



June 2011

# Senator Donna Mercado Kim

## 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

## Contact Information

State Capitol, Room 210  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-587-7200  
Fax: 808-587-7205  
Senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov



## Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2011 Legislative session is over and now we are in our first full month of the interim. The final days of the session was surely eventful with intense conference negotiations between the State Senate and State House.

In conference committee meetings, the Senate Ways and Means committee was able to convince the House Finance committee to hold on any type of taxation on pension income or any consideration to increase the General Excise Tax (GET). It was a challenge to the end, but the Senate held its ground and stood firm for the tax payers of the state and especially those that are pension recipients.

Balancing the state budget continues to be a great concern for legislators and the Administration. At the close of session, Governor Abercrombie commented on calling for a special legislative session if the state deficit grows. This decision would be based on economic indicators such as the Council on Revenue's projections and the State's monthly tax collections.

The Council on Revenues (COR) met at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 26th and maintained their projected revenue growth at -1.6%. At the meeting, the COR members concluded that the economy is gradually recovering and tax collections will steadily increase in the coming years.

Shortly after the COR meeting, Governor Abercrombie announced that with the revenue projections unchanged from the amounts used to approve the upcoming two year budget, his Administration remains committed to working the budget agreed upon with the Legislature and a special session is not necessary.

We are now awaiting the June 30 tax collection report. The April 30 report showed a rebound in collections we are hoping the same in June.

I have been continuing my duties as Chair of the Committee on Tourism.

Currently, I am conducting walkthroughs of our tourism infrastructure across the neighbor islands. A major area of my attention has been on our airports—currently in the 5th year of a 12-year \$2.3 billion modernization project. Additionally, I was also able to follow up on issues and concerns that I have investigated over the past several years at various airports around our State.

Mahalo,



## Schedule of Community Meetings

### Neighborhood Board Meetings

#### *Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15*

Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.  
Kalihi Union Church

#### *Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16*

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Akira Sakima Recreational Center

#### *Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20*

Monday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Aiea Library Conference Room

### Community Association Meetings

#### *Moanalua Gardens Community Association*

Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Moanalua Middle School

#### *Moanalua Valley Community Association*

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Moanalua Golf Course

### 2011 Summer Community Bulletin

Be sure to look for your bulletin which will be mailed to your homes later this month.

The bulletin will keep you up to date on what happened during the 2011 session including the major issues, the highlights and accomplishments, and the community survey results from the pre-session January community survey.

*Governor Neil Abercrombie recognized the Hawaii State Senate for its participation in the Hawaii Green Government Challenge.*

*The Hawaii State Senate supports and participates in the Capitol's conservation initiatives, including: energy conservation, recycling, emissions reduction and water conservation.*



### Public Access Room

*Did you ever wonder how a bill gets passed? Have you ever wished you could have given testimony on a bill?*

Looking ahead to January 2012, if you want to get involved in the legislative process at the Hawaii State Capitol, you can find the Public Access Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor which helps the public with all of these questions and more. There are workshops and tutorials on the legislative process, and staff can answer questions about the process of submitting your testimony.

#### STATE CAPITOL

415 South Beretania St., Rm 401  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**(808) 587-0478 phone**

**(808) 587-0749 TTY phone**

**(808) 587-0793 fax**

#### HOURS:

Session:

**M-F 8am - 6pm, Sat 8am - 2pm**

Interim:

**M-F 9am - 5pm**

**e-mail: par@capitol.hawaii.gov**



### Hiki Nō The Nation's First Student News Network

Hiki Nō, meaning "can do", was launched in February and broadcasts weekly on Monday nights at 5 PM. The program is produced by middle school and high school student teams from across the State as a cooperative learning project joining 60 public, private, and charter schools together. Newscasts will also be viewable on the PBS Hawaii website. Participating area high schools near District 14 include Moanalua High School and Farrington High School.

For more information see:

<http://www.pbshawaii.org/hikino/>

### Hawaii State Senate Stays Green!

This year's 2011 Awardees in Green Business and Government include both the Hawaii State Senate. In 2008, the Hawaii Senate began a Paperless Initiative which resulted in the reduction of paper waste by 60% from the previous year's five month session. Pilot efforts in paperless committee hearings in 2009 reduced paper waste by an additional 20%. Senate members and staff promote Aloha Aina community recycling events and green office practices. The Senate also participated in the Green Government Challenge, the Capitol's conservation initiative including the areas of energy conservation, recycling, emissions reduction and water conservation. The Green Business Program is a partnership of the Hawaii State Department of Health, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the City and County Department of Environmental Services Recycling Office and Board of Water Supply, and the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce.