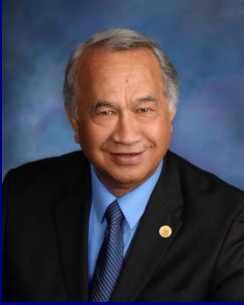


# SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

April 2014



## Gilbert Kahele

Serving Hawai'i's  
Senate District 1 - Hilo

Majority Whip

Chairman,  
Committee on Tourism



## A Message From Senator Kahele

Aloha mai kākou!

As we enter the home stretch of the 2014 legislative session, I want to first and foremost thank you for the opportunity to represent the people of Hilo and also provide a brief overview of the session thus far.

The 2014 legislative session has past the halfway point and my colleagues and I have been working extremely hard for the residents of our great State. Having completed the first crossover and approaching the second, we are almost done with committee hearings on the roughly 615 bills that have been sent to our chamber from the House.

Important issues such as strengthening our local economy, creating jobs for our local people, investing in our public education system, reducing our energy costs, protecting our precious environment and drafting our State's budget are our top priorities.

Again, mahalo nui loa for your support. I sincerely appreciate your trust and confidence in me and I look forward to meeting you again to discuss how together we can make Hawai'i a better place for future generations.

Hau'oli ka mana'o,

*Gilbert Kahele*

## Education Week at the Capitol



The week of March 19, 2014 was Education week at the Capitol.

Senator Kahele and Representative Tsuji met up with Katelyn Shirai, a junior at Waiakea High School. Katelyn was participating in the Secondary Student Conference Coffee Hour.

## Senate Confirms Agriculture Chair

On March 7, 2014 the Hawai'i State Senate confirmed Scott Enright, a Hawai'i Island native, as Chair of the State Board of Agriculture.

Scott Enright was appointed as the interim Chair when former Chair Russell Kokubun retired at the end of 2013. Chair Enright brings a wide range of experience to the Department of Agriculture.



*Senators Kahele and Solomon offer their congratulation to Chair Enright.*

## Senators Wish the Hōkūle‘a and her Crew Bon Voyage

With great admiration, Hawai‘i senators recognized and honored the crew of the Hōkūle‘a in a special floor presentation as they prepare for the second leg of their worldwide voyage, aptly referred to as “Mālama Honua,” or “Care for the Earth.”

The voyage will be done almost entirely using traditional Polynesian navigation methods, known as wayfinding. This is the first voyage of its kind and involves using ancestral knowledge of star patterns, ocean movement, marine life, weather patterns and other signs of nature. The Hōkūle‘a represents Hawai‘i’s culture, heritage and connection to ancestors.

Senator Kahele introduced two resolutions in the State Senate supporting the efforts of the Hōkūle‘a. One resolution urges Governor Neil Abercrombie to proclaim 2014 as the Year of the Worldwide Voyage while the other urges the State and state entities to support the Hōkūle‘a and her crew as they journey around the world. Both resolutions were recommended for adoption and are awaiting a floor vote by the full Senate.

Last May, the Hōkūle‘a began the first of 22 legs planned for the voyage around the world right here in Hawai‘i. The next leg begins in May and will take them to Tahiti, and from there, over the next four years, they will travel to 26 countries and stop at 85 international ports – sailing more than 47,000 miles. The crew consists of 260 individuals from 16 countries including navigators, students, educators, scientists, documenters, medic, cultural leaders and global ambassadors.



*Pictured with the Senators are:*

**Marisa Hayase**, Communications Coordinator for the Worldwide Voyage; **Clyde Namuo**, CEO for the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS); **Lehua Kamalu**, Voyaging Assistant for the PVS; **Clyde Aikau**, former Hōkūle‘a crew member; **Nainoa Thompson**, Master Navigator and **Jenna Ishii**, Education Coordinator for the PVS

## Presentation by Nainoa Thompson on Mālama Honua



Nainoa Thompson hosts a presentation for the Senators explaining the mission and significance of Mālama Honua and how this voyage poses the perfect opportunity to connect and bring forth positive change throughout mother earth.

Hōkūle‘a and her crew will depart O‘ahu on May 17, 2014 for Hilo where they will dock in Keaukaha at Palekai. They will spend a few days in Hilo as they prepare for the initial launch to Tahiti on the week of May 19, 2014. We must always be cognizant of the fact that the Hōkūle‘a is sailing on behalf of Hawai‘i, to share our values and beliefs with the rest of the world.



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