



REPRESENTATIVE RYAN YAMANE

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Neighborhood Board Report · May 2010

Aloha,

Last month concluded the 2010 Legislative Session, my primary focus in the House this year remained to be on the improvement of the condition of the state's economy, while preserving the social services safety net for our most vulnerable, and finding the resources that will address education furloughs and restore classroom instructional time for our keiki.

As a body, we were able to resolve many of these issues in part by not raising the General Excise Tax affecting all of the residents, visitors, and economic and sales transactions or by collecting the Transient Accommodations Tax from the counties. Below is a summary of some of the legislation passed this year.

Supporting the Workforce

HB 2169: Relating to Employment Security lessens the increase that employers are expected to pay in unemployment insurance taxes. These higher rates will balance the state's unemployment trust fund, which pays the benefits for those people out of work. *This Unemployment Insurance trust benefit bill was signed into law as Act 2.*

Restoring School Instructional Days on Fridays

HB 2486: Relating to Education aims to avoid future "furlough Fridays", this bill establishes a minimum number of instructional days and hours per school year to ensure that our students in the public school students receive an adequate amount of classroom time.

SB 2124: Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund uses \$67 Million from the Hurricane Relief Fund to the public school system to eliminate school "furlough Fridays" for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. *This bill ending DOE "furlough Fridays" was signed into law as Act 143 and takes effect on July 1, 2010.*

Fireworks

SB 1059: Relating to Fireworks allows the counties the authority to make stringent firework control and enforcement laws.

HB 1987: Relating to Fireworks stops the illegal importation of fireworks by defining their illegal use as nuisances under the penal code and protects neighbors who take action against illegal use of fireworks within their neighborhoods by providing them the same rights as a witness to a crime. *This nuisance abatement bill was signed into law as Act 136 and takes effect immediately.*

Graffiti

HB 2129: Relating to Graffiti increases penalties for graffiti and requires that the graffiti be removed within 30 days of sentencing and community service to remove all other graffiti within 100 yards of the site of the offense. *These tougher penalties on graffiti crimes were signed into law as Act 99 and takes effect immediately.*

I am dedicated to working hard to serve you. Please feel free to contact me anytime by phone, fax, or email and mahalo for your continued support.

With Warmest Aloha,

CLASS OF 2010 Congratulations Class of 2010!

It's graduation time and this month I was honored and happy to participate in the graduation ceremonies of our community's schools, including: Mililani High School, Kanoelani Elementary, Mililani Middle School, Mililani Waena, Mililani Uka, and Kipapa Elementary. Here are some pictures from the ceremonies.



(Left) May 20th: Congratulating Kanoelani's 6th grade graduating class at the Okinawan Center. **Congratulations Rainbows!**



(Right) May 24th: Encouraging the graduating 5th grade from Mililani Waena at Schofield's Nehelani Club. **Good job Menehune!**



(Left) May 20th: Recognizing the outstanding achievements of our Mililani Middle School students.

Mililani Middle School students brought home 3 state titles from the State Spelling Bee, State Science Fair, and State Art Fair this year.

Congratulations to our state winners, our 8th grade graduates, and all of the character winners. **Go Blazers!**



(Above) May 26th: Awarding the Mililani Uka Student Council 5th grade graduates for a job well done in leadership and representation of their peers.

(Right) Recognizing the top four Mililani Uka 5th grade "Persons of Character" who demonstrated core ethical values everyday. **Well done Egrets!**



From the Community



(Above) Today I was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by Honolulu Fire Chief Kenneth Silva and State Fire Council representative Lloyd Rogers. This recognition was in part because of the legislative support I provided to promote the fire and life safety of the citizens of our state.



In October of 2009, Patrick Alviar, a Mililani High School student and Boy Scout, witnessed the Canonization of Hawaii's first Saint, Saint Damien. I was very humbled to hear of Patrick's travels and invited him to provide an invocation before the House of Representatives this past March.

Patrick gave an inspiring invocation to us all and brought with him his father, Jose; mother, Mary Elizabeth; and sister and Mililani Uka 5th Grader, Caitlin (above), while his fellow troop members cheered him on.



Community Capital Improvement Requests

Earlier this Legislative Session I introduced District 37's Capital Improvement Project bill, HB 2803, which requested many projects for the community of Mililani and Waipio Gentry and Central Oahu area, after collaborating with our Mililani area legislators, the following items were included in the State Budget for the years of 2010-2011.

- Mililani High School Synthetic Turf for Field: \$2.5 Million
- Mililani High School Parking lot and drive ways: \$312,000.00
- Mililani Middle School Play Courts: \$2.5 Million
- Mililani Uka Elementary Playground Resurfacing \$75,000.00
- Mililani Uka Stage Reconfiguration \$36,000.00
- Mililani Waena Pod Classroom Solar Fans \$132,000.00

Legislative Updates on my Current Legislation

HB 2351: Relating to Veterans *Signed into Law as ACT 78*
Allows only honorably or generally discharged veterans to apply for a Hawaii Veterans License Plate.

HB 2083: Relating to Milk Labeling
Passed the Legislature, transmitted to Governor for signature
Requires that milk beverages to be labeled with the date of pasteurization or the date of packaging to ensure the safe consumption of milk products.

HB 2084: Relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds
Passed the Legislature, transmitted to Governor for signature
Appropriates money to match Federal funds to alleviate rising statewide hospital expenses. These funds provide for the emergency and continuing care for Medicaid recipients unable to finance their medical expenses.

HB 2349: Relating to Violence Against Health Care Personnel
Passed the Legislature, transmitted to Governor for signature
Protects hospital Emergency Room Personnel from abuse and terroristic threatening made by patients.

HCR 165: Auditing the Child Welfare Services Program
Adopted by Legislature, sent to State Auditor
Requests the Legislative Auditor audit the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services program of the efficiency and effectiveness of Child Welfare Services in processing and investigating complaints of child abuse and neglect and misuse of child support.



This past April, **Mililani Middle School** was recognized at the Hawaii State Capitol for their high participation in the "Stop Flu at School" program. Congratulations to Health Nurse, **Alice Macanas**, with Public Nurses, and **Vice Principal Greg Nakasone** for our healthy keiki and your achievement!

(Left) Attending a rally at the State Capitol, hosted by AARP to gather support and funding for Kupuna Care, Seniors' Meals on Wheels food programs, and other senior services. The funding was included this year in SB 2469, which provides funding for critical social services and health care to our communities from the Rainy Day fund.