



Pahoa Dagers Basketball Team

On February 25, 2015 I introduced and welcomed the Pahoa boys basketball team players and coaches to the house floor during our house session. Then I co-sponsored a lunch for the team and their families.



Highway 130

As promised, in a continuing effort to alleviate the 1-3 hour standstill traffic on Highway 130, the shoulder lane heading toward Pahoa from Keaau to Shower opened on February 27, 2015 from the hours of 3pm—6pm; Monday—Friday (except holidays) and the traffic driving into Hilo has an additional lane. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the June 27 lava flow being active it is unlikely the project of a 4-lane 130 highway with traffic lights and bike lanes from Keaau to Pahoa will not be scheduled in the near future.



My friend Frannie Pueo of PAWS and her friends came by to visit me.



Kokua for Puna

Thank you to Chef Lyndon Honda who single-handedly put together the Kokua for Puna in Hilo at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel on February 28, 2015, where the proceeds will benefit Pahoa and the Puna district business. Which are still recovering from Hurricane Iselle and have been affected by the June 27 lava flow.



Rene Siracusa

During the February 27, 2015 town hall meeting, it was my pleasure to honor Rene Siracusa with a certificate from the House of Representatives for all that she's done for the Puna community over the past 30 years.



Vocational Industrial Club of Hawaii

Joshua Doctor and Angel Lopez from the Vocational Industrial Club of Hawaii at Pahoa High School were on Oahu for the auto service competition with SKILLS USA.

This year was the first time in years that Pahoa High has a club. Advisors Albert Haa and Chris Midel hope to expand next year to include cabinetry and carpentry.

Kalani Honua

On February 25, 2015 LJ Bates, Director of Kalani Honua, Inc. came to the State Capitol to enlighten the Big Island delegates of their mission. Kalani is an educational non-profit organization with the largest retreat center in Hawaii. Proceeds from guest stays support education, recreation, and Hawaiian culture preservation in the most under-served corner of Hawai'i, the District of Puna. Kalani's retreat generates \$30million a year which 90% stays in the Puna district. Kalani has grown to become the largest provider of services in Puna – thanks to generous support from guests and donors.



Below is a list of bills in which I introduced or co-introduced that have passed the House and will be heard at the Senate:

HB1314 Emergency Home Relocation Special Fund; Appropriation. Establishes the emergency home relocation special fund to assist seniors and those who need to be on the other side of the lava flow should the lava cover HWY 130

HB737 HPIA; Mandatory Issuance of Policies; Removal of Moratorium. Lifts the HPIA moratorium and requires renewals of insurance for most policies. (HB380 & HB370 were combined)

HB1106 CIP; 4th Representative District. Highway 130 appropriation; \$15 million for an alternate highway 130.

HB1107 Bookmobile; Big Island; Educational Materials; Department of Education; Appropriation. Appropriates funds for the establishment and maintenance of a bookmobile that shall serve the rural areas of the island of Hawaii, including Puna.

HB1134 Judiciary; Third Circuit; Ho'okele; Appropriations. Appropriates moneys for equipment, supplies, and salaries for Ho'okele legal self-help service centers in Hilo and Kona.

HB376 Chief Election Officer; Elections Commission; Evaluation; Term Length. Requires the elections commission to conduct a performance evaluation of the chief election officer within 2 months of certifying election results, and hold a public hearing relating to the performance evaluation.

HB375 Attachment or Execution of Property; Exemptions. Updates the safety net of assets that debt collectors cannot touch such as 1 month of child support; 1 month of wages; 1 month of spousal support; 1 piece of property, unless there is a mortgage etc. so it allows people to start over in the event of bankruptcy.

HB851 Emergency Medical Services; Advanced Life Support Ambulance; Puna. Provides the funding to purchase and equip an ambulance for Puna.

Thank you Puna!

To those who attended my February 27, 2015 town hall meeting which was held at Pahoia Community Center I thank you for your continued support, comments, and feedback.

My staff and I will be sure to let you know of the next town hall meeting which will include the entire House of Representatives leadership including: Speaker Joe Souki, Vice-Speaker John Mizuno, Majority Leader Scott Saiki, Finance Chair Sylvia Luke

Together we **will** make a difference.



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CONTACT ME

For questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact my office at one of the following:

Phone: (808) 586-6530

Email: repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Regular mail:

Representative Joy San Buenaventura
415 South Beretania Street, Room 305
Honolulu, HI 96813

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