

SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

February 2013



Serving Hawai'i's
Senate District 1
Hilo



Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 213

Phone: (808) 586-6760

Toll Free From Hawai'i Island: 974-4000 ext. 66760

Email: senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

"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."*



Senate President Donna Mercado Kim and her son stops by

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.



Senator Kahele with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald



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

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

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

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

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

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 Oakland, 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



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



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



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



UH Hilo students and faculty



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



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



If you wish to receive future newsletters, please provide us with your name and email address to senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov with "email list" as the subject matter.