

Over \$56 Million in Funds for the 24th Senatorial District

As a graduate of Castle High School, improving Hawai'i public schools has always been a priority for Senator Tokuda. By improving the facilities at our public schools, Senator Tokuda strongly believes that we also improving the learning experience for our children.

This year's budget included over **\$3.5 million** for Repair and Maintenance Projects at:
BEN PARKER ELE; CASTLE HS; KANEOHE ELE; KAPUNAHALA ELE; PUOHALA ELE; AIKAHI ELE; ENCHANTED LAKE ELE; KAELEPULU ELE; KAILUA HS; KALAHEO HS; KEOLU ELE; MAUNAWILI ELE; MOKAPU ELE; AND OLOMANA SCHOOL.

Senator Tokuda also fought hard for the following Capitol Improvement Projects (CIP) in our community:

Windward Community College	
Library and Learning Resources Center	\$41,579,000
Kalaheo HS	
Football/Track Field and Spectator Seating	300,000
Castle HS	
Dining Room Expansion	3,100,000
Kapunahala School	
ADA Mechanical Lift in Bldg B	330,000
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities	
Lump-Sum CIP for Repairs, Improvements, and Safety Measures	800,000
Castle Hills Access Road	
Drainage Improvements	5,000,000
TOTAL	\$51,109,000.00

In addition to securing **\$920,000 for Kawai Nui Marsh**, Senator Tokuda also successfully pushed for a **\$675,000 grant-in-aid request for Hina Mauka's Teen Care program**. These funds will ensure continued drug intervention and counseling in ten schools in Windward O'ahu and across the state.

Senator Jill Tokuda
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Legislative News

DISTRICT 24 • KANEOHE • KAILUA • ENCHANTED LAKE

Dear Neighbor,

It has been an exciting and nonstop freshman year for me here at the State Legislature, and there is much to report on what we have been doing for the 24th senatorial district. In addition to over \$56 million brought into the district for various projects, our office has also been working hard to improve education, make our roadways safer, and protect our natural resources.



Focusing on issues that are important to our community, this past session I served as the Vice Chair for the Education and Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs Committees, and sat on the Ways & Means Committee.

I have recently been given leadership opportunities that will further enhance our district's presence at the legislature. I will be serving as Chair of the newly created Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, and have also been appointed as Co-Chair of the Joint Senate-House Investigative Committee on the Bureau of Conveyances. Trusted with safeguarding our claims to our most important assets, our property and land, our committee is working to identify and implement solutions to long standing problems at the bureau.

Each day, Darlene, Kamakana, and I work hard to help constituents like you with issues and concerns facing our community. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like us to assist you with a problem or would like to share a good idea that you would like to see implemented. You can reach us at 587-7215 or email me at sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo and Hope to See You in Your Neighborhood Soon!

Hawai'i State Senate: 2

In 2007, the Hawai'i State Senate took action on the issues most important to our community, passing bills that touch on the most important areas of our lives, from helping our families to protecting our environment, and from increasing access to quality health care to helping to address our state's housing crisis.

Our measure of success is in how we helped you, the communities that have entrusted the Senate with your well-being.

Families

Hawai'i's families have long been, and will continue to be, among our highest priorities. From keiki to kupuna, our families will find support and increased protection in the bills we passed this session.

Keiki

The health of our children must remain a top priority. The **Keiki Care bill, HB1008**, will ensure that every child in Hawai'i is covered by health insurance.

HB1830 creates a **Newborn Safe Haven** by providing immunity from prosecution for any person who leaves a newborn at a hospital, fire station



*Sen. Jill Tokuda met with Anders P. Nordberg, a 6th grader at Kainalu Elementary School, and his teacher Kathleen Saito at the 50th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair to discuss his project titled, *The Heat is On!**

or police station, or with emergency services personnel, within 72 hours of birth.

In addition, **HB55** establishes a statewide **youth suicide early intervention and prevention program** to help address a concern that claims the lives of more children and young adults each year than cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease combined.

Kupuna

Elderly pedestrians, age sixty-five and older, account for the highest number of pedestrian fatalities in Hawai'i when compared to all other age groups. The legislature sought to improve pedestrian safety by passing **SB1191**, which will **improve pedestrian safety** by providing funds to the Department of Transportation to work with nonprofit organizations and the counties to take steps for immediate action to make crosswalks and roadways safer.

Many Hawai'i families shoulder the responsibility of helping care for our elders. **SB1916 strengthens the support of family caregivers** by, among other things, extending the joint legislative committee on family caregiving, and providing additional funds to expand the services of the kupuna care program.

Community

Strengthening our community often means focusing our attention on those who need our help in overcoming adversity.

Families receiving low-income housing assistance will be able to move a step closer to the dream of home ownership with the help of **HB1007**, which exempts these families' **self-sufficiency escrow accounts** from asset tests used to determine eligibility for public benefit programs administered by the Department of Human Services.



Sen. Jill Tokuda surveys all of the locally-grown, healthy food choices that are available to Aikahi Elementary School's Aina in Schools Program.

As part of an effort to combat recidivism and reintegrate former criminal offenders into the community, **SB932** establishes a **community reentry program** to offer educational, treatment, and intervention services that are accessible during and immediately after their incarceration.

Health Care

Prescription drugs have become an increasingly important part of health care, especially among older adults. **HB1359**, known as the "Hawaii Prescription Drug Affordability Act of 2007," seeks to **reduce the cost of prescription drugs** for Hawai'i's uninsured, underinsured, low-income, elderly, and disabled residents.

The legislature has taken action to ensure that healthcare services remain available in our rural areas. **HB843** and **SB1260** allow the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation to acquire **Kahuku Hospital** on negotiated terms. To help alleviate physician shortages in rural and other medically underserved areas, **HB1477** creates a **Rural Primary Healthcare Training Program**, with the goal of meeting these communities' needs in a culturally sensitive and medically appropriate manner.

Tax Relief

Certain low-income residents, those who most need our support,

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will receive a **mandatory tax credit** up to \$160 under **SB148**, pursuant to the requirements of the Hawai'i State Constitution. Similarly, a graduated **food/excise tax credit** for low- to middle-income residents provided by **SB1882** will help to ensure that those with lower income will receive greater relief. New brackets and credit amounts more accurately reflect the current needs and incomes of those trying to pay for basic necessities.

Education

This session, the legislature approved nearly \$500 million to support education. Schools all over our state will benefit from an increase in funding for repair and maintenance and much needed electrical upgrades.

To help provide qualified teachers in hard-to-fill positions, **HB777** expands the **Hawai'i Educator Loan Program** to help support students and teachers who make a commitment to teaching in qualifying schools.

SB885 establishes the **Career and Technical Education Program** within the Department of Education, and establishes or expands numerous other programs in areas such as Agriculture Education; Excellence Through Sci-



On March 6th, Sen. Jill Tokuda presented the Kailua High School robotics Team with a certificate on the floor of the Hawaii State Senate for placing first overall at the 2007 Hawaii Underwater Robot Challenge.

ence and Technology; Robotics and Problem-Based, Applied Learning; and Business/Education Internship and Mentorship.

Housing

The homeless and affordable housing crises continue to be two of the State's most significant and challenging social problems. The **Omnibus Housing Bill, SB1917**, provides funding for **homeless shelters and transitional housing** programs and services.

In addition, the bill supports long-term solutions to our housing challenges by providing funding for a census, interviews, and homeless **best-practice solutions** for the Waianae Coast homeless population; requiring the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to create an **affordable housing inventory registry**; extending the sunset date for the **allocation of the conveyance tax** to the rental housing trust fund; providing funding for various **affordable and public housing programs**; and requiring counties to adopt rules to allow for the **construction of indigenous Hawaiian structures**.

Environment

We all share a responsibility to preserve our natural environment. **HB226** puts Hawai'i at the forefront of our nation in **reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses**, by establishing limits at or below emission levels in 1990, and creating a greenhouse gas emissions task force to prepare a work plan and regulatory scheme that will help us achieve these goals.

To help reduce our dependence on petroleum-based energy and the damage it can cause to our environment, **HB1003** establishes the **Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute** at the University of Hawai'i, and creates the Energy Development Special Fund for the development of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

The needs of our state are growing in complexity. The past session has allowed the Senate to touch upon many of these areas. Experience again showed that while our challenges may be many, the solutions can be as close as our commitment to listening to the voice of the people, and maintaining the legislature's focus on our common goals.



Sen Jill Tokuda collected donations for the Foodbank's Food Drive at Windward City Shopping Center.

Kawai Nui Marsh The Rebirth of an Ecological Treasure

On June 30, 2007, hundreds gathered at Kaha Park to celebrate the end of a 17 year dispute over Kawai Nui Marsh, and to offer blessings for its rebirth in the coming months and years.

Upon taking office, Senator Tokuda made it her top priority to seek a resolution to this long standing dispute. After meeting with all parties, they agreed with her approach to come together and work with a neutral third party negotiator to come to a resolution. After months of working with the parties and the negotiating team, Senator Tokuda was pleased to announce that the City and State signed an agreement over the marsh in early April.

"Thanks to Senator Tokuda, all parties felt comfortable coming together to focus on finding common ground for the good of our community. Her leadership and the good faith effort of all parties involved allowed us to succeed where we had previously failed," stated Mitch D'Olier, CEO of Kaneohe Ranch.

HB1899, HD2, SD2, CD1 codifies into law the agreement set forth by the city and the state and puts into place maintenance responsibilities and funding for the marsh and the levee system. As the conference chair for this bill, Senator Tokuda worked with the Representatives Ito and Chong on this bill and



Sen. Jill Tokuda and Rep. Pono Chong with community groups at the announcement of an agreement for the City to transfer the Kawai Nui Marsh to the State.

ensured that \$920,000 was included in the biennium budget as requested by DLNR.

Credit must be given to the countless community organizations that have kept the dream of Kawai Nui Marsh alive for over 30 years. Visionaries like Doc Burrows and the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation, Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi, the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Kailua Historical Society, Hawaii's Thousand Friends, the Hawaii Audubon Society, and the Windward

Ahapuaa have all worked to maintain the marsh in the absence of an agreement. It is thanks to their dedication and perseverance that we are at this point today.

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Given my interest in ensuring a sustainable future for our state, I was asked to serve on the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force. This has been an invaluable learning experience for me as we have traveled across the state, including 2 well attended meetings at Kailua HS, gathering community input and ideas.

As a former small business owner, I have also been involved in our Business Leadership Council, focusing on the important role our industries play in making sustainability work. Senator Tokuda will also be leading a session on sustainability at the National Council of State Legislature's Annual Meeting in Boston.

From education to resource management to sustainable food production and economic development, all issues relating to what Hawaii should look like in 2050 has been put on the table for discussion.

Moving forward, we need your active participation! Join us at the Hawaii Sustainability Summit on Saturday September 22, 2007 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to review and discuss our draft sustainability plan. Call our office for more information on this or upcoming community meetings being held. You can also visit us on the web at www.hawaii2050.org.

ACE INTERNSHIP

As a way to provide young leaders with valuable work experience and exposure to the legislative process, Senator Tokuda created a paid internship program in her office for Windward Oahu high school students.

"A Capitol Experience" or ACE internship gives students an opportunity to gain a first hand understanding of government and advocate on behalf of issues they care about--an opportunity Senator Tokuda had as a student intern in the legislature.

This year's interns were Beatrice "Tippe" Morlan, a senior at Castle High School and Sommerset Wong, a junior at Kamehameha Schools. Tippe focused on issues relating to education and worked on Senator Tokuda's Art Review (STAR) Program to feature work in the capitol created by Castle High School students. Sommerset focused on road safety and our Kapaa Quarry Road Safety Task Force Resolution (SCR155).

If you know a student that might be interested in applying for our 2008 ACE Internship, please contact our office at 587-7215.