



Office of Representative Daynette "Dee" Morikawa

2012 Legislative Session Newsletter

State Representative — 16th District

Mahalo Nui Loa

Having completed my second legislative session as your representative, I feel confident that your voices are being heard. The ability to work directly with the various State and County departments allow your concerns to be addressed.

I put a lot of thought into consequences of proposed legislation, especially where Kaua'i and Ni'ihau would be affected, and I am not afraid to voice my opposition or concerns. My colleagues listen and understand Kaua'i's special uniqueness. Although we may not always prevail in good legislation affecting our islands, we need to collectively work it out and try to compromise.

I ask for your patience, as we try to make life better for our children, ourselves and our Kupuna. We must all work together, in harmony, to accomplish our goals and

mission. I look forward to meeting you in your communities. I appreciate hearing from you, because you are my eyes and ears and that is how I can better serve you.

I urge you to feel free to contact me, or my staff, at any time. Thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement.

Mahalo,

Dee's House Committees:

- Health, Vice Chair
- Finance, Member
- Human Services, Member
- Hawaiian Affairs, Member
- Culture and the Arts, Member



**Representative
Daynette "Dee" Morikawa**

State Capitol Office #310
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808)586-6280

Fax: (808)586-6281

E-mail:

repmorikawa@capitol.hawaii.gov

Bill Introduced by Dee signed into law!

House Bill 2254 HD1 was signed by Governor Neil Abercrombie as Act 045 on April 23rd, 2012.

This bill expands the current pre-tax transportation benefit currently in effect on Oahu to also include other counties at the discretion of the chief executive of those counties. The pre-tax benefit program allows state employees to deduct the costs of bus passes and/or Handi-van and Vanpool Hawaii fees from their paycheck prior to tax calculations.

Depending on the tax bracket and wage, employees are projected to save approximately \$100 to \$200 in taxes through this program. Already proven successful on Oahu, this program is sure to be of great benefit to those employees throughout the rest of the state as well.

The Kaua'i Legislative Delegation with House Speaker Calvin Say, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, and wife Millie.



District 16 Appropriations

I am honored to report to you the following appropriations for District 16 was approved within the State Budget for 2012!

- \$200,000 for plans, design & construction for photovoltaic system for Ke Kula Ni'ihau o' Kekaha
- \$1,000,000 additional funds for plans, design & construction to upgrade and resurface Mana Drag Strip, ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances
- *Lump Sum Repair and Maintenance for the following Schools:*

Ele'ele Elementary	\$72,000	Koloa Elementary	\$218,000
Kalaheo Elementary	\$469,000	Waimea Canyon Middle	\$230,000
Kekaha Elementary	\$171,000	Waimea High School	\$524,000

Island Wide Appropriations

In addition to the District 16 Appropriations in the State Budget, the following projects below were approved to benefit the Garden Island.

- \$80,000 to replace damaged roof of Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc.
- \$1,500,000 for plans, design construction and equipment for the Philippine cultural Center
- \$30,000 for plans, design and construction, and equipment for the Filipino Community Center
- \$20,520,000 for Lihue Airport and Airfield Improvements

More information on these bills or Capital Improvement Projects can be found on the Hawai'i State Legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. Or simply contact my office.



Malama Koloa Recognized

On March 30, 2012, HR 112 was approved and adopted by the House Legislature. Introduced by Rep. Morikawa and fellow Kaua'i House Reps Kawakami and Tokioka, the resolution congratulated the organization Malama Koloa on the acknowledgment of Holo Holo Koloa as a Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Association. Malama Koloa is a non-profit community organization and the current local sponsor in charge of managing the Holo Holo Koloa Scenic Byway. This recognition as a Scenic Byway opens up the potential for Federal support for the care, maintenance, and preservation of the road over time.

Absentee Ballot Mailing

Another bill introduced by Representative Morikawa, House Bill 2251 SD1, requiring the county clerk of counties with populations less than 160,000 people to mail absentee ballots to all registered voters on a different island than the county's seat of government during each election, was approved by the Legislature. In particular, this benefits Ni'ihau and other sparsely populated areas, eliminating the need to establish voting booths where it may be inconvenient or impractical.