



Representative
Kyle Yamashita
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



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Legislative News

A newsletter from State Representative Kyle Yamashita

12th District • Upcountry Maui

2006 Session

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your State Representative for 2005 and 2006.

For a number of years now, fiscal constraints have limited state spending, and funding for some very important programs have had to be curtailed. I think that we were able to put this year's windfall to good use, shoring up neglected programs and improving critical areas such as education.

Mahalo,

Kyle T. Yamashita

Legislature Funds Arts Learning Center At King Kekaulike High School

One of the most exciting projects approved by the State Legislature this year may be modest in scope but will make a huge contribution to the future of the arts at Upcountry Maui.

The Legislature appropriated \$650,000 toward the planning and design of a new visual and performing arts learning center, including a full-scale auditorium, at King Kekaulike High School.



Kyle discussing future plans of the King Kekaulike Arts Learning Center with parents.

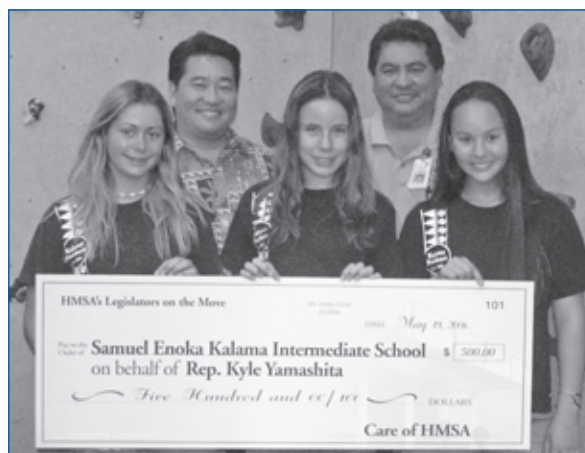
While not all students will choose a career in the arts or communications, as adults, they will understand the value that the arts bring to our community.

Last October, members of the House Finance Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee visited King Kekaulike and saw for themselves how the students would benefit from an arts auditorium and learning center.

Planning and design of the visual and performing arts learning center is a first step to realizing the master plan and I am proud to have been able to support the school.

Sidewalk Safety at King Kekaulike High School

For some time now, many of us have been concerned about the lack of a sidewalk at King Kekaulike High School along Kula Highway. I am glad to report that we were able to secure funding this Session. The Legislature appropriated \$690,000 for this sidewalk in the budget bill. I believe this improvement will go a long way toward pedestrian safety. My thanks go out to everyone who contributed to this effort!



Kyle presents \$500 from HMSA to Kalama Intermediate School principal John Costales and students Ariel Martin, Suzi Munei, and Leah Omura.

The State Budget

Hawaii's thriving economy generated a budget surplus. The 2006 Legislature took a prudent, long-term approach to spending by passing a budget that reserves funds for future needs and includes a modest increase in spending that primarily benefits our schools and strengthens infrastructure.

The increases go to fix Hawaii's schools, provide more shelter and affordable housing, prepare for natural disasters, and increase funding for basic health and human

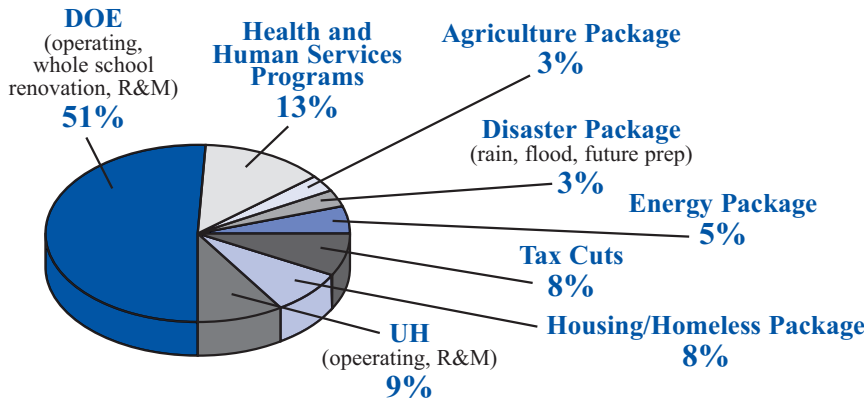
Building A B Highlights of the 2006

benefit middle-income workers, by expanding income tax brackets by 20% and raising the standard deduction for taxpayers to 40% of the federal level.



Members of the House of Representatives recently honored Mitzi Toro of Kalama Intermediate School as the 2006 Hawaii State Counselor of the Year.

What Happened To The Budget Surplus?



services needs and the programs of the University of Hawaii.

Additionally, the Legislature enacted permanent tax relief that will take thousands of low-income taxpayers off the income tax rolls and

Supporting Higher Education

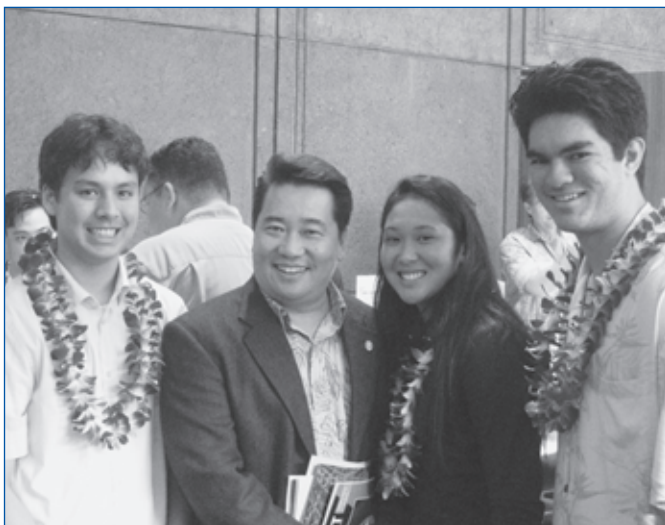
We appropriated \$95,100,000 for system-wide capital improvement projects for the University of Hawaii System, including safety and building code compliance requirements.

Education classrooms; \$40 million from the State Educational Facilities Special Fund and \$35 million from general funds.

Early Childhood Education legislation provides funds to enhance junior kindergarten services, expand the DOE Families for R.E.A.L. early childhood program to several new sites.

Changes to Charter Schools statutes include specifying how to start-up a charter school. It requires the Charter School Review Panel to evaluate charter schools and make schools accountable to the Board of Education and the public.

To help relieve the teacher shortage in Hawaii, we are allowing DOE to employ retired teachers and administrators.



Maui students honored at the 2006 Science and Tech Day at the State Capitol.

Investing In Education

The Fix Hawaii's Schools Act funds the repair, maintenance, and renovation of public school facilities statewide. SB2956 appropriates \$160 million to renovate Department of

Promoting Agriculture

We funded a new vocational agriculture education program in the DOE and appropriated funds for the

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Disaster Preparedness

We appropriated \$9,000,000 for disaster and emergency preparedness measures; and increased the amount of money from the Major Disaster Fund available for a single natural disaster or emergency to \$2,000,000.

Maintaining A Safety Net

The Hawaii Children's Health Care Program will provide health care coverage to all uninsured children through a partnership between the State and a mutual benefit society. More people will be



Kyle and Alan Takemoto of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

agricultural enterprises, we proposed a constitutional amendment allowing a special purpose revenue bond to be issued by the State.

We changed existing land use restrictions to allow agricultural land to be subdivided and leased so long as the principal use of the leased land is agriculture and no permanent or temporary dwellings are constructed on the leased area.

A bill was passed to better protect agricultural and aquacultural businesses from thieves who damage property, equipment, supplies or products. Penalties range from a misdemeanor to a class B felony.

repair and maintenance of several deteriorating high-priority irrigation systems around the state.

Private landowners can obtain matching fund grants from the new Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Special Fund to repair and maintain their irrigation systems.

To increase the availability of capital for the development of



Kyle, Ralph Iwamoto Jr., USDA Minister-Counselor, and Speaker Calvin Say discussing the challenges of exporting to Japan.

Sustainable Energy

To reduce Hawaii's dependence on oil we: increased the Renewable Energy Technology Tax Credit; require state contracts to consider and prefer bio-diesel fuel; established and funded a Renewable Hydrogen Program to develop a renewable hydrogen industry; require a statewide assessment of the potential for ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable hydrogen production, and provided funds for agricultural enterprises interested in developing energy products.

able to obtain prescription drug coverage under the State Pharmacy Assistance Program because we expanded the group of persons. We allowed persons enrolled in the Medicaid drug benefits program to also enroll in this Program.

Promoting Our Economy Abroad

In May, the legislature was asked to attend a trade mission to Fukuoka, Japan to strengthen and diversify the state's economic development. I was interested in finding new opportunities to export Hawaii's agricultural products, particularly flowers. We visited Fukuoka's flower auction and discovered that no Hawaii plants or flowers were yet represented at the auction.



Discussing technology issues at the Science and Tech Fair.

Representative Yamashita's Legislation

Several bills I introduced were passed by the Legislature. We made agricultural tourism activities permissible in agricultural districts, so long as county ordinances are adopted for this purpose. I also introduced the agricultural subdivision bill mentioned earlier, and co-introduced the Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Special Fund bill and the Agricultural Criminal Property Damage Bill.

A bill that recently passed will allow the development of alternative standards and criteria for vocational educators, to bring more qualified and skilled vocational instructors into our school classrooms.

Another bill I co-introduced authorizes the High Technology Development Corporation to issue grants to small businesses that apply for federal grants for high technology businesses, to stimulate the growth of local businesses that test high-risk theories and develop innovative technologies.

Adopted by the House of Representatives is a Resolution requiring all public agencies that supply potable water to the public provide the Department of Health written notice at least ninety days prior to the addition of any new or different product, substance, or chemical to the potable water being provided to the public.

Public Schools Repair, Maintenance and Classroom Renovations for 2006-2007

King Kekaulike High School	\$804,000
Kalama Intermediate School	\$2.8 million
Kula Elementary School	\$146,000
Makawao Elementary School	\$88,000
Puakalani Elementary School	\$66,000



Kyle in Fukuoka, Japan with Hawaii Delegates to explore business and agricultural opportunities.

Capital Improvement Projects for 2005-2007

UPCOUNTRY MAUI

Upcountry Maui watershed project	\$1.5 million
Makawao Public Library expansion	\$744,000
Haleakala Highway	\$12 million
Kula and Haleakala Highway sidewalk	\$690,000
Hui Noeau Center land acquisition	\$500,000

MAUI COUNTY

Maui Memorial Medical Center parking structure	\$22 million
Maui Memorial Medical Center heliport, roof improvement	\$1.5 million
Maui Memorial Medical Center expansion and emergency room	\$8.2 million
Maui Memorial Medical Center A/C upgrades	\$6.6 million
Kahului Airport terminal improvements, baggage system	\$32.8 million
Kahului Airport access road	\$18 million
Kahului Airport fuel storage site preparation	\$2 million
Kahului Airport heliport	\$4.6 million
Kahului Airport perimeter road improvements	\$1.7 million
Kahului Airport runway, apron, taxiway improvements	\$14.6 million
Kahului Airport noise monitoring system	\$400,000
Kahului Airport master plan	\$1.9 million
Maui Community Correctional Center	\$24.3 million
Maui Community College	\$6.9 million
Nisei Veterans Memorial Center	\$2.2 million
Hale Makua renovation	\$1 million
Kahului Harbor pier, barge terminal, and ramp facility improvements	\$17.7 million
Hale Mahaolu affordable housing	\$1.1 million
UH Manoa Institute of Astronomy	\$2 million
Hana Ranch affordable housing	\$1.5 million
MEO transit facility	\$1.2 million
Maui Arts and Cultural Center	\$250,000

Contact Info

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

State Capitol, Room 442 • Honolulu, HI 96813

NI Direct: 984-2400 x66330 • Fax: (808) 586-6331

E-mail: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov