funding highlights include plans to consolidate the State's existing information-technology infrastructure, enhance technology security and privacy, and develop shared service functions across the State. The budget restores essential services, including agriculture and health inspectors, updates to our tsunami warning siren system, funding for our libraries, repair and maintenance for our public schools and funding to upkeep our airports and harbors. The budget also addresses issues that include the State's growing Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund unfunded liability and support for the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH

School Gardens (HB487, HD2)

Healthy food options for student lunches enhance our children's knowledge and understanding of food production from farm to table. **HB487, HD2** allows schools to partner with nonprofit organizations to distribute fresh foods and appropriates

funds for the establishment and support of school gardens.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Infrastructure Loan Program (HB856, HD2)

In order to achieve Hawaii's goals of energy self-sufficiency, greater energy security and diversification, and clean energy, **HB856, HD2** creates measurable cost savings by establishing the green infrastructure loan program and the implementation of an on-bill financing program through electric utility providers. This bill will help working families to afford renewable energy technologies like solar water heaters and photovoltaic panels.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims (HB411, HD2)

HB411, HD2 ensures that female sexual assault victims are provided medically and factually accurate, unbiased written and oral information about emergency contraception when receiving emergency medical care at Hawaii's hospitals. Emergency

contraceptives will be provided to any victim who requests it. Hawaii joins many other states which require hospitals to provide this information to sexual assault victims as part of the standard of care.

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Disclosure of Financial Interests by State Legislators (HB1132, HD1)

To improve transparency and confidence in government, **HB1132, HD1** requires state legislators to file an annual disclosure of financial interests statement with the State Ethics Commission at the beginning of the legislative session.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Funds for Veterans Treatment Court (HB196, HD1)

In consideration of the impact of combat on veterans, **HB196, HD1** appropriates funds to establish a Veterans Treatment Court within the Judiciary of the State of Hawaii. We recognize the unique needs of veterans entering the criminal justice system



Rep. Ichiyama reads "My Lucky Day" by Keiko Kasza to students at St. Philomena Preschool.

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Sen. Wakai, Rep. Ichiyama and Rep. Johanson congratulate former Moanalua High School Principal, Mr. Darrel Galera, on his promotion to DOE Educational Specialist for the Principal's Academy.



Rep. Ichiyama enjoyed being the emcee at the Moanalua Lions Club V.I.P. (Visually Impaired Person) Christmas lunch for Hoopono.

with mental illness and substance abuse issues.

PROMOTING OUR FILM INDUSTRY

Digital Media and Film Tax Credit (HB799, HD3)

By providing enhanced incentives to attract media productions to Hawaii and establishing a workforce development training program to provide wage reimbursement for on the job training, **HB799, HD3** will improve Hawaii's economy and continue to build the local film and digital media industries.

HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Remembering World War II Legacy (HB1396, HD1)

HB1396, HD1 appropriates funds for the planning, design and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and the Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center to preserve, perpetuate and share the legacy of the Japanese-American

service members who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and Japanese-American citizens detained in internment camps.

REPEAL OF PLDC

Public Land Development Corporation (HB 1133)

The Legislature considered the serious concerns raised by the public

regarding the PLDC. While the concept of public-private partnerships deserves further consideration, the PLDC was not the right way to proceed. **HB1133** dissolves the PLDC as created by Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011. It also transfers assets, records and contracts of the PLDC to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.



Rep. Ichiyama with Judge Karen Radius, founder of the Hawaii Girls Court, and members of the 2013 Women's Legislative Caucus.

DISTRICT 32 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REQUESTS

The following projects were requested for the fiscal year 2014 budget.

SALT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Design, construction, and equipment for the renovation of portable P-2 and a restroom facility

Total Project Cost: **\$400,000**

Interior renovation of classrooms, central air-conditioning, electrical upgrades, and equipment

Total Project Cost: **\$1,400,000**

MOANALUA ELEMENTARY

New technology center

Total Project Cost: **\$2,150,000**

Parking safety improvements, including additional parking and new drop off lane

Total Project Cost: **\$330,000**

MOANALUA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Air-conditioning expansion in buildings B & F

Total Project Cost: **\$1,200,000**

New media technology center

Total Project Cost: **\$5,000,000**

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL

Construction for Performing Arts Center Phase II

Total Project Cost: **\$29,000,000**

Renovation of the athletic field

Total Project Cost: **\$2,500,000**

ALIAMANU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Expansion of the library building

Total Project Cost: **\$5,000,000**

Expansion of the administration building

Total Project Cost: **\$3,500,000**



State Representative

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Rep. Ichiyama joins Rep. Johanson, Sen. Wakai and Sen. Kim in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Salt Lake-Moanalua Library.