



Senator Donna Mercado Kim

August 2011

Serving District 14

Moanalua
'Aiea
Fort Shafter
Kalihi Valley
Halawa Valley

Community Boards

Kalihi Palama No. 15
Kalihi Valley No. 16
Aiea No. 20
Moanalua Gardens Association
Moanalua Valley Association

Leadership and Committees

Vice President of the Senate

Chair:

Committee on Tourism
Committee on Accountability

Member:

Committee on Ways and Means

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

In mid-July, the State received some good news with the State tax collections for the year ending June 30th, 2011. The report has showed that tax revenues exceeded expectations, amounting to nearly \$30 million in additional revenue.

Remember that the Legislature granted Governor Abercrombie the authority to tap into the Hurricane Relief Fund to help cover the deficit if needed. The current status of the State's finances means additional raiding of the Hurricane Relief Fund is unlikely at this time—but the possibility still remains if the State's finances change for the worse.

With public school starting on August 1st, the State and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) are still undergoing contentious labor negotiations. After being unable to agree to terms, the Board of Education and the State have implemented a "last, best, and final offer" effective July 1, 2011. This would enable the public school system to operate as normal, but under the contract terms set forth by the State—terms that the HSTA are challenging. The two sides have brought their stalemate to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board and both sides are now awaiting a decision.

I will be closely following this situation and I invite you all to attend this month's Aiea / Pearl City Community Town Hall Meeting on Education with special guest Don Horner, Chairman of the Board of Education. Additional details for the event are on the back of this newsletter.

We had a great showing at last month's Aiea / Pearl City Town Meeting that covered Aiea community issues. The topics that were covered included Aloha Stadium renovations, City vs. State jurisdiction of Kaimakani Street, construction of the new Aiea Library, and the planned development at the former Kam Drive-In location.

If there are any topics and issues that you are interested in hearing about, feel free to contact my office with your suggestions.

The redistricting of political boundaries is currently underway as well. Last month, the Reapportionment Commission voted to include nonresident students, military personnel and their dependents, and incarcerated felons. The next step will be to redraw the lines so that each district has about the same amount of residents.

On the Reapportionment website (elections3.hawaii.gov/citizenhelp), you can try your hand at drawing your own political boundaries with the program the Commission is using. The same demographic information that commissioners are taking under consideration for their own plans are provided on the site as well. The directions are clear and the program was designed for public use.



Senator Kim volunteered with the Moanalua Lions Club for the Prince Lot Hula Festival held at Moanalua Gardens.

Schedule of Community Meetings

Neighborhood Board Meetings

Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15

Wednesday, August 17, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.

Kalihi Union Church

Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16

Wednesday, August 10, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.

Akira Sakima Recreational Center

Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20

Break in August

Monday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.

Aiea Library Conference Room

Community Association Meetings

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Middle School

Moanalua Valley Community Association

Wednesday, August 10, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.

Moanalua Golf Course

Aiea/Pearl City Town Meeting

Back to School Town Hall on Education

Thursday, August 25

7:00—8:30 PM

Pearl Ridge Elementary School

Special Guest: **Don Horner**
Chairman, Board of Education

For more information call 586-9470

Eagle Scout Project Helps Kalihi Union Church

Reese Akamine has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest distinction awarded in Scouting. An Eagle Scout exhibits superior leadership qualities and selfless behavior to others.

To qualify for Eagle Scout, Reese committed over 400 labor-hours towards the betterment of Kalihi Union Church. The service project involved installing a water sprinkler system in the front grassy section of the property at Kalihi Union Church in Honolulu. The "L-shaped" area encompasses an estimated 8,000 square feet which was in dire need of a water irrigation system. Prior to this project, the church groundskeeper along with a small handful of retirees watered the area manually—an extremely time consuming task. The project required extensive planning, coordination, and the resolution of unforeseen challenges. Such obstacles that Reese had to overcome to achieve his Service Project included the removal of a large tree root and the repair of the existing water supply lines.

For his hard work and dedication to the community, Reese was awarded a Certificate by the Legislature at his Eagle Court of Honor on July 16th.



Tips for Successful Aging

An Evening With AARP Hawaii & KCC's Kupuna Education Center

Special Guest: Frank DeLima

Moanalua Elementary School Cafetorium

August 30, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided.

- 1. Get to know AARP** AARP is the largest advocate for adults 50+ in the country. Find out more about what AARP is doing for you and how to get involved.
- 2. Connect With Your Neighbors** Get to know the people around you. Our community may be your best support network.
- 3. Laugh!** Enjoy the comic talents of Frank DeLima, Hawaii's favorite comedian. A community that laughs together can accomplish anything!
- 4. Modify your home** Learn what you can do to modify your home to enable you to age in it comfortably and safely for as long as possible.
- 5. Know Your Community Resources** There are resources available to help you meet some of the challenges of aging or caring for elders. Learn about community training through Kapi'olani Community College's Kupuna Education Center and available services for older adults in Honolulu County.

Capital Improvements for Our Intermediate Schools

Two schools in our district, Aiea Intermediate School and Dole Middle School will be receiving \$2 million in capital improvements funding renovate their facilities to provide better serve our students.

- Aiea Intermediate School** will receive \$1,740,000 for the renovation and expansion of their cafeteria. This project involves construction, works of art, and equipment to expand and renovate the cafeteria stage area and add dressing rooms on either side of the stage. The improvements will support the school's program needs by accommodating various programs and performances designed for larger stages, and that require costume changes.
- Dole Middle School** will receive \$250,000 for restroom renovations. This project would provide additional ADA compliant boys and girls restrooms to accommodate disabled students. The restrooms would be located on the ground floor of Building E, which is at the back of campus.