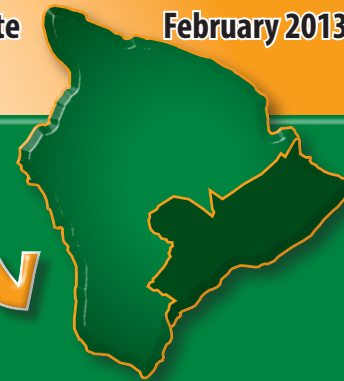




Senator

**RUSSELL  
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### Message from Senator

The 2013 Legislative Session promises to be a challenging one and there is a great deal yet to accomplish. As your Senator - and a member of the Senate Committees on Education, Energy & Environmental Protection, Ways and Means, and Water, Land and Ocean Resources, I have been diligently working on the issues that will most affect the constituents of Senate District 2, Puna - Ka'u.

Additionally, my staff and I are equally committed to improving the quality of life for every constituent, and we are happy to hear from you and address your questions or concerns.

If you have any questions, need assistance, or more information regarding a particular issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Aloha,

## Keonepoko Elementary School Receives \$296,200 Award for Race to the Top Projects

**Funds are part of \$75 million total awarded to the State and will go towards repair and maintenance, modernization.**

HONOLULU—Public Works Administrator Duane Kashiwai has announced that Keonepoko Elementary School has been notified of their award of Miscellaneous Repair and Maintenance for Race to the Top, Zones of School Innovation funds and that work on the projects will begin shortly.

The contract for the projects has been awarded to Site Engineering in the amount of \$296,200.

Upon receiving the good news, Sen. Russell Ruderman offered his praise, "Congratulations to Principal Kathleen

Romero and Keonepoko Elementary School. Funding for these implementation grants was made available as part of a total of \$75 million in support from the state's successful Race to the Top proposal.

*The projects supported by this funding will greatly extend school building modernizations and provide expanded and improved educational opportunities. This award will not only fortify our efforts in improving the comfort, safety, and learning environment for all keiki at Keonepoko Elementary School, it will also assist in creating jobs across the state." Δ*

## Agriculture Awareness Day and Art at the Capitol Events Announced

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation present "Agriculture Awareness Day" at the State Capitol on Thursday March 28th. The event will feature exhibits by members of Hawaii's agriculture industry, including local farmers and producers of local product from the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Maui.

Local produce, products and samples of island cuisine will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to the Oahu Food Bank and Food Basket Inc.

Agriculture Awareness is an annual event to promote the importance, growth and sustainability of local grown fruits and vegetables, eggs and dairy, livestock, flowers, coffee, and aquaculture.

This year will be the 5th Annual Art at the Capitol public event on Friday, April 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. As in past years, the event is held in conjunction with the First Friday activities in Downtown Honolulu.

Art at the Capitol is an opportunity to see the fine collections of artwork acquired by the State Foundation on Culture and the

Arts for the Art in Public Places Program. The members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor participate in providing this festive after-hours "public gallery" opening.

Visitors are able to stroll through the legislators' offices to view the diverse variety of artwork. Some of the artists whose work is on display will be present. The special presentation will be a newly recorded video interview with Hawaii's master sculptor and painter - Satoru Abe. Δ

# UH Hilo Higher Education Learning Center Bill Advances to Ways and Means

## Provides funding for an outreach program to conduct a needs assessment for a potential learning center project in Puna.

HONOLULU—On Friday, February 15, 2013, the members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Ways and Means recommended that Senate Bill 380 Senate Draft 1 be passed, with amendments and referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means. SB380 SD1 was introduced by Senator Russell Ruderman and requests that funding for an outreach program to conduct a needs assessment for a potential learning center project in Puna under the college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Amendments made were as follows:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the University of Hawaii at Hilo should pursue a higher education learning center project in the district of Puna, Hawaii. The project will lead to improved employment and entrepreneurial activities in the district. The project will also identify educational and training needs in the district and design a business incubator approach to support job growth in the district. Initial focus will be on outreach to increase agricultural production and processed products for local markets utilizing emerging engineering programs and may be expanded to other training and educational support systems to develop the local workforce and entrepreneurs. This pilot project may serve as a replicable model for higher learning centers that can be extended to other rural areas of the State.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$(To be determined) or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for an outreach

program under the college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management of the University of Hawaii at Hilo utilizing temporary or contract hires to perform a needs assessment for the higher education learning center project described in section 1 of this Act that includes an assessment of the existing educational resources and facilities that can be networked to provide educational and training options.

The sums appropriated shall be expend-



ed by the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act. Δ

## Meet Senator Ruderman's 2013 Legislative Staff

Senator Russell Ruderman's 2013 Legislative Staff is comprised of an eclectic blend of experience, creativity, and determination. Each bringing a diverse background and a unique set of skills to the State Capitol. The entire staff is determined to make this the most active and effective session yet for the people of Senate District 2.

Office Manager Dayva Keolanui brings a background in communications, public relations, and international business to the Capitol. Dayva is a graduate of the Loyola Marymount University's College of Business Administration. Born and raised on Hawai'i Island, she is passionate about working for District 2.

Legislative Assistant Trina Ishii has worked in the Legislature since 2005 and has experience in both the House and the Senate. She has experience in communications, marketing, advertising and teaching.

Community Liaison Eileen O'Hara has been active in community issues for more than 30 years on the Big Island. She has a background in government as a County planner and recycling coordinator, and as a State contract manager. She served on the

Environmental Council under Governor Lingle and the Cost of Government Commission under Mayor Kenoi. With a doctorate in Natural Resource Economics, she teaches at UHH and two



Senator Ruderman and his 2013 Legislative Staff. L to R: Michael Greenough, Trina Ishii, Dayva Keolanui, Sen. Russell Ruderman, and Eileen O'Hara.

online universities, while also consulting for businesses and nonprofits.

Legislative Aid Michael Greenough has worked in both the Senate and the House and brings with him an extensive creative background in graphic design, communications, community relations, and photo-journalism. Michael has spent the last thirty-two years living and exploring the diversity of the Pacific Rim. Δ

# Senate Bill 369 Relating to Video Conferencing Testimony Moves Ahead

**Requires the legislature to implement rules to permit residents to present testimony through audiovisual technology.**

HONOLULU - On Tuesday, February 12th, 2013, the Senate Committee on Technology passed Senate Bill 369 as is on second reading and has referred the measure the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Introduced by Sen. Russell Ruderman, SB369 calls for the establishment and implementation of rules to permit residents to present testimony through audiovisual technology and appropriates funds to establish audiovisual systems throughout the State. SB369 provides that "Each chamber of the legislature shall establish, by rule, procedures to

enable neighbor island residents to present oral testimony at legislative committee hearings through the use of audiovisual technology.

With the growing advances in audiovisual technology, as well as the importance of providing greater opportunities for public to get involved in legislative issues, teleconferencing allows for a larger base of constituents in rural areas and the neighbor islands to be able to be a part of the legislative process by testifying and addressing the legislature on the issues that concern them and their communities the most. Δ

# Senate Bill 988 Relating to Energy Costs Disclosure Advances to Judiciary Committee

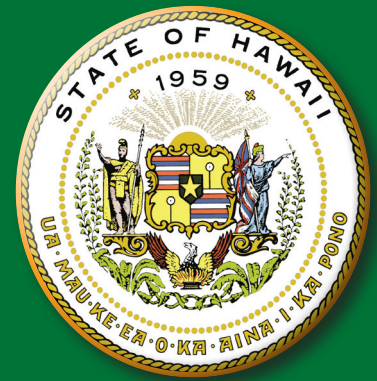
**Requires the landlord or lessor of a commercial property to provide written disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee before execution of the rental agreement.**

On Thursday, February 7, 2013, the members of the joint Senate Committees on Energy and Commerce and Consumer Protection voted to pass Senate Bill 988 as is. SB988 will now go to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary for further consideration.

SB988 requires that the landlord or lessor of a commercial property to provide written disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee before execution of the rental agreement. Requires oral disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee for an oral lease agreement at or before commencement of the tenancy. Allows a lessee to terminate the rental agreement, without liability, if the landlord or lessor fails to disclose energy costs.

Requires the landlord or lessor of a commercial property to provide written disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee before execution of the rental agreement.

Requires oral disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee for an oral lease agreement at or before commencement of the tenancy. Allows a lessee to terminate the rental agreement, without liability, if the landlord or lessor fails to disclose energy costs. Δ



**Senator Russell Ruderman**  
Hawaii State Senate  
District 2

***"The Natural Choice for  
Puna and Ka'u"***

Member of the  
Senate Committees on

Energy & Environment  
Education • Water and Land  
Ways and Means

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*You can keep up to date on the status of new bills, legislation and hearing notices by checking the legislative website, [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) or [www.RussellRuderman.com](http://www.RussellRuderman.com), or by calling Senator Ruderman's office, 808-586-6890.*

# Comprehensive Public Funding Bill SB381 SD1 Passes Second Reading

Would change formula for the comprehensive public funding pilot, limit number of candidates in pilot program.

HONOLULU - On Friday, February 8, 2013, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary recommended that Senate Bill 381 Senate Draft 1 be passed, with amendments and referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means. SB381 SD1 changes funding formula for the comprehensive public funding pilot project to average the amount of money used by winning candidates in the last two election cycles for all county district races. Limits the number of candidates in the pilot program to twenty-five per election cycle.

SB381 SD1 would require candidates seeking certification as a comprehensive publicly funded candidate would have to submit to the commission an application for certification that contains at least two hundred printed names, addresses, and signatures and qualifying contributions for the county of

Hawaii from registered voters in the district for which the candidate seeks office no later than thirty days prior to the primary election, signed by the participating candidate and the participating candidate's campaign treasurer under penalty of perjury. The clerk for the county of Hawaii shall verify that at least two hundred signatures and qualifying contributions were received from registered voters in the district for which the candidate seeks office, that the candidate resides in the district from which election is sought as of the date of the filing of nomination papers, and that the candidate is a registered voter in the district from which election is sought.

After a participating candidate is certified, the candidate's certification shall apply to both the primary and the general election, even if the candidate is unopposed in the primary election. Δ

## Pahoa Boys Varsity Basketball Team Visits State Capitol

Senator Ruderman welcomed the Pahoa High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team to the Senate Gallery at the State Capitol Feb. 20th.



The team was on Oahu for the State High School Basketball Division II Tournament. After a solid practice, the team had dinner with Sen. Ruderman at the Spaghetti Factory.



Team members are Seniors Jarret Kamaka, Joseph Lefti, Nick Fisher, and Randin Napeahi. Underclassmen - Kevin Lee, Torrell Thomas, Ryan Naciso, Christian Batolome, Joel Rosario, Kieran Agonis, Tolby Sato. Head Coach Marc Saito, Assistant Coaches Ferdie Masufit, Keenan Komeiji, and John Fisher.

**GO DAGGERS!**

## Public Events Calendar

### FEBRUARY

23 **Community Talk Story Sessions** - Pahoa Neighborhood Center, 10:00 AM to Noon  
Keaau Girl Scout Center, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

26 **Community Talk Story Sessions** - Pahala Plantation House, 5 PM to 6:30 PM

### MARCH

2 **Second Annual Puna Ulu Festival** - Ulu a Niu will be at Hooulu Lahui, 9 am - 3 PM

28 **Ag Day at the Capitol** - State Capitol Honolulu, HI, 9 AM to 2 PM

### APRIL

5 **Art at the Capitol** - Hawaii State Capitol, 5 PM to 7 PM