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Olelo Ch. 54, 1st Sunday at 9:30 p.m.  
2nd, 3rd, 4th Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

# SENATOR WILL ESPERO



## 2012 SESSION WRAP UP

*Saber Hall - New James Campbell HS classroom building*



Two years ago, I reported to you about the \$6 million contract to build a new, air-conditioned 8-classroom building at JCHS. It will host its first students this coming fall.

### FUNDING FOR EWA

Emergency Medical Care, \$1,000,000-HB 1953

HB 1953 funds on-call emergency medical and ambulance services for Nanakuli 24 hours a day and Ewa up to 16 hours a day. Two emergency rooms that filled the gap when Hawaii Medical Center closed will receive grants to upgrade their emergency care facilities. Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center will get \$2 million to upgrade and expand its emergency services building. Wahiawa General will get \$1.25 million to modernize and expand its emergency department and resurface its parking lot.

Weed & Seed, \$336,000 (statewide)-SB 2261

Police and community work together to "weed" out criminal elements and "seed" it with prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization projects and programs.

Flood Mitigation in Honouliuli, Ewa-\$100,000.

## NEW UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU CAMPUS TO OPEN ON AUGUST 20, 2012!

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII & SCHOOLS

University of Hawaii West Oahu - \$5,645,000.  
Campus work plus an Academy of Creative Media facility and an allied health building.

Ewa Elementary - \$9,600,000.  
Eight classroom building.

Ewa Beach Elementary - \$1,480,000.  
Upgrades and improvements.

Honowai Elementary - \$190,000.  
Removal and replacement of Building H stairways.

Kaleiopuu Elementary - \$1,175,000.  
Electrical upgrades plus a second evacuation ramp.

Kapolei High - \$4,665,000.  
New locker room and showers, and equipment.

Waikele Elementary - \$969,000.  
Expanding existing cafeteria to include a performing arts stage; resurfacing basketball court; playground.

Waipahu High - \$1,200,000.  
Field turf and track improvements and retaining wall.

New schools:

- East Kapolei High \$2,300,000
- Kapolei II Elementary - \$40,000
- Royal Kunia Elementary - \$150,000

# Hawaii State Senate Stays the Course in 2012 Legislative Session

## Job Creation, Education, Shoring up the Safety Net & Improving IT Infrastructure



The Hawaii State Senate adjourned on May 3, 2012, the final day of the 2012 Legislative Session, passing many bills in support of its priorities set forth at the beginning of the session. Throughout the second year of the legislative biennium, the overarching themes and priorities of the Senate were in alignment with Governor Abercrombie's "A New Day in Hawaii."

The Senate Majority, whose members are Democrats, remain committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Here are highlights of the Senate Majority's accomplishments:

### Job Creation & Creating a Sustainable Economy

Although Hawaii is experiencing a steady economic recovery, many people are still unemployed or underemployed, especially in the construction and trade industries. Realizing this grim reality, the Senate made job creation and creating a sustainable economy top priorities through its flagship initiative, The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012. To accomplish this goal, the Senate was able to include in excess of \$414M for repair and maintenance projects in the Capital Improvement Program portion of the budget for fiscal year 2013, pursuant to **House Bill 2012**. The funding will allow for the creation of more than 4-thousand shovel-ready jobs for all trades in the construction industry – from carpenters to consultants, and help put money in workers' pockets and give companies confidence to begin hiring again.

The projects will focus on smaller repairs and maintenance to address aging infrastructures and to extend the useful life of existing state-owned assets and facilities, energy conservation and sustainable improvements, and

health, safety and code requirements. Not only the state departments, but everyone in the State will benefit from this funding. All trades in the construction industry will prosper, as well as businesses that provide goods and services to the industry.

#### Highlights of the funding are provided as follows:

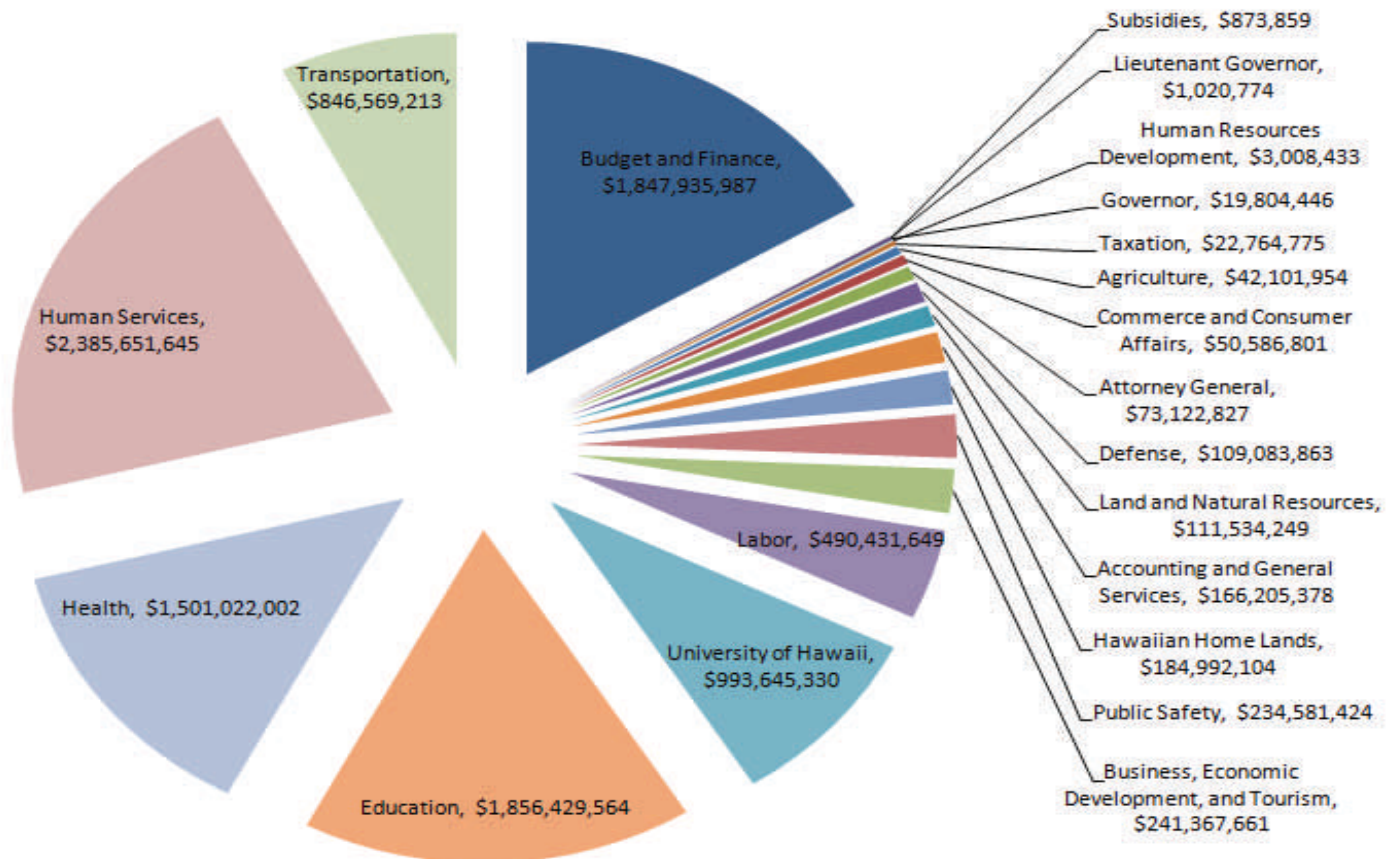
The Department of Education will receive \$296M in FY13, including \$116M that has been appropriated for classroom renovations and school building improvements to address the department's repair and maintenance backlog, \$10M for electrical upgrades to support the rapidly evolving technology that is imperative to keep students competitive in the global economy, and \$30M in various lump sum appropriations for schools throughout the State to address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, health and safety and special education needs.

For the University of Hawaii, over \$80M was appropriated for capital renewal and deferred maintenance as well as health, safety, and building code requirements, System wide. Ad-

ditionally, to address significant growth in student enrollment at the community colleges, an additional \$27.5M was provided to the community colleges, as well as \$10M for Kapiolani Community College to begin construction of the Culinary Institute of the Pacific.

Additionally, over \$60M has been provided for Hawaii Public Housing Authority to continue to upgrade its units and help to shelter low-income families; \$35M has been appropriated for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to help tackle the repair and maintenance needs at community hospitals statewide; \$26M has been provided to the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources to allow them to continue their efforts to maintain the State's irrigation systems, as well as rivers, reservoirs and dams statewide, including \$1.1M to upgrade, repair and reinforce the Hanalei River breach which was made worse by the recent heavy rains.

Finally, to shore up our safety net, many community programs run by non-profit organizations were provided a total of \$20M to assist them in



## 2012 SUPPLEMENTAL STATE BUDGET:

This year the Legislature passed an \$11.2 billion supplemental budget for the State of Hawaii, House Bill 2012. Following three years of budget cuts totaling more than a billion dollars each year, this year's budget provided the Senate with a refreshing opportunity to reinforce the safety net where needed, reinstitute core services that have been decimated over the past three years, and make strategic investments in key areas that can help us grow the economy and sustain a more prosperous future for Hawaii. The above chart depicts funding allocation by department.

the continuation of services and programs throughout the State.

To further continue supporting our top industry, strategic investment was made in our tourism industry through **Senate Bill 490**. The measure develops and implements new initiatives to significantly increase travel and tourism in the State, taking advantage of an executive order signed by President Obama to ease access for international travelers. The expanded visa programs would help provide up to an estimated 154,000 jobs in Hawaii. China in particular is a rising market for Hawaii's tourism industry, with unprecedented growth potential.

Looking ahead into the future of tourism, the Senate supports an emerging

market, such as Space Tourism, which has the potential of being a billion dollar global industry that could significantly increase state revenues, provide new aerospace jobs, and rejuvenate economic development in the Kalaheo area. The ground work for the industry is established through **Senate Bill 112**, which appropriates funds for the application for a spaceport license from the Federal Aviation Administration.

### People and Children

As a result of our State's steady economic recovery, the safety net continues to need strengthening. There are many who still suffer job loss and significant wage and benefit reductions. The Senate Majority is mindful of the struggles of Hawaii's most vulnerable

citizens and supports efforts to assist them. Child welfare, domestic violence shelters, MedQuest, and various shortfalls across the Department of Human Services were addressed in the State Budget, **House Bill 2012**.

Additionally, since the closure of Hawaii Medical Center-West, hospitals on Oahu are faced with an increased volume in patient admittance. The Senate provides support for the hospitals system through **House Bill 304**.

With the growing demand of health care, **Senate Bill 2939** appropriates funds for the St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii, formerly known as Hawaii Medical Center-East to improve its facilities and services in the interest of the health, safety, and well-being of residents.



Photo taken from the gallery of the Hawaii State Senate Chambers on May 3, 2012, Sine Die.

The Senate also continues its strong support for education. Notably, the Senate has underscored education as a top priority. Through the State Budget, key areas of investment were made in the student weighted formula, student meals, Community Schools for Adults and student transportation.

To strengthen Hawaii's Charter School system, **Senate Bills 2115 and 2116** increase accountability in the governance of Hawaii's Charter schools that will foster improved student outcomes. Senate Bill 2115 establishes clear lines of authority and clarifies the relationships, responsibilities, and lines of accountability among stakeholders of Hawaii's Charter School System. Senate Bill 2116 appropriates funds to help with the transition.

The Senate believes early life experiences lay the groundwork for a child's lifelong learning and providing high quality early learning programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are critically important for ensuring the success of Hawaii's keiki. Working in concert with the Governor's Early Childhood Education Initiative, the Legislature passed **Senate Bill 2545**, which establishes the Early Learning Council and the Early

Learning Advisory Board.

### Renewable Energy and Sustainability

The Senate Majority strives to make Hawaii a model for the rest of the country by continuing the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. Reducing electricity costs depends in part on diversifying the energy sources within the State. Geothermal energy is a solid source of indigenous, renewable energy that could be made available at low costs. **Senate Bill 2001** requires consultation and input from the Native Hawaiian community and general public when developing geothermal projects on public trust lands. Meanwhile, **Senate Bill 3003** allows geothermal resources exploration and development in all state land use districts and all zones of the conservation districts. Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 3003 into law in April.

With our State's dependence on imported foods and threat to our food security, **Senate Bill 2695** establishes a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to help address the rising cost of feed and explore ways to increase the sustainability of our local protein sources. Self-sufficiency is critical to

Hawaii's food security and ability to respond effectively in the event of natural disasters or disruptions in transportation.

### Retooling Government

In the area of technology, the Senate calls for investing in the State's information technology (IT) infrastructure in order to improve government and to better serve the public. The investment in IT upgrades aims to increase productivity, making government more efficient. The State Supplemental Budget, **House Bill 2012**, makes significant investments in software upgrades, integration in information technology, and modernization of databases and records, to name a few. Hawaiian Homelands, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Accounting and General Services and Human Services are some of the departments that will be receiving IT upgrades.

The Senate also supports the Governor's broadband initiative to improve services and to ensure that each and every citizen has access. The initiative is supported by **Senate Bill 2236**, which assists Clearcom or a partnership headed by Clearcom, Inc., with the planning, designing, constructing, and operating of broadband infrastructure throughout the State.

## Other Notable Bills:

### House Bill 608, Relating to Health, Act 1 (2012)

Governor Abercrombie signed **House Bill 608** (Act 1) into law in February. The measure appropriates state funds to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawai'i to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program. Act 1 helps ensure that organ transplant patients are able to remain in the islands and receive efficient and timely care.

### Senate Bill 2783, Relating to the Public Trust Lands, Act 15 (2012)

**Senate Bill 2783** conveys Kaka'ako Makai lands to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). The State and OHA agreed that an approximately \$200 million settlement represents a reasonable compromise of the disputed claims. To satisfy that \$200 million amount, the State is conveying contiguous and adjacent parcels in Kaka'ako Makai. Under this law, all disputes and controversies relating to OHA's portion of income and proceeds from the public trust lands will be extinguished and discharged as well as bar all claims, suits, and actions for the period November 7, 1978 through June 30, 2012. Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 2783 into law in April.

### Senate Bill 2776, Relating to Public Safety

After an unprecedented collaboration between the Governor, Chief Justice, Senate President, House Speaker and Director of Public Safety, a data-driven justice reinvestment strategy was created to bring out-of-state prisoners back to Hawaii, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest savings generated in strategies that would reduce recidivism and crime and increase public safety.

One of the outcomes of the Justice

Reinvestment Initiatives was the passage of **Senate Bill 2776**. The measure establishes a statutory structure to improve the criminal justice system, relying on the Department of Public Safety, Hawaii Paroling Authority, and Adult Probation Services to effectively implement changes to policies and practices.

### Senate Bill 2247, Known as Kelsey's Law, Act 94 (2012)

**Senate Bill 2247**, which was signed into law by Governor Abercrombie in April, will require cell phone or communication service providers to assist law enforcement agencies in determining the location of a cell phone in emergency situations. The bill was named in honor of Kelsey Smith, an 18-year-old Kansas woman who was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2007. It is believed that if Verizon Wireless had turned over cell phone records on the day Smith was kidnapped, she may be alive today.

### House Bill 2030, Relating to Emergency Vehicle; Move Over

**House Bill 2030** requires motorists to move over and slow down their vehicles when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway. If this measure becomes law, a violation against it will result in a fine, which will not impact the driver's car insurance rates.

### House Bill 2502, Relating to Mortgage Servicers

The Legislature continues its commitment to assist Hawaii's homeowners through the passage of **House Bill 2502**. Among other things, this measure helps the State to meet national standards for Mortgage Servicers and helps the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs monitor them. HB 2502 requires mortgage servicers that provide loan-modification services to be properly licensed. The measure also authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Institutions to require all mortgage servicers to register with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System.

### House Bill 2595, Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Dam and Reservoir Owners

Dams and reservoirs provide many public benefits as potential resources for the agriculture industry, storage for drinking water, food control, recreation, and a myriad of other purposes. As these facilities continue to age, it is important that much-needed safety improvements are made.

**House Bill 2595** authorizes the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist dam and reservoir owners with an economic means to ensure their facilities meet current safety standards.

### House Bill 2806, Relating to Native Hawaiians

**House Bill 2806** protects Hawaii's environment, promotes sustainability, and preserves the Hawaiian culture. If enacted, this measure would establish the Aha Moku Advisory committee within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Consisting of eight members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, the committee may advise the chairperson of DLNR on issues related to land and natural resources management through the aha moku system. The system consists of best practices that are based upon the indigenous resource management practices.

### House Bill 2848, Relating to Public Safety

Many studies conducted both nationally and statewide show native Hawaiians to be at particularly high risk for substance abuse. **House Bill 2848** aims to reduce regression for criminal offenders by employing native Hawaiian cultural practices and other innovations into their rehabilitation. The measure also creates a work release pilot program on the Big Island to allow certain incarcerated individuals to work on projects that benefit the local community and the State. A report is due to the Legislature prior to the 2013 legislative session.

<http://www.hawaiisenatemajority.com>

### Senate Bill 2228, Relating to Pseudoephedrine

**Senate Bill 2228** establishes an electronic tracking system for the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine as a base and requires the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Enforcement Division to implement the electronic tracking system.

The establishment of the system will assist the State in tracking retail pseudoephedrine sales, with the intent of decreasing the production of methamphetamine. By permitting a retailer to check a computerized database prior to sale, it will improve the retailer's ability to safely sell products containing pseudoephedrine to consumers.

### Senate Bill 2804, Relating Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex and multifaceted issue. Locally, many government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other private sector organizations have worked diligently and successfully to assist homeless persons in the State of Hawaii. Regardless, Hawaii has experienced an increase in the number of homeless individuals and families.

**Senate Bill 2804** allows Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, temporarily established by Governor

to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives that would mitigate homelessness as well as ensure that the homeless persons obtain permanent housing to become reintegrated into the community. If signed into law, this measure would require that the Department of Human Services conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing safe havens in Hawaii and to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session.

### Senate Bill 2871, Relating to Commercial Driver's License

**Senate Bill 2871** prohibits a person from using a mobile electronic device, including using the device for texting, while operating a commercial motor vehicle. This measure exempts certain drivers and calling "911".

### Stay Informed, Stay Involved

The Hawaii State Senate is encouraging citizens to continuously stay informed and involved. There are many resources available on the web that citizens can get information right at their fingertips.

**Website:** [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Hawaii State Legislature's website is the key portal for those wishing to get informed and involved in the legislative process. Some of the information and features of the site include: contact information for current

members of the Senate and House of Representatives, bill and resolution text and current status information, a list of upcoming committee hearings, informational briefings, daily updates of bills, resolutions, committee reports, vetoes, acts, and other documents. There is also a way to submit testimony online.

### Social Media

Connect with the Senate and Senate Majority on our various Social Media platforms including: Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and YouTube.

### Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus Website:

[www.hawaiisenatemajority.com](http://www.hawaiisenatemajority.com)

A link to the Hawaii Senate Majority Caucus website can be found on the Senate page of the Hawaii State Legislature's website. You can stay abreast of Senate Majority messages, press releases, and activities.

### Public Access Room

The Legislature's Public Access Room (PAR) is located on the fourth floor of the State Capitol building, with knowledgeable and friendly staff to assist and educate citizens about participating in the legislative process. Staff assistance is available in person (Room 401, State Capitol Building), by phone (808) 587-0478, and by email ([par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)).

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## Connect with the Hawaii State Senate Majority Caucus

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