



Senator Norman Sakamoto
415 S. Beretania Street
State Capitol Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Legislative Update 2008

Aloha Neighbors,

The 2008 legislative session has been very challenging in light of the Aloha Airlines, ATA, and Molokai Ranch closures. Dealing with the controversy surrounding the Department of Transportation environmental exemptions for the operations of the Super Ferry was time consuming.

In spite of those challenges, the legislature enacted bills to improve the ability for our keiki to learn.

Thank you for your input and support throughout the year. We will continue to be sensible and responsive to our community. Mahalo for allowing me to serve you.

Aloha and God Bless You,

Norman Sakamoto

Improved Education = Hope + Opportunity = Better Jobs & Better Lives

Each member of the community understands the importance of a good education. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I was able to work with my colleagues and the community to bolster parts of our P-20 Educational Pipeline.

After years of collaborative work, the Early Educational Task Force rolled out an early education agenda to increase the quality of teachers, pre-school curriculum and facilities. The formation and implementation of an Early Learning Council of public and private entities is a key component. This early learning system bill, SB2878 was vetoed by the Governor and was overwhelmingly overridden by the Legislature. Keiki First Steps has been created!

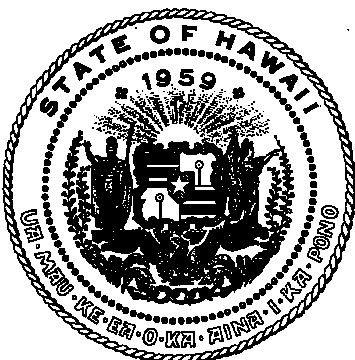
The Repair and Maintenance (R&M) backlog has risen due to restrictions on funding. The Legislature has appropriated \$166 million for the Department of Education's backlog and for whole school renovation. This should reduce the R&M backlog to \$412 million. For the university system, the backlog is \$352 million and we appropriated \$173 million. We must continue to catch up and fund what is needed.

We've moved a long way to take politics out of the university system. The latest step was implementing the constitutional amendment that voters approved to allow an advisory committee to screen and nominate qualified persons to the governor to select board of regent members. The governor decided to "hold over" her old appointees rather than appoint new members from the committee's list. Stay tuned on this matter!

With the tightening of budgets and pressures of No Child Left Behind, teachers and students will greatly benefit from volunteers in our community. Please call or visit your community or child's school to join in the efforts. With your help, our student's potential will be greatly enhanced!

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.normansakamoto.com



The FIRST Robotics Regional Competition in Hawaii was co-sponsored by NASA and BAE Systems and held at the Stan Sheriff Center on March 27-29. Radford High School's Robotics Team, **The Rams**, who in partnership with another team won first place in Hawaii's regional competition. They advanced to the national championship in Atlanta, Georgia in late April.



2008 Legislative Highlights

At the beginning of the 2008 session, about 2,748 bills were introduced covering a range of issues and subject matters. After four months of public hearings, many amendments and numerous votes, 294 measures were approved at the close of the session and passed to the Governor for approval or veto. The Governor vetoed 58 bills and the Legislature overrode 14 of them. The following represents some of the highlights of the 2008 legislative session.

Sustainability

Sustainability is on the minds of all in the state. Senators participated in a pilot “**paperless**” effort, reducing their consumption by millions of pages. As a result, all public documents are now available online at:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

The Legislature also sponsored many sustainability initiatives:

- **New requirement to recycle electronic device waste** - manufacturers will now be required to collect and recycle

computers and other electronic devices.

VETOED & OVERRIDEN

- Expansion of the state’s **biosecurity** program, increasing protection from new importation of invasive species.
- **Prohibition on the sale of noxious weeds.**
- New tax credits to encourage **renewable energy** and **land conservation.**
- A pilot **food waste recycling** program in public schools.
VETOED & OVERRIDEN
- New incentives to preserve important **agricultural lands** and operations.
- New staff positions within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to ensure that the state’s Greenhouse Gas Task Force meets its goal of **reducing Hawaii’s emissions** by 2020.
- **Solar water heating systems** on all new homes starting in 2010.

Education

The 2008 Legislature aimed to support and improve Hawaii’s education system from pre-kindergarten through college:

- Address the teacher shortage by providing funding for **tutorials and preparation for PRAXIS examinations.**
VETOED
- Lifting the one-year restriction on participation in the **Bridge to Hope** vocational education program to increase participants’ economic self-sufficiency.
- Launching of a new statewide **early learning preschool** system.
VETOED & OVERRIDEN
- Funding of \$173.3 million for **repair and maintenance** and **new construction** on all UH campuses.
- Funding of **\$310 million** for repair and maintenance and new construction of **K-12 facilities statewide.**



Right: Na Keiki o Hawaii Nei presented Senator Sakamoto with a taro (kalo) plant. The kalo represents many important aspects of the Hawaiian culture including spirituality and health.



Left: Over 400 children, parents and educators participated in interactive learning centers at the Capitol, demonstrating for legislators the importance of early childhood education. Senator Sakamoto attended the event and displayed art made by **Joshua Oyadamori-Chun**. Also pictured is Joshua’s mother, **Tammi Oyadamori-Chun**, executive director of **Hawaii P-20 Initiative**. Hawaii P-20 works to strengthen the pipeline so that all students from early childhood through higher education achieve college and career success.

And Accomplishments

Transportation

- \$124 million in funding for **harbor modernization improvements statewide.**
- Requiring ignition interlock devices to **prevent past DUI offenders from operating their vehicles.**
- Making it a **violation to leave a child under the age of nine unattended** in a motor vehicle.

Procurement

The Senate decided that **current practices should be reviewed and reformed** because of numerous incidents calling into question the procurement practices of several departments and agencies. It created a special committee this session to investigate the state's award of an \$8.7 million contract for renewable energy last year and concluded that the award did not conform to procurement laws. As a result, the Legislature reviewed and passed several new initiatives intended to ensure **more accountability in future procurement practices:**

- **Fines** for state procurement officers who do not take corrective action within 30 days.
- Requirements to ensure **timely posting** of information regarding state contract awards.
- Annual **random audits** of purchasing agencies, as well as audits of agencies that show a history of noncompliance.
- **Mandatory training** for state procurement officers and follow-up training thereafter.

Change For The Better

Other notable initiatives that passed in the 2008 session:

- Increased funding to enhance the state's **Kupuna Care** program, which helps our elders to live as independently as possible.
- A new **Small Business Bill of Rights.**
- More support for the **Cancer Research Center of Hawaii.**
- Plan to provide facilities and services for **returning Hawaii's female prisoners from mainland institutions.**

- A working group to begin work on establishing the **Hawaii Health Corps** program to provide **loan repayments for physicians and dentists** who agree to practice in rural or medically underserved areas in the state.
- **Reporters** will be protected from having to disclose their sources or unpublished information.

Senator Norman Sakamoto

Majority Whip

Chair - Committee on Education

Member of:

- Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
- Human Services and Public Housing
- Public Safety

Phone: (808) 586-8585

Email:

sensakamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

Website:

www.normansakamoto.com



2008 Legislative Staff, Volunteers and Supporters: Senator Sakamoto, wife Penny, Jacob Ng, Leatrice Galicinao, Keegan Shepherd-Jones, Erin Conner, Andrew Lee, Joanne Swearingen, Jean Ramage, and Allen Awaya. Front Row: Cherry Torres and Christin Wehrsig

Education Updates &

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

\$100,000,000 - whole school classroom renovation

\$20,105,474 - Weighted Student Formula funding

Charter Schools:

\$57,745,483 - general fund support

DOE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Statewide Department of Education

\$49,020,000 - Cesspool removal

\$66,461,000 - Design and construction for improvements of public school facilities

\$2,000,000 - Design and construction for accessibility of school facilities for handicapped persons

\$4,000,000 - Design and construction for corrective measures to schools affected by excessive noise and ventilation problems

\$1,000,000 - Asbestos/lead removal from all existing school buildings

\$1,500,000 - Playground equipment and accessibility

\$1,000,000 - Renovations in classrooms to address special education needs

\$1,000,000 - Gender equity projects in schools

\$500,000 - Design and construction to meet safety and health requirements in all schools

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

\$161,446,000 - Capital Improvement Projects

UH System wide

\$58,511,000 - Capital renewal and deferred maintenance projects to update facilities to include: Re-roofing, mechanical and electrical upgrades, renovation, resurfacing, and repainting

\$1,489,000 - Modifications of existing facilities and construction of new facilities for health, safety, and other code requirements

\$3,792,000 - New facility for Information Technology and Emergency Operations building

UH Manoa

\$35,883,000 - Campus Center renovations

\$7,518,000 - New classroom building

\$2,500,000 - Energy Conservation modifications

\$2,595,000 - Women's locker room improvements

\$1,225,000 - Cooke Field improvements

\$386,000 - Les Murakami Stadium renovation of the training room

UH Hilo

\$1,640,000 - Additions and renovations of the Student Services Building

Hawaii Community College

\$11,207,000 - Renovations of Manono Campus and West Hawaii Education Center

Maui Community College

\$25,000,000 - Design and construction of new science building



Senator Sakamoto congratulates Daniel Taniguchi and proud father, Senator Brian Taniguchi upon Daniel's graduation from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Dr. Ryuzo "Yana" Yanagimachi was honored by Senator Sakamoto and Speaker Calvin Say on behalf of the Legislature for his advances and discoveries in reproductive and developmental biology at the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

School Improvements

Most of these projects were on the DOE priority list for FY07-08. They are still the current projects on the DOE priority list for FY08-09 because the money has not been released. Projects with no \$ amount listed are projected to cost less than \$100,000, ** indicates CIP, and ++ indicates appropriations made in previous years and are currently a work-in-progress.

Moanalua Complex

Moanalua High – **\$950,000 artificial surface field; \$170,000 re-crown football field; \$147,000 re-roof kitchen roof; \$142,000 re-roof building F; replace furniture; repair bleachers; replace kitchen ceiling; re-roof portable 29, ++Auditorium/Performing Arts Center - \$4,700,000 in 2006 and \$12,300,000 in 2007

Moanalua Middle – \$306,000 re-roof buildings C & J; replace concrete courtyard; add circuits

Moanalua Elem – \$170,000 fire alarm upgrade; re-roof covered walkways; add electrical circuits

Red Hill Elem – drainage improvement; replace pole lights; resurface play court; re-roof portable

Salt Lake Elem – \$154,000 resurface, play court, area 2; re-roof building D

Shafter Elem – \$226,000 re-roof building D & E; replace restroom partitions; install partition

Radford Complex

Radford High – \$611,000 re-roof buildings A, B, D & L; ++Multi-purpose room \$1,090,000 in 2006 and \$300,000 in 2007

Aliamanu Middle – **\$21,000 ceiling AC units; replace concrete walkway; replace girl's lockers; install security screens buildings B & C; replace flagpole; replace windows building S

Aliamanu Elem – \$115,000 replace sewer lines; replace windows, screens, ceiling, electrical and mechanical improvements building J

Hickam Elem – \$233,000 re-roof buildings C & I; \$200,000 replace waterlines; ++\$7,670,000 for new Library/Administration building in 2006

Makalapa Elem – \$100,000 re-roof building D; \$100,000 replace A/C ducts building A; electrical improvements; ++\$3,280,000 to renovate/expand cafeteria in 2006

Mokulele Elem – \$188,000 program bell system; \$105,000 re-roof building B; install wheelchair lift bldg E

Nimitz Elem – add electrical circuits building C; reline chill box; replace kitchen light fixture and security screens; renovate cafeteria manager's office; fence and cattle gates; rewire night lights buildings C & D

Pearl Harbor Elem – \$184,000 re-roof buildings L & K; replace windows

Pearl Harbor Kai Elem – \$305,000 re-roof Administration building and buildings A and I

Aiea Complex (partial list)

Aiea High – \$227,000 re-roof building D; \$125,000 replace concrete rails; \$103,000 resurface cafeteria driveway; re-roof covered walkways; replace pole light electric boxes

Aiea Inter – \$200,000 fire alarm upgrade; \$100,000 drainage improvement; \$170,000 replace water lines

Aiea Elem – dust control; replace light fixtures

Alvah Scott Elem – \$316,000 re-roof buildings B & K

Pearl Ridge Elem – \$238,000 replace a/c unit; replace program bell system

Farrington Complex (partial list)

Farrington High – \$750,000 re-roof building A; \$340,000 re-roof/structural repairs and partial re-roof building AW3; \$450,000 replace library A/C unit

Kalakaua Middle – \$230,000 campus fire alarm; \$210,000 re-roof building E

Puuahale Elem – resurface and stripe area 02; replace partitions and restroom hardware building A; additions to existing bell program

Mia Kaneshiro takes a moment to smile for the camera with Senator Sakamoto at Makalapa Elementary School's Read Across America Celebration.



District Update and Recognition

Puuloa Road Improvements Project

The state broke ground on this project in 2005 with an initial completion date of summer 2007. Due to unanticipated underground utility lines and rains, the project has been delayed. Projected completion is tentatively set for November 2008.

This **\$15.8 million revitalization project** will include, turn lanes, bike lanes, drainage system, landscaping, lights, a sidewalk and a **90 stall parking lot**.

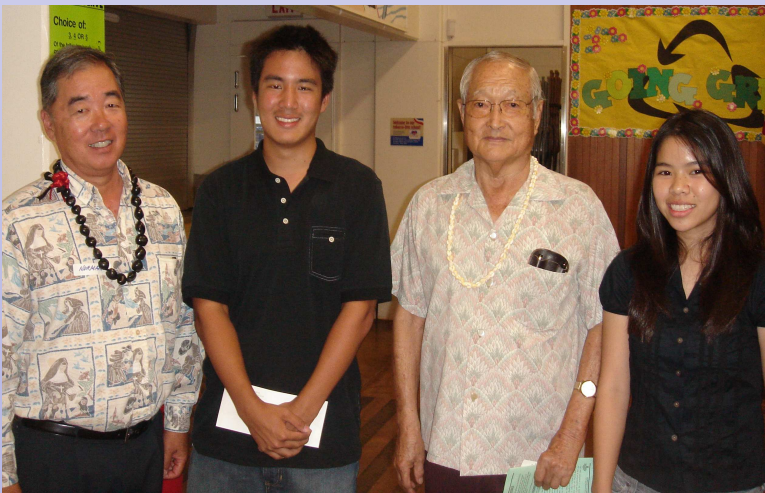
Currently, the contractor has completed installing major portions of the new drainage system and installation of the fire hydrants. The new traffic signal system at the Puuloa-Pukoloa and Salt Lake Boulevard intersection has been activated and is in operation. Additional adjustments to the traffic control system and activation of the traffic camera systems will occur shortly.

Work on the construction of the grade adjustment walls, excavation of the roadway (east side), installation of the highway system, new curb and gutters have begun.

Work to be completed include removal of the existing overhead utility lines, wooden poles, construction of the parking lot, final roadway resurfacing and landscaping.

Recognition & Honors

- Centennial Celebration of **Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard**
- Retirement of Principal **Robert Stevens** of Radford High
- Nomination of Principal **Caroline Wong** of Moanalua Middle for The Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award
- 2008 Central District Teacher of the Year - **David Arakaki** of Moanalua Middle
- Participation of **Radford High School Robotics Team** in the FIRST National Competition in Atlanta
- Citizenship Award winners -
Mikee Madlangbayan of Moanalua High
Michael Bliss of Radford High
Jenny B.N. Luu of Farrington High
- **Micah Hirayama** and **Caroline Lau** - Moanalua Gardens Community Association scholarship recipients
- Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation Finalists -
Kevin Choi of Moanalua High and
Nguyet Anh Vu of Radford High
- **Bianca Nagata** of Salt Lake - Pacific Asian Affairs Council scholarship to participate in Punahou School's Summer Study Abroad Program



Micah T. Hirayama and **Caroline Lau** of Moanalua High School were recipients of the MGCA Scholarship. **Ken Hagino** presented it to them at the MGCA Installation Dinner held on June 22. Senator Sakamoto also offered his congratulations.

Retired Radford High School Principal, **Robert Stevens** received a warm embrace from Senator Sakamoto and Superintendent Hamamoto for 38 years of service!



District Survey

Our most challenging issue before us is the slowing economy. At current levels of Revenue and Expenditure, our state was projected to spend **\$239 million** more than we received for the year ending 7/31/08. For the current fiscal year ending 7/31/09 we are projected to spend **\$162 million** more than we will receive. Current budget cuts and restricted spending reduce that amount.

It is important to voice our thoughts and opinions about how government works for us. We need to reduce what government is currently providing or we need to find ways to pay for those services.

In order to have a balanced budget we should (**Please prioritize 1st, 2nd, 3rd**)

_____ a) Reduce all government services by the same percentage

_____ b) Reduce some government services and **not reduce** the following areas:

- _____ Education - K-12
- _____ Higher Education - University System
- _____ Health Care
- _____ Human and Social Services
- _____ Other _____

_____ c) Reduce the cost of government by cutting the number of state workers

_____ d) Raise fees for services and increase fines and penalties

_____ e) Reform the tax system, reducing taxes for middle income (and spending) levels and raise taxes for higher income (and spending) levels

_____ f) Increase taxes to maintain current level of services

_____ g) Other _____

In particular, we could help balance our budget by _____

One component of the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 allows principals and school community councils more authority and control of spending at the schools through the **weighted student formula (WSF)**. In what direction do you think we are headed in regarding this matter?

_____ a) Right direction (more school-based decision making)

_____ b) Wrong direction

_____ c) No opinion

Recently, the Board of Education has voted that funding for **athletic directors salaries and pregnant teen/parenting programs** should be transferred to the weighted student formula for schools to prioritize. In what direction do you think we are headed in this issue?

_____ a) Right direction

_____ b) Wrong direction

_____ c) No opinion

In light of the budget restrictions mandated by the Governor; do you feel that **more companies, non-profits, and individuals will volunteer** to help educate our students and help our schools?

_____ a) Yes

_____ b) No

_____ c) I will be willing to help!

See my contact information: _____

District Survey (continued)

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

A bill that did not survive this past legislative session tried to restrict campaign signs to be no larger than 4 feet by 2 feet as long as the total area of all signs on any single residential or agricultural unit does not exceed 16 square feet. Do you support limiting campaign signs?

YES _____ NO _____

Comments: _____

SOURCE OF NEWS

By what means do you get a majority of your news?

Television _____ Newspaper _____ Internet _____ Other _____

Comments _____

CONTACT WITH OUR OFFICE & WEBSITE

If you have made contact with our office by phone, email, mail or walk in, what statement would you agree with most?

- a) I felt **satisfied** with the way your office handled my concern, issue or question.
- b) I felt **somewhat satisfied** with the way your office handled my concern, issue or question.
- c) I felt **dissatisfied** with the way your office handled my concern, issue or question.
- d) I have not made contact with your office.

Comments or suggestions on how we can improve: _____

Have you visited our website, www.normansakamoto.com? YES _____ NO _____

If so, please provide us with your thoughts and comments:
