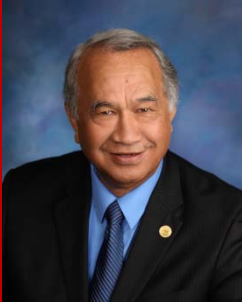


# MELE KALIKIMAKA!

December 2013



**Gilbert Kahele**

Serving Hawai'i's  
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chair,  
Committee on Tourism



## A Message From Senator Kahele

Aloha!

On behalf of my 'ohana and the hard working office staff here at the Capitol, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season.

For me the holidays is a chance to celebrate with family and friends, eat some 'ono food, give thanks for all the blessings from the year, and if possible, get on the ocean and do some fishing in Miloli'i!

Over the past year I have been extremely proud at what we have been able to accomplish for the residents of Hilo and our State. Reopening and doubling the capacity of the Hilo Kidney Dialysis Center this fall, launching a new aviation and men's volleyball program at UH-Hilo, breaking ground on the new Hilo airport cargo facility, opening the new UH-Hilo student dorms in time for the fall semester, appropriated \$1.8 million for the Interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center, \$1.050 million for the plans, design, and construction for covering of existing play court at Waiakea Elementary School, and successfully securing \$7.5 million for the remodel of the Lanakila Public Housing Complex to help our families in need of housing.

In closing I would also like to acknowledge the members of our military, specifically the men and women of the Hawai'i Army and Air National Guard for their service to our State and Nation. Each and every day these part time citizen soldiers and their families sacrifice so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms and holidays we enjoy today.

Again, mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to serve as your Senator for Hilo and I wish each and every one of you a Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

*Gilbert Kahele*



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Apo Benigno Dela Cruz

Apo Benigno was born on November 22, 1913 and is among the very few that can truly say that they have lived through it all. With a healthy mind and an even healthier attitude Apo Benigno migrated to Hawai'i in April of 1946 from the Philippines in search of a better life for himself and his family to live the American Dream.

Senator Kahele, on behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate, offered his congratulations to Apo Benigno on achieving such a significant milestone.

## Veterans Day, November 11, 2013

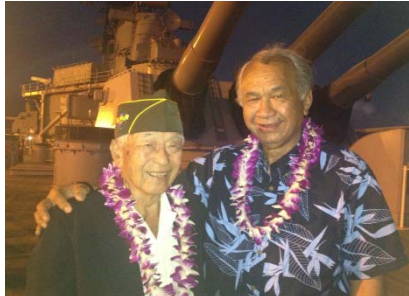
Each Veterans Day, I take a moment to reflect upon and honor our servicemen and women who have helped make this country a great beacon of liberty; those who have died in action answering the call to duty; those who survived the battle and returned home to raise their families; and those who protect us from afar in distant lands and unfamiliar places, away from their loved ones.

As a young United States Marine, I took great pride in serving along side our nations brothers and sisters and understood, first hand, both the risk and the reward of wearing our country's uniform.

So with that said, let us give tribute to our Veterans by living a life of "pono" in appreciation of their gift of freedom. Our gift to them is giving them a home worth fighting for.



Senator Kahele, Ret. Vice Admiral Robert Kihune, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. (Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet) at the Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri at Pearl Harbor.



Herbert K. Yanamura, U.S. Army WWII Veteran and Senator Kahele aboard the Mighty Mo. Mr. Yanamura from Honaunau, South Kona, fought in the battle of Okinawa.

## 2013 Hawai'i County Medical Society Physician of the Year Award

On November 3, 2013 the Hilo Medical Center Foundation held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Wine, Cheese, Chocolate & MORE event at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, Moku'Ola room, where Dr. Don T. Matsuura was presented with the Hawai'i County Medical Society 2013 Physician of the Year award.



Senator Kahele presented Dr. Matsuura with a Senate certificate in recognition of his exemplary leadership and dedication of over thirty years to improving medical care here in Hilo as a cardiologist.

*Mahalo nui loa  
Dr. Matsuura!*

## Adult Foster HomeCare Association of Hawai'i

In observance of November as Caregivers' Month here in Hawai'i, The Adult Foster HomeCare Association of Hawai'i - Big Island Chapter held a Caregivers' Day Celebration and Recognition event on November 22, 2013 at Nani Mau Gardens and Restaurant.



Senator Kahele expressed his gratitude to 190 individuals for their unwavering commitment and dedication towards serving the elderly and disabled population in the State of Hawai'i.

## Informational Briefing on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands



On Thursday, November 21, 2013 the Senate and House committees on Hawaiian Affairs along with the Ways and Means and Finance committees held an informational briefing to follow up on the concerns raised in the May 23, 2013 Senate hearing relating to the Audit of DHHL's Homestead Services Division.

Director Jobie Masagatani has outlined several initiatives of how the Department intends to move forward on fulfilling its mission of serving Native Hawaiians.



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For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit Senator Kahele's webpage  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/kahele.aspx>