SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

February 2013



Serving Hawai`i's Senate District 1 Hilo



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

A Message from Senator Kahele

Aloha Mai Kākou!

I am pleased to report the enthusiasm and excitement on Opening Day of our Legislative Session which commenced on January 16, 2013. The State Capitol was abuzz with constituents from our Hilo community for which I am truly grateful.

Although previous years have been difficult in the fiscal arena for the State of Hawai'i, I remain positive this Legislative session will produce dynamic policies that address some of the critical issues facing the Hilo community and the State of Hawai'i.

Governor Abercrombie's State of the State Address reiterated the commitment to the New Day plan. The governor's address highlighted several new initiatives, most notably, the Veterans-to -Farmers program and the reactivation of Kulani Correctional Facility.

Hau`oli ka mana`o,



Opening Day



Governor Abercrombie visits Senator Kahele and his grandchildren



Senate President Donna Mercado Kim and her son stops by



Senator Kahele with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald

"The Senate Majority strives to be open, inclusive, and collaborative in its decision-making on initiatives impacting the State of Hawai'i," said Senate President Donna Mercado Kim. "We look forward to laying a solid foundation to build a stronger economy and move Hawai`i forward for all generations."

2013 Senate Majority Initiatives

- **Food and Energy Resiliency:** Ensuring a sustainable future for Hawai`i is a priority; concepts of self-reliance and agricultural resiliency will be explored.
- Supporting People & Strengthening Communities: Senate Majority will continue to strengthen the social safety net by ensuring our keiki, kupuna, families, and individuals are protected by supporting organizations that provide essential education, health, housing, and welfare services.
- Government Efficiency and Accountability: Senate Majority will work toward greater efficiency across all branches of government by streamlining collaboration and communication at the County, State, and Federal levels.



Updated Hawai'i State Senate Leadership & Committee Assignments

Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2013-2014

President: Donna Mercado Kim Vice President: Ronald D. Kouchi Majority Leader: Brickwood Galuteria

AGRICULTURE (AGL) Nishihara, Clarence K. (Chair) Kouchi, Ronald D. (Vice Chair) Dela Cruz, Donovan M. English, J. Kalani Thielen, Laura H. Wakai, Glenn Slom, Sam

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER

PROTECTION (CPN) Baker, Rosalyn H. (Chair) Galuteria, Brickwood (Vice Chair) Nishihara, Clarence K. Solomon, Malama Taniguchi, Brian T. Wakai, Glenn Slom, Sam

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, **GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS** AND HOUSING (EGH)

Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Chair) Slom, Sam (Vice Chair) Baker, Rosalyn H. Chun Oakland, Suzanne English, J. Kalani Thielen, Laura H. Wakai, Glenn

EDUCATION (EDU)

Tokuda, Jill N. (Chair) Kidani, Michelle N.(Vice Chair) Ruderman, Russell E. Shimabukuro, Maile S.L. Slom, Sam

Majority Policy Leader: Les Ihara, Jr. Majority Floor Leader: Will Espero Assistant Majority Leader: Michelle Kidani

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

(ENE) Gabbard, Mike (Chair) Ruderman, Russell E. (Vice Chair) Chun Oakland, Suzanne Ihara, Jr., Les Slom, Sam

HEALTH (HTH)

Green, M.D., Josh (Chair) Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair) Chun Oakland, Suzanne Nishihara, Clarence K. Slom, Sam

HIGHER EDUCATION (HRE)

Taniguchi, Brian T. (Chair) Kahele, Gilbert (Vice Chair) Keith-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. Ige, David Y. Kidani, Michelle N. Tokuda, Jill N. Slom, Sam

HUMAN SERVICES (HMS) Chun Oakland, Suzanne

(Chair) Green, M.D., Josh (Vice Chair) Kidani, Michelle N. Taniguchi, Brian T. Slom, Sam

JUDICIARY AND LABOR (JDL) Hee, Clayton (Chair) Shimabukuro, Maile S.L. (Vice Chair) Gabbard, Mike Ihara, Jr., Les Slom, Sam

PUBLIC SAFETY,

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM) Espero, Will (Chair) Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair) Galuteria, Brickwood Green, M.D., Josh Slom, Sam

TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

(TEC)Wakai, Glenn (Chair) Nishihara, Clarence K. (Vice Chair) Gabbard, Mike Tokuda, Jill N. Slom, Sam

TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (THA)

Galuteria, Brickwood (Chair) Keith-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. (Vice Chair) Hee, Clayton Kahele, Gilbert Kidani, Michelle N. Shimabukuro, Maile Solomon, Malama Slom, Sam

Majority Whips: Gilbert Kahele Jill N. Tokuda Minority Leader/Floor Leader: Sam Slom

TRANSPORTATION AND **INTERNATIONAL** AFFAIRS (TIA)

English, J. Kalani (Chair) Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Vice Chair) Espero, Will Gabbard, Mike Kahele, Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. Kouchi, Ronald D. Solomon, Malama Slom, Sam

WATER AND LAND (WTL)

Solomon, Malama (Chair) Shimabukuro, Maile S.L. (Vice Chair) Dela Cruz, Donovan M. Ihara, Jr., Les Ruderman, Russell E. Thielen, Laura H. Slom, Sam

WAYS AND MEANS (WAM)

Ige, David Y. (Chair) Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair) Chun Óakland, Suzanne Dela Cruz, Donovan M. English, J. Kalani Espero, Will Kahele, Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. Kouchi, Ronald D. Ruderman, Russell E. Thielen, Laura H. Tokuda, Jill N. Slom, Sam

Out and About...



Great first legislative interview with Kaohu James at KWXX



UH Hilo students and faculty





Proclamation by the Governor to designate February 'Olelo Hawai'i month



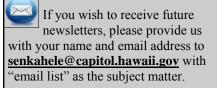
With Claude Onizuka & Astronaut Sunita Williams an Indian American US Navy officer who holds the record for longest space flight by a woman



Official Opening Ceremony of His Majesty King Mohammed VI Week in Hawai'i



Moments before presiding over the opening of the Hawai'i State Senate, I got some mana from our kupuna and beloved Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka



With Councilman Onishi and future astronauts at UH Hilo's Ellison Onizuka Day