



Capitol Connection

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Kicking off the 2012 Session

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

The opening of the 26th Legislature is right around the corner and despite the economic challenges that we face, I remain hopeful and optimistic that this will be a great year for our State. Now more than ever... it is important that we work together in order to create a better future for Hawaii.

I am honored to return as the Chairperson of the Ways and Means committee this session and carry the responsibility of finding ways to balance the state budget with my colleagues in the House and Senate.

We will hold an abbreviated opening of the 2012 legislative session on January 18th without the festivities that have been the tradition in previous years. However, to thank my constituents, supporters, friends, and family, we will be having a few light refreshments in room 215. We welcome you to join us as we kick off the 2012 session and encourage your feedback and thoughts regarding your legislative interests. Please do not hesitate to stay connected with me during the session for the latest updates by finding me on facebook at www.facebook.com/senatordavidige.

The foundation of our country rests in "the government of the people, by the people and for the people," thus making each of us very important participants. Your participation in the process of governing our state is a very valuable part of our democracy. Please feel free to contact our office at any time if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Aloha,

Capitol Tours Available



Throughout the session ... My staff and I would love to have you visit the historic Hawaii State Capitol. We've welcomed in students from all across our district and want to encourage you to come on down and be a part of our legislative process!

Connect with DAVID



Facebook.com/SENATORDAVIDIGE



[@SenatorDavidIge](https://twitter.com/SenatorDavidIge)



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Throughout the session. Stay connected with Senator Ige through one of these social media outlets or by calling our office at 586-6230

A LOOK BACK...

Highlights of 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Education

Senate Bills 1284 and 1503 Requires private special education providers who receive state funding to comply with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Also ensures special needs students are provided with high quality education by authorizing the Department of Education (DOE) to monitor those schools who care for and educate our special needs students.

House Bill 688 Creates a safe and civil learning environment for all public school students by requiring the Board of Education (BOE) to monitor the DOE for compliance with administrative rules or statutes governing bullying, cyber-bullying, and harassment.

House Bill 945 Places a partial delay in implementation of ACT 167 (SLH 2010) in an effort to give the DOE more time to comply with the Act, also requires DOE to re-examine what constitutes as instructional time.

Senate Bill 1174 Provides guidance on the operation of charter schools, and requires charter schools and their local school boards to develop internal policies and procedures consistent with ethical standards of conduct. Improves Charter Schools' governance, transparency, and accountability in order to meet their educational goals. Establishes a task force to address issues on charter school governance, accountability, and authority.

Health and Human Services

Senate Bill 285 Requires the Department of Human Services to implement a mobile medical van telehealth pilot program, vital services would be provided to members with chronic conditions through a mobile health van operated by a qualified provider.

Senate Bill 40 Establishes an electronic tracking system for the sale of products containing Pseudo-ephedrine or ephedrine base to further control access to the substance to prevent their use in the illegal manufacture and sale of methamphetamine (ice).



Budget Negotiation Chairs Rep. Marcus Oshiro and Sen. David Ige give a thumbs up on completion of a balanced budget.

Judiciary

House Bill 44 Makes it a misdemeanor offense for the solicitation of prostitution within 750 feet near schools or public parks.

House Bill 141 Establishes class A and B felonies for labor trafficking offenses, nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Also requires the Attorney General to report on labor trafficking provisions.

Senate Bill 232 Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities to partners in a civil union. The Governor signed the bill into law on February 23, 2011.

Senate Bill 217 Eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions brought by persons subjected to sexual offenses as a minor and authorizes suits against a legal entity in certain circumstances.

Consumer Protection

House Bill 663 Requires clear and conspicuous disclosure of automatic renewal clauses and cancellation procedures of all consumer contracts to ensure that consumers are not bound to a contract they may not want or burdened with cancelling a contract after learning of an automatic renewal clause that was not clear before the purchase of a product or service.

Senate Bill 651 Implements recommendations of the Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force by establishing a temporary mortgage foreclosure dispute resolution program and amends laws relating to mortgage servicers. Also establishes mortgage foreclosure dispute resolution special fund and makes an appropriation from the compliance resolution fund.

Hawaiian Affairs

Senate Bill 1520 Recognizes the Native Hawaiian people as the only indigenous, aboriginal maoli people of Hawai'i. This legislation seeks to serve as a settlement of any issues or claims impacting Native Hawaiian people under State, Federal or international law. It also authorizes the appointment of a five-member Native Hawaiian Roll Commission and requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to fund expenses of this commission.

Housing

House Bill 960 Authorizes the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to grant no-interest low-income housing tax credit loans to encourage development and preservation of lower income rental housing.