

2017 Wrap-Up



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



REPRESENTATIVE
GREGG TAKAYAMA

July 2017

Aloha Neighbors!

This newsletter describes highlights of the recently adjourned 2017 Legislature, including funding for our Pearl City schools and other measures benefiting our community.

As Co-chair of the Kupuna Caucus, I am especially proud of enacting measures enabling seniors to age at home with the help of State-sponsored services and assistance to family caregivers.

As Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety, I helped pass bills that support community safety and improve inmate rehabilitation in our correctional facilities.

Of course, a major issue left unresolved is funding of the City rail project. I support completion of the full 20-mile rail system, but we need more accountability for its budget and a greater effort to enlist private participation in the project. As always, on these and any other issues, I welcome your suggestions and comments.

Mahalo,

Gregg Takayama
State Representative
reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov
(808) 586-6340



Students from Pearl City Highlands Elementary's championship Robotics teams, along with parents and coaches, were honored by Governor Ige and Rep. Takayama at a May town hall meeting.

2017 Legislative Highlights & Summary

CARING FOR KUPUNA

HB607 (Introduced by Rep. Takayama) – Establishes the **Kupuna Caregivers Program** to support family caregivers who are providing care while also trying to keep regular jobs. This would provide respite for caregivers by offering stipends of \$70 per day that can be used for adult day care, transportation, or other elder care services. Hawaii will be the first state to enact such a program.

HB615 (Introduced by Rep. Takayama) – Appropriates \$500,000 for the **Healthy Aging Partnership Program** to improve the health and well-being of kupuna by funding exercise and wellness programs.

HEALTHY FAMILIES

HB213 – Permits an employee to take **family leave** in order to care for the employee's sibling with a serious health condition.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HB 479 – Encourages more affordable housing by reducing construction costs through tax incentives and wage changes. Also allots \$25 million for the **Rental Housing Trust Fund**, \$25 million for the **Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund**, and \$500 million for additional **Hula Mae** multifamily programs, which will all contribute to more affordable housing projects.

See **HIGHLIGHTS** on page 2

Rep. Takayama and fellow members of the Pearl City Lions Club beautified the Pearl City welcome marker with plantings of naupaka and lehua.



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HIGHLIGHTS from page 1

REDUCING POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

HB 209 – Establishes a state **earned income tax credit** (EITC) for low-income working families, so that our most vulnerable workers can keep more of their take home pay to provide for their families.

HB 83 – Requires the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services and Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a working group to develop recommendations to establish **safe zones for the homeless**.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HB 100 – The Legislature provided \$1.8 million for the **Hawaii's Promise scholarship** program, which helps financially-needy students attend community college tuition-free. It's estimated that 116 low-income Leeward Community College students will qualify for this scholarship that provides financial needs not met by other forms of financial aid, such as federal grants and benefits or awards.

Outstanding Citizen AWARDEES



Representative Takayama helps to recognize elementary school students displaying leadership, high character, and caring for the community.

Momilani Elementary School:
CANDACE KIM

Palisades Elementary School:
SHYLA GONZALES

Pearl City Highlands Elementary School:
MIA HASHIMOTO

Waiuu Elementary School:
MALAE MAYEDA

Waimalu Elementary School:
BAILEY RIVERA



Rep. Takayama spoke at a **Kupuna Caregivers** rally Feb. 7 at the Capitol sponsored by community groups supporting legislative measures to assist family caregivers.

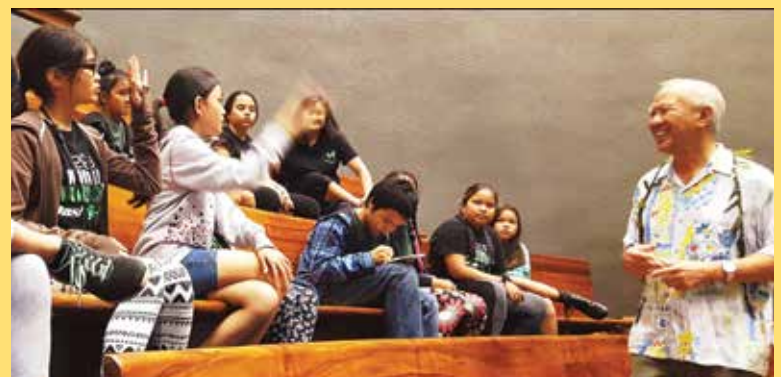
SUPPORTING KEIKI

SB 423 – Prohibits denying a student a meal for failure to pay within: (1) The first 21 days of the first semester of a school year while the student's application for **free or reduced lunch** is being processed; or (2) seven days after the student's meal fund account balance is zero or negative.

See **HIGHLIGHTS** on page 3



Rep. Takayama hosts **Pearl City Highlands Elementary** students for a site visit of the State Capitol. The students eagerly ask questions about the legislative process.



Sixth graders from **Waimalu Elementary School** visited the State Capitol to learn about government from **Rep. Takayama** and other area legislators.

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HIGHLIGHTS from page 2

PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 459 (Introduced by Rep. Takayama) – If an application for a **firearm** is rejected because the applicant is prohibited from owning a firearm or is subject to a restraining order, the police department must notify the court, prosecutor and director of public safety.

HB 845 – Requires the Department of Public Safety offer inmates the opportunity to obtain **identification cards**, such as Social Security cards and birth certificates, at least 90 days prior to their release on furlough. This will enable them to more easily apply for jobs as they re-enter society.

HB 1135 – Enables **crime victims** to more easily obtain court-ordered restitution from offenders by allowing judges to order the forfeiture of cash deposited for bail or bonds, or the withholding of state income tax refunds.

SB 718 – Enacts the Community Court Outreach Project to help deal with nonviolent, non-felony offenders by sentencing them to **community service** or directing them to drug abuse or mental health programs.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

These Pearl City projects are funded in the 2018 State budget:

MOMILANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$2.5 million for



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.

plans, design and construction of a new portable classroom plus campus improvements.

PALISADES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$1.8 million for electrical upgrades, and ground and site improvements.

PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL: \$2 million for driveway repaving and parking lot repairs.

EWA DISTRICT COURTHOUSE: \$420,000 for reroofing and prevention of water intrusion.

Senior Information & Assistance Handbook updated

The City's Senior Information and Assistance Handbook contains a comprehensive list of local organizations that provide help for the elderly. Our office has received many requests from constituents for the handbook and we now have a new updated version available.

• If you are a constituent and would like a copy of the handbook, please call our office at 586-6340.

• The handbook also can be viewed on the following website:
<http://www.elderlyaffairs.com>

• If you have further questions, please call the Elderly Affairs Division at 768-7700.



Rep. Takayama receives an update from **Sol Ray Duncan**, a member of the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council as well as a member of the Pearl City Neighborhood board, on the advocacy day for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities in March.



Representative Gregg Takayama

Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 323
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6340
E-mail: reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov

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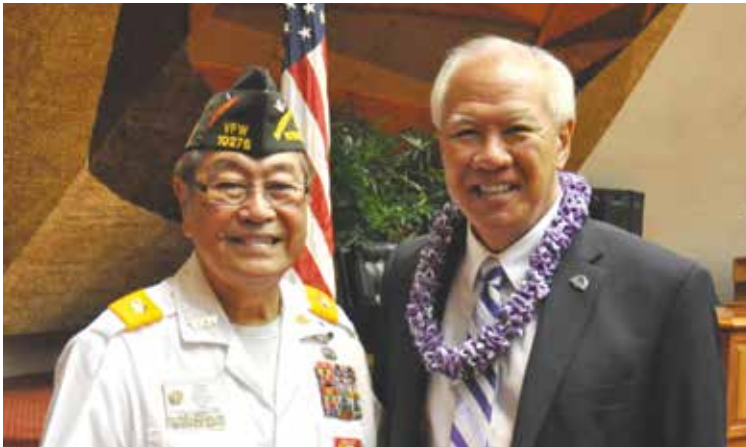
If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please e-mail reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov.



Governor Ige signs a bill, introduced by Rep. Takayama, creating a new law which requires notifying law enforcement when someone prohibited from owning a firearm attempts to obtain a gun permit.



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.



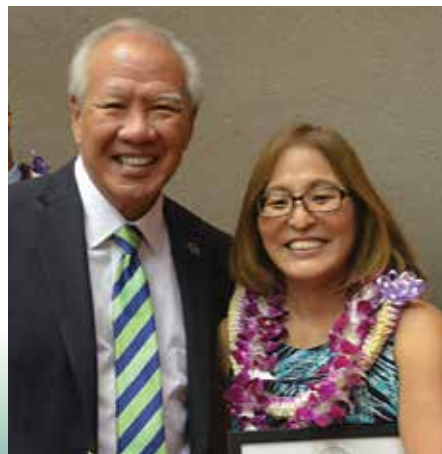
Pacific Palisades resident Stanley Fernandez was honored as a Vietnam Era patriot by the House. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Fernandez flew 73 combat missions in Southeast Asia, was awarded the Bronze Star, and helped launch the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol.



Highlands Intermediate 8th grader Remy Kubota won the Hawaii: Next 50 statewide poster contest in the grades 6–8 category. 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.



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 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 extracurricular activities and also traveled with students to competitions.