



Community Report



April 2011

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

District 14

Aiea Halawa Kalihi Moanalua Red Hill

Aloha Friends and Neighbors:

The Hawaii State Senate passed out more than 325 bills on March 8. All of these Senate measures crossed over to the House of Representatives for review and consideration. These bills must pass the second chamber by April 14 in order to survive and many of these bills will go to House-Senate conference committees if there is a disagreement on versions of the bills. All legislation must be finalized and forwarded to the Governor for his consideration by the last day of session, Thursday, May 5.

As we head toward the home stretch of the 2011 legislative session, the task remains to balance the state budget. This challenge has increased in difficulty with the recent natural disaster and nuclear crisis in Japan. We need to brace ourselves for the effects of these events in Japan.

While Hawaii residents have responded with empathy and generosity to the suffering and hardship of the people in Japan, what does the disaster mean to us in Hawaii? Being tourism based, with the downturn in Japanese visitors we anticipate a drop in revenue. Rising oil prices are also impacting our economy. In turn, we must focus on identifying more cuts. Per the Governor's request, the Council on Revenues (COR) held a special session on March 29 to reconsider their earlier forecast from March 15.

Due to the COR projected decline in growth, the State's total budget deficit is now estimated to be \$1.3 billion through 2013. The Governor has proposed an across the board 10% budget restriction for all State departments for the current fiscal year ending June 30th.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the State Budget bill on Monday, March 28. However decision-making was deferred for later this week.

I have heard from a number of constituents about their concerns on the potential impacts of the proposal to tax pension income. The House version

of this proposal (HB 1092 SD1) is currently moving through the Senate committees. The Judiciary Committee heard the measure and passed it to the Committee on Ways and Means, where it is scheduled to be heard on April 1. This measure has been amended a number of times and may be amended again in committee or conference. My staff will continue to monitor the changes and the effects on our retirees.



Senator Kim congratulated Principal Arnie Kikkawa and Counselor Nancy Boyer from Dole Middle School for being the 1st Hawaii school to receive the School of Distinction award from the National College For Every Student Program. Among 14 schools nationally, only one Hawaii school earned this honor.

Hawaii Medal of Honor Recognizes Heroes

The Hawaii State Senate and the Hawaii House of Representatives convened a special joint session to recognize our fallen military service members. This year the families of 16 service members received the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of their loved ones.

The Hawaii Medal of Honor was created by the Legislature in 2005 and was the first of its kind in the nation. It is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual killed in action while serving as part of Operation Iraqi

Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. Many other states have since modeled Hawaii's Medal of Honor ceremony with their own ceremonies. Recipients include members of the U.S. armed forces, who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii or were stationed in Hawaii by order of the Department of Defense. The Special Session was held on Tuesday, March 29.



Congratulations to Darrel Galera, Principal of Moanalua High School, named 2010 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals

Aloha 'Aina Earth Day Events

Aloha 'Aina community clean-up/fundraiser events were held at Farrington High School (March 19) and at Moanalua Elementary/Middle School (March 26). Despite the rain, organizers said that our Moanalua event was the busiest site to date. Community members delivered all types of recyclables and enjoyed the craft fair at the elementary school.



A robust turnout of over 100 people attended the Moanalua/Salt Lake Community Town Meeting on March 29, 2011

Aiea Pearl City Town Hall Meeting

The recent tsunami in Japan in addition to the upcoming Hurricane season has prompted our next Town Hall meeting on **Thursday, May 26** at **Pearl Ridge Elementary School** from **7-8:30 p.m.**

Disaster preparedness and important information on how your family should prepare for the upcoming hurricane season will be presented. Personnel from the City's Department of Emergency Management, Hawaii State Civil Defense, the Weather Service, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Hawaiian Electric Company and Pali Momi Medical Center have been invited.

This meeting will provide the community with pertinent information on emergency preparedness and is sponsored by Aiea-Pearl City legislators: Senators David Ige, Donna Mercado Kim, Representatives Aaron Johanson, Blake Oshiro, K. Mark Takai and Roy Takumi.

Schedule of Community Meetings

Neighborhood Board Meetings

Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20

Monday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Aiea Library Conference Room

Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Sakima Recreational Center

Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15

Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

Kapalama Elementary School

Community Association Meetings

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Middle School

Moanalua Valley Community Association

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Golf Course

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Senate Vice President

Chair, Committee on Tourism

State Capitol, Room 210

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