

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Laura Thielen
DISTRICT 25: KAILUA - WAIMANALO - HAWAI'I KAI

January 2013



Aloha Kakou,

One of the most common complaints you hear (or make) about the State Legislature is that laws get passed or changed without people knowing about it.

Part of my job as your Senator is keeping you informed on what the Legislature is doing, and helping you get your voice heard. But since things move so fast during the 4-month session, we have to get information to you in a timely manner that allows you to voice your opinion when it counts.

This session we're experimenting with a new communication system. Our goal is to increase citizen participation in the Legislative process. Please join in, and along the way, let us know how we can improve.

Mahalo, and I look forward to working with you as your new State Senator.

Senator Laura H. Thielen

1: Facebook

A Facebook page to send out frequent short messages to update people on the status of legislation, and where people can post comments. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to sign up for notices from this page.



www.facebook.com/SenatorLauraThielen

2: Blog

A blog that will be less frequent than Facebook but more detailed on the substance of legislation, next steps anticipated in the legislative process, and action people can take to weigh in. Just like with Facebook, people can comment on the blog.



<http://www.senatorlaurathielen.com/blog/>

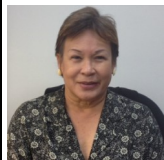
3: Website

This web site that serves as a resource of useful information like the how bills become law, tips on how to testify; email lists, resources and research on the issues, and links to other sites that are relevant.



www.senatorlaurathielen.com/

Permanent Staff



Dee Balfour

Dee is from the Waianae Coast. Now an Aiea resident, she retired after 32 years with the Department of Defense based at Pearl Harbor and Barbers Point (Kalaeloa) and served time in the U.S. Army Reserve. Dee has been Small Business owner and also worked for the City and County. Dee and her husband, Bill are parents of six children and nine grandkids who live in five different states. She enjoys travelling, reading and "Chloe" time with her miniature Chipoo. Dee will be monitoring the committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs (PSM), and Transportation & International Affairs (TIA).



Malia Hitch

Malia is from Kauai. She got her first taste of the legislative process when she served as the Kauai Student Rep on the Hawaii Commemorative Quarter Advisory Commission. In 2012, Malia got accepted into the UH Manoa State Legislative Internship Program. As an intern, Malia was able to see firsthand, and better understand the issues affecting her state. She was excited when she was able to return to the Legislature as a full time employee for Senator Laura H. Thielen. Malia will be monitoring the committees on Ways & Means (WAM), Water & Land (WTL), and Energy & Environment (ENE).

Session Staff



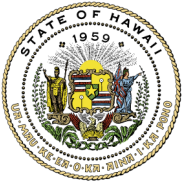
Rebecca Bernal

Becca is from California and recently moved to Oahu. She has a background in Agriculture with degree in Animal Science from California Polytechnic State University. Becca has previous experience working for a California State Senator. She also volunteers in many different community programs and serves on both community and on non-profit boards. Becca will be staffing Senator Thielen on the committees in Agriculture (AGL), Economic Development, Government Operations & Housing (EGH), Commerce & Consumer Protection (CPN), Health (HTH) and Human Services (HMS).



Dinna Schwiering

Dinna grew up in the Philippines and in 2006 she moved to California, and eventually making her way to Hawaii. She was a student Intern from UH Manoa in the 2012 legislative session. This year, she has another opportunity to pursue her passion and will be working as a legislative assistant for 2013 legislative session in the office of Senator Laura Thielen. She will be overseeing the committees in Judiciary and Labor (JDL), Education (EDU), Higher Education (HRE), Tourism & Hawaiian Affairs (THA), Technology & the Arts (TEC).



**Hawaii State Senate
Leadership and Committee Assignments
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
2013-2014**

President: Donna Mercado Kim
Vice President: Ronald D. Kouchi

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| <p><u>AGRICULTURE (AGL)</u> Nishihara, Clarence K. (Chair) Kouchi, Ronald D. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (CPN)</u> Baker, Rosalyn H. (Chair) Galuteria, Brickwood (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING (EGH)</u> Dela Cruz, Donovan (Chair) Slom, Sam (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>EDUCATION (EDU)</u> Tokuda, Jill N. (Chair) Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (ENE)</u> Gabbard, Mike (Chair) Ruderman, Russell (Vice Chair)</p> | <p><u>HEALTH (HTH)</u> Green, M.D., Josh (Chair) Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>HIGHER EDUCATION (HRE)</u> Taniguchi, Brian T. (Chair) Kahele, Gilbert (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>HUMAN SERVICES (HMS)</u> Chun Oakland, Suzanne (Chair) Green, M.D., Josh (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>JUDICIARY AND LABOR (JDL)</u> Hee, Clayton (Chair) Shimabukuro, Maile (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)</u> Espero, Will (Chair) Baker, Rosalyn H. (Vice Chair)</p> | <p><u>TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS (TEC)</u> Wakai, Glenn (Chair) Nishihara, Clarence K. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (THA)</u> Galuteria, Brickwood (Chair) Keith-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (TIA)</u> English, J. Kalani (Chair) Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>WATER AND LAND (WTL)</u> Solomon, Malama (Chair) Shimabukuro, Maile (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>WAYS AND MEANS (WAM)</u> Ige, David Y. (Chair) Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair)</p> |
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Senator Laura Thielen's 2013 Committees
Ways & Means (WAM)
Water & Land (WTL)
Agriculture (AGL)
Economic Development, Government Operations & Housing (EGH)



Contact Us
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Email: senthielen@capitol.hawaii.gov

FREE TAX HELP AND CLAIM VALUABLE TAX CREDITS

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax benefit for people who worked full or part-time. Calculate your potential credit below:

| If you are: | and you earn LESS than: | Then you may qualify for a credit/refund up to: |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Married couple w/ 3 or more qualifying children | \$50,270 | \$5,891 |
| Unmarried couple w/ 3 or more qualifying children | \$45,060 | \$5,891 |
| Married couple w/ 2 qualifying children | \$47,162 | \$5,236 |
| Unmarried couple w/ 2 qualifying children | \$41,952 | \$5,236 |
| Married couple w/ 1 qualifying child | \$42,130 | \$3,169 |
| Unmarried couple w/ 1 qualifying child | \$36,920 | \$3,169 |
| Married couple w/ no qualifying child | \$19,190 | \$475 |
| Unmarried w/ no qualifying child | \$13,980 | \$475 |

For more information about the Hawaii State Capitol Tax Site or other free tax preparation sites across the state:
Visit: www.hawaii-taxhelp.org
Call: 2-1-1 (AUW's toll-free helpline)
Email: info@hawaii-taxhelp.org

Thanks to trained and IRS-certified volunteers, you can have your state and federal tax returns prepared for free at this special clinic:

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Third Floor
Saturday, January 26 ONLY
9:00am–2:00pm (last return accepted at 1pm)
Call (808) 381-0881 for an appointment to this site
WALK-INS ACCEPTED, FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS

Thank you to the following legislators who are sponsoring this important community event:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland | Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto |
| Senator Brickwood Galuteria | Representative Karl Rhoads |
| Senator Michelle Kidani | Representative Sylvia Luke |
| Senator Laura H. Thielen | Representative Tom Brower |
| Speaker Calvin Say | Representative Scott K. Saiki |
| Representative Della Au Belatti | Representative Takashi Ohno |

Earn it. Claim it. Save it.
HACBED Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
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