

2017 Legislative Update



State Representative Gregg Takayama • District 34 • Pearl City • Waimalu • Pacific Palisades



Aloha Neighbors:

One of the most important tasks of the Legislature is to enact a State budget that balances public needs and limited resources. The largest share of the budget goes to support public education - and rightfully so, because youth represent the future of our society.

I'm proud to report that the budget (HB 100) passed by the House and sent to the Senate earlier this month includes funds for these two major school projects:

- **Momilani Elementary** - \$2.5 million for plans, design and construction of a new portable classroom and other campus improvements.
- **Pearl City High School** - \$2 million for plans, design and repaving of the campus driveway and cafeteria parking lot.

As the 2017 session progresses, we'll keep you updated on these and other measures that impact Pearl City.

Mahalo,

Gregg Takayama



▲ *Rep. Takayama joined sign-wavers from several groups demonstrating support for senior citizen programs such as Meals on Wheels on March 14 at the Capitol.*

BILL UPDATES:

Sunset Memorial Cemetery:

HB 1245 directs the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to develop a plan for the management of Sunset Memorial Cemetery and provides liability waivers to cemetery volunteers.

It passed the House and last week won approval by the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health Committee and *will be heard Thursday, March 30th @9:50 a.m., by the Senate Judiciary/Ways and Means Committees.* Mahalo to the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, Council member Elefante, and the many community members who submitted testimony in support of this bill.

State identification cards:

HB 463 would allow all Oahu Satellite City Halls to issue State ID cards. This would enable Pearl City residents to obtain State ID cards at Pearlridge Mall instead of traveling to Kapolei or Kalihi. This bill has passed the House and *will be heard Thursday, March 30th @9:50 a.m., by the Senate Judiciary/Ways and Means Committees.*

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Bill Updates:

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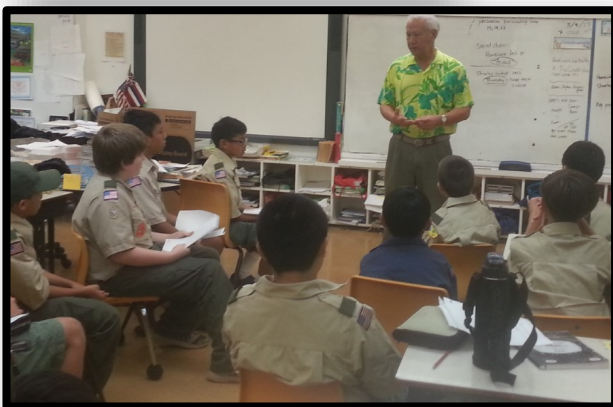
New Correctional Facilities:

HB 462 would require the State Department of Public Safety to solicit proposals for construction of a new correctional facility to house inmates from the Halawa Correctional Facility as well as those inmates currently housed in Arizona. This would enable Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) to move into the Halawa prison facilities.

Unfortunately, it appears this bill is dead because it was not heard by the Senate Public Safety/Water and Land Committees.



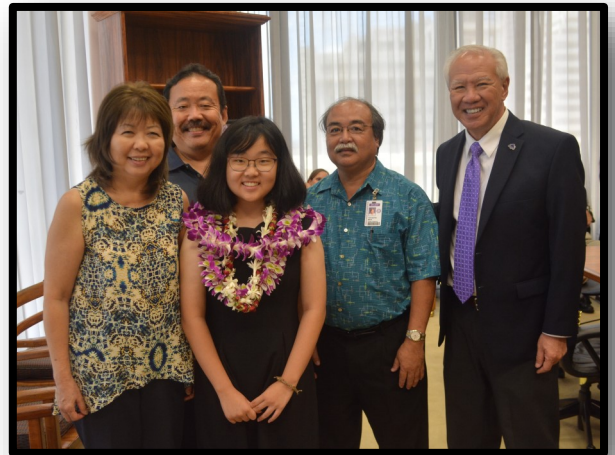
◀ Pacific Palisades resident **Stanley Fernandez** was honored as a Vietnam Era patriot by the House. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Fernandez flew 73 combat missions in Southeast Asia, was awarded the Bronze Star, and helped launch the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol.



▲ Rep. Takayama met with Boy Scout Troop 326 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to discuss community issues and answer questions about government.



▲ Momilani Elementary teacher and national Milken Award winner **Masaru Uchino** was honored in the House, accompanied by **Principal Doreen Higa** and fiancée **Rachel Kimura**. Masaru has developed innovative ways of teaching math and science to 3rd graders, helps the annual 3rd grade drama production, assists the student journalism program, and leads school physical fitness training.



▲ Highlands Intermediate 8th grader **Remy Kubota** won the Hawaii: Next 50 statewide poster contest in the grades 6-8 category. Last week she was honored at a Capitol event, with parents **Evelyn and Craig Kubota**, along with teacher **Mark Yamashita**. Remy's winning poster depicted how alternative energy sources can support new ways to grow agricultural crops.



◀ Momilani resident **Luane Higuchi**, a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School, was selected 2017 Leeward District teacher of the year. She uses innovative digital media techniques in instruction and extra-curricular activities and also traveled with students to competitions.