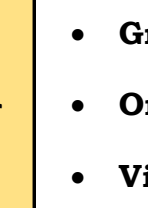




SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

March 2014 Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 3



Wailuku Waiehu Waikapu Kahului

A Message From Gil

Aloha Kākou,

Along with committee hearings and floor votes on House bills that crossed over to the Senate, legislators also annually observe and celebrate organizations and events in our state. During Education Week, March 17-21, the Senate welcomed students and educators to the Capitol.

The focus of the presentations and demonstrations by educators, students, and advocates changed daily, from early childhood learning to primary and high school education, covering traditional public schools, public charter schools, and the community colleges of the University of Hawaii. All stages and levels of student life and academic opportunities in Hawaii were enthusiastically represented.

As a Maui High alumnus myself, it was particularly interesting for me to interact with today's public high school students. I was impressed by their ease in utilizing modern technology and media to expand the scope of their interests and opinions.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, I was also happy to greet representatives from a wide variety of programs offered by the community colleges of the University of Hawaii. From culinary arts to medical lab technology, from Hawaiian studies to digital media production, the quality and good value of education at the UH community colleges was clearly evident. Whether as a means to achieve immediate career goals or as preparation for a four-year degree, the community colleges play a vital role in our educational landscape.

Finally, I participated in honoring Maui's District Teacher of the Year, Anthony Kamaka'eu Williams, who has excelled as a Hawaiian language immersion teacher at Paia Elementary School. We hope his dedication and enthusiasm will continue to benefit Maui for years to come.

As always, I look forward to your ideas and insights about how to make Maui an even better home in the future.

Aloha,

- Celebrating Education
- Grants-in-Aid for Maui Services
- One-Stop Shop for Aging Issues
- Visitors at the Capitol
- Maui Capital Improvement Projects



I enjoy helping to perform the honors that the Senate bestows regularly for important public service.



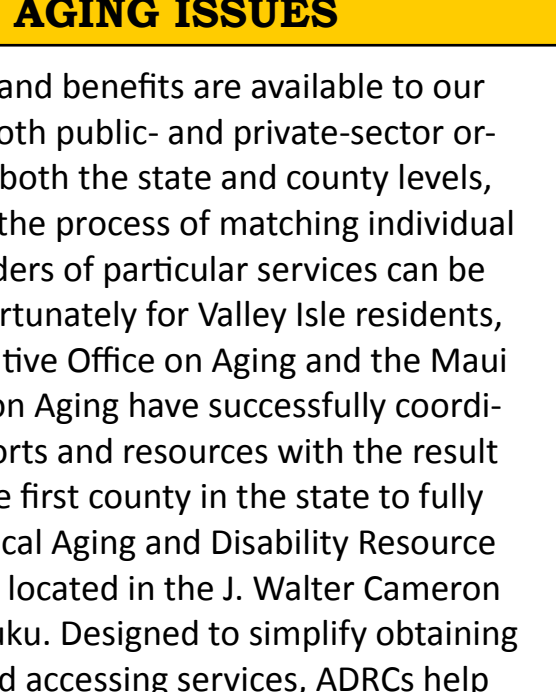
Speaking with visiting high school students (above) is valuable for legislators as well. Recognizing excellence in teaching (below) not only encourages the honoree, but also encourages talented people in our state to consider entering one this important profession.



MAUI SERVICES SEEK GRANTS-IN-AID



On March 7 in the Capitol auditorium, before a joint Senate and House panel, over 200 qualified organizations delivered their presentations in support of their 2014 applications for grants-in-aid from the state. Chapter 42F of the Hawaii Revised Statutes sets out the requirements for individuals and organizations who wish to apply for a grant-in-aid. One of the most arduous tasks in passing a budget involves reviewing the details of every grant-in-aid application. In most cases, applicants are seeking to supplement their other sources of funding with state assistance for a particular program, project or facility. The Maui High School Band, for example, will be participating in the January, 2015 Tournament of Roses Parade in California, and is seeking support to help cover their travel expenses for 170 persons. The J. Walter Cameron Center in Wailuku is seeking state funds for the first time in its 41-year history to supplement private, county and federal funds for major renovations and improvements. All grant-in-aid applications include detailed histories of the applicant and the proposed project or program, and of course the amount of funding sought. If approved, disbursements are made quarterly by means of a contract with a designated expending agency. Awards are not finalized until very near the end of the legislative session, as part of the Executive Budget bill. All pending applications are viewable in alphabetical order on the legislature's website at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/2014GIA-AppsRedacted/>



From top left, clockwise, organizational leaders from Maui who came to the Capitol to make their presentations supporting their grant-in-aid applications included: Lyn McNeff, CEO of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; V. Pualani Enos, Executive Director of Hui Malama Learning Center; Maui High School Band Boosters President Ann Cua and Maui High School Band Director Kerry Wasano; Mike Morris, President and CEO of Maui Family YMCA; Leslie Wilkens, Vice President and director of Women in Technology program at Maui Economic Development Board, chats with Pualani Enos; and L. Jani Sheppard, CEO of Maui Family Support Services.

MAUI'S ONE-STOP SHOP FOR AGING ISSUES



Wesley Lum, director of the state Executive Office on Aging and Deborah Alexander, director of the Maui County Office on Aging came by to explain their respective roles in state and county efforts to provide aging programs and services.

Many services and benefits are available to our kupuna from both public- and private-sector organizations, at both the state and county levels, but navigating the process of matching individual needs to providers of particular services can be challenging. Fortunately for Valley Isle residents, the state Executive Office on Aging and the Maui County Office on Aging have successfully coordinated their efforts and resources with the result that Maui is the first county in the state to fully implement a local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), located in the J. Walter Cameron Center in Wailuku. Designed to simplify obtaining information and accessing services, ADRCs help individuals and their families fully identify their needs and options. One caregiver on Maui stated that he felt as if he had "hit the jackpot" as a result of the comprehensive assistance he received while making plans for his parents. Information and referrals can cover transportation services, meal delivery, adult day care, legal assistance, caregiver training and respite, companionship and recreation, medical alarms, safety devices and home modifications, and crisis intervention and protective services. On Maui, call 270-7774 for eligibility requirements, or visit their website at: http://mauicountyadrc.org/site/405/find_services.aspx



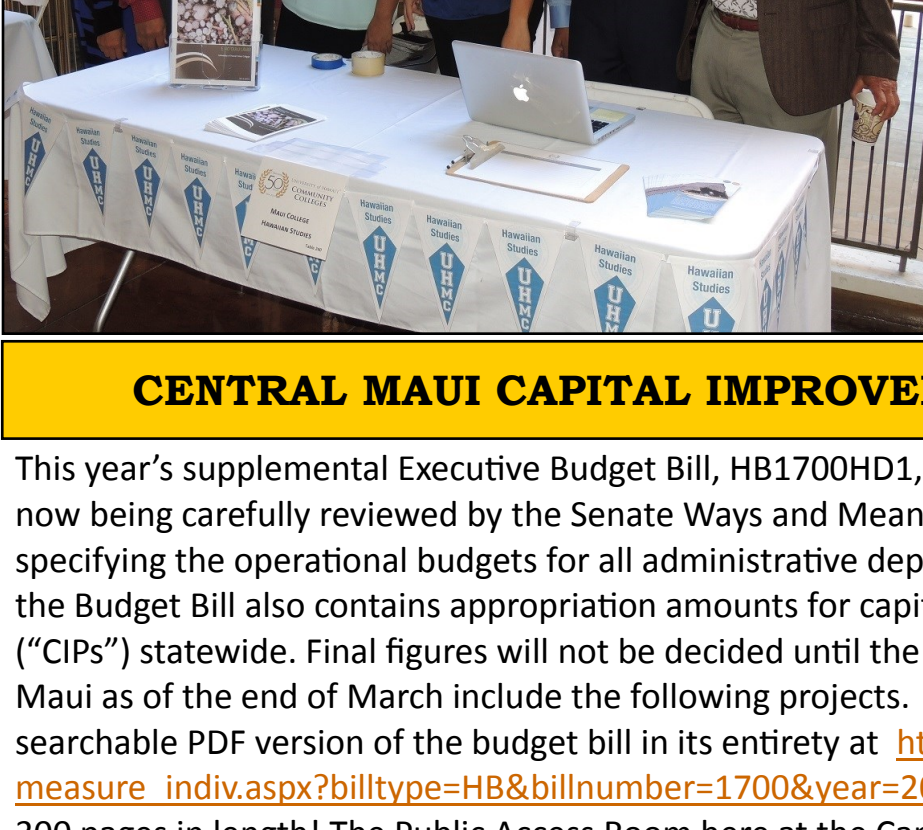
VISITORS AT THE CAPITOL



HGEA retirees from the Neighbor Islands provide their insights with aloha and sincerity, and I always look forward to their coming by my office at the Capitol. Next to me from left are Timothy Albao and Betty Matsumura from the HGEA Kauai Retiree chapter, and from right are Rick Medina and Gail Fujimoto from the HGEA Maui Retiree Chapter. Mahalo for your visit!



One of Maui's oldest not-for-profit groups, Ka Lima O Maui has provided training and job opportunities for disadvantaged Valley Isle residents for over 50 years. Senator J. Kalani English and I welcomed Chantal Ratte, Ka Lima's Executive Director, and Mark Wandscheid, a beneficiary of Ka Lima's training and placement services, during their recent visit to the Capitol. Among other programs, Ka Lima contracts to provide supervised grounds maintenance and custodial services with County of Maui and several private-sector businesses. Ka Lima takes part in a network of providers under the federal Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program for disability beneficiaries. Ka Lima's offices are located in the J. Walter Cameron Center in Wailuku, and you can visit their website at: <http://www.kalimaomaui.org/index.htm>



As part of "community college day" during Education Week at the capitol, Rep. Justin Woodson and I were visited by retiring UH Maui chancellor Clyde Sakamoto (far right) and CareerLink Director and Co-Operative Education Instructor Juli Patao (far left). From the Hawaiian Studies program at UH Maui College, counselor Crystal Alberto and faculty member Papaikani'au Kai'anui were outside our door and on hand to answer all questions.

CENTRAL MAUI CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

This year's supplemental Executive Budget Bill, HB1700HD1, has passed the House and is now being carefully reviewed by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. In addition to specifying the operational budgets for all administrative departments in state government, the Budget Bill also contains appropriation amounts for capital improvement projects ("CIPs") statewide. Final figures will not be decided until the end of April, but highlights for Maui as of the end of March include the following projects. You can view an electronic and searchable PDF version of the budget bill in its entirety at http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1700&year=2014 but be forewarned: it is over 300 pages in length! The Public Access Room here at the Capitol makes available an easy-to-read guide to the Budget Bill titled "It's Money That Matters" at <http://lrhawaii.org/par/pub/budgetovr14.pdf>. Even seasoned legislative veterans find it a valuable reference tool.

CIP Highlights for Central Maui in HB1700 HD1, March 2014 (subject to change)

(FY14= July 2013 - June 2014 FY15= July 2014 - June 2015)

	FY14	FY15
Transportation		
Access road, Hana Highway to Airport	\$10 million	\$500,000 (\$400,000 Federal)
Hana Highway widening, land acquisition	\$19,000	
Hana Highway Beautification/Kaahumanu Ave.	\$1.545 million	
Traffic Operational Improvements, all island		\$3.08 million
State highway guardrail improvements		\$2 million (\$1.6 million Federal)
Pu'unene Ave improvements		\$10 million (\$8 million Federal)
Kahului Baseyard Improvements		\$100,000
Kahului Harbor improvements	\$5 million	\$1 million
Kahului Airport Land acquisition	\$50 million	\$25 million Federal)
Education		
Central Maui - New Middle School		\$2.5 million
Maui High School		
New training/wrestling room		\$300,000
Band/Choir building		\$450,000
Health		
Maui Memorial Hospital, new parking structure		\$25 million
Land & Natural Resources		
Pulehunui Improvements / Infrastructure - two projects		\$5 million
Maui Office Annex Bldg. replacement		\$5.5 million
Central Maui Region Sports Complex		\$5 million
Public Safety		
Maui regional public safety complex planning		\$1.5 million
Higher Education		
Maui Food Innovation Center at UH Maui College		\$2.7 million
Statewide community colleges minor CIP program	\$10 million	\$10 million

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Participating in the legislative process is easier than ever for neighbor island residents who are unable to visit us at the Capitol. The state legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov is the place to start. You can search for measures that are being considered this session based on keywords, the name of a House or Senate member who introduced a measure, or by subject matter committee. If you register an account using your e-mail address, you can create a clear personalized tracking list for accessing daily updated information to find out when a measure may be scheduled for hearing, and you can electronically submit public testimony for consideration by the committee conducting the hearing. If you have general questions concerning the legislative process and how a bill becomes law, please also see the website for the Public Access Room at <http://lrhawaii.org/par/> or call them toll-free from Maui at 984-2400, ext. 7-0478. You can reach our office toll-free through that number as well, or you can contact or e-mail us as provided below. Mahalo for participating in our democratic process!



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