

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

November 2011



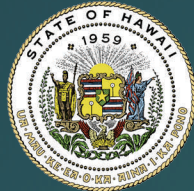
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Capital Improvement Projects

Good news was recently delivered to the citizens of Ka'u, as the \$17.9 million civil defense shelter is soon to be on its way. The very first, FEMA approved civil defense shelter that will be vogue-proof, is rumored to be the most expensive capital improvement project in the region. The facility will also double as a gymnasium for the Ka'u High & Pahala Elementary School.

For a moment, even though funds had been appropriated for this shelter back in 2009, this project looked to be doomed as it was prioritized by the State as number 60 out of 64 possible projects. That was until Senator Kahele

and a few of his fellow lawmakers stepped in to tackle this issue. After a couple brainstorming sessions, the plan of attack was to transfer the funds from the State, who had this project very low on its priority list, to the County of Hawai'i, who would be able to take this project on right away. The planned turned out to be a success as the funds were transferred to the County of Hawai'i where planning is now underway.

Another project which is currently in the planning phase is the infrastructure improvements to the Ka'u Irrigation system. The improvements to be made will improve the outlook for viable and

sustainable agricultural endeavors in Ka'u. The planning and design phase is currently underway and Senator Kahele will be looking to secure future funding of the actual construction of the project in the upcoming legislative session.



Kau High School



APEC Schedule

October 31:

- APEC Protocol Training

November 7:

- Special Preview of SEE-IT (Science, Engineering, Exposition-Innovative Technologies) Exhibit

November 9:

- Asia-Pacific Business Symposium and Evening Reception

November 10:

- Asia-Pacific Business Symposium
- Hawai'i Host Committee Welcome Reception

November 11:

- Evening of Culture & Traditions, hosted by the U.S. Japan Council & APEC Hawai'i Host Committee

November 12:

- International Cultural Reception hosted by Pacific Basin Economic Council and APEC Hawai'i Host Committee

November 13:

- Luncheon honoring China CEO Delegation to APEC hosted by Governor Neil Abercrombie and Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
- Hawai'i China Business Forum hosted by House Speaker Calvin Say

Community Talk Story Forums

Continuing with his efforts to reach out to the community, Senator Kahele has held "Talk Story" forums at Cooper Center, Pahoia Neighborhood Facility, Ocean View Community Center and Pahala Community Center over the past few months. So far there has been a good turn out to each event, especially on October 14th when Senator Kahele visited the Ocean View Community Center. He covered several issues including updates on projects such as the work being done on the Ocean View water well and the extended EIS deadline for the Nani Kahuku Aina project.

Also announced at the community forums was the addition of the medical mobile van which will be coming soon to the Island of Hawai'i. The purpose of this innovative project is to provide healthcare to remote and underserved rural communities. Don't be surprised if you see the medical mobile van in South Kona and Ka'u in the near future.



Senator Kahele addresses the audience

Senator Kahele also hosted an Infrastructure and Transportation Forum on September 22nd. Officials from the State Department of Transportation and the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works provided updates on projects in the East Hawai'i area.



Pahala Library

In addition to the legislative update provided by Senator Kahele, topics for these forums are solicited from the community members prior to the events so that Senator Kahele can address any specific concerns that may arise in

a particular community. One of the issues brought to the forefront on October 26th at the Pahala Community Center was the Pahala Library closures. Although currently understaffed, the Hawai'i State Public Library System is actively working towards filling the vacant positions and getting the library up and running on a normal schedule.

On a positive note, the Pahala Library will be receiving 24 new laptops and will become a computer hub for the surrounding areas. At this computer hub, community members will be able to participate in the Microsoft IT Academy which provides computer skills that will be beneficial to both students and adults of all ages. For students, this program will take them through relevant technology courses which will assist them in getting jobs after high school. And for adults, it will provide an opportunity to enhance their own professional development while staying current with the new wave of technology.

On the Scene

- September 10: Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association dedication of the "Hawaiian Farmers Market - Panaewa."
- September 18: Senate Certificate Presentation to Hilo Little League Seniors, 2011 Senior League World Series Champs
- September 29: Interagency Task Force on Vog meeting
- October 4: Community Breakfast meeting at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to receive updates on current projects and new proposed initiatives
- October 18: "Focus on UH Hilo" interview with Ken Hupp at HITS Studio
- October 19: Hawai'i Farm Bureau Luncheon and Legislative Talk Story with Farm Bureau members
- October 21: Manuka NAR site visit with DLNR
- October 24: Blessing of Ala Mauna – Saddle Road Mile Markers 11-19
- October 30: Hawaiian Paradise Park General Meeting to address concerns raised by community members
- November 4: DLNR Hilo Listening Session
- November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony at Hawai'i State

Upcoming Forum Schedule

Senator Kahele's Hilo "Talk Story" Forum
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Waiakea High School Cafeteria
155 W. Kawili Street

Transportation Forum with
Department of Transportation regarding Highway 130
Thursday, December 1, 2011
6:00pm-7:00pm
Pahoia Neighborhood Facility
15-2710 Kauhale Road

Board of Education Forum with Board Member
Brian J. De Lima (Vice Chairman, Hawai'i)
Friday, December 2, 2011
5:30pm -7:00pm
Waiakea High School Cafeteria
155 W. Kawili Street

*For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's page at
www.capitol.hawaii.gov*