



**KCC 2020 Strategic Plan** – Reps. Marumoto & Nishimoto, Sen. Ihara, Neighborhood Board No. 4 & 5 Chairs Tam and Narita are sponsoring two public information meetings on the Kapiolani Community College Strategic Plan for growth. Nearby residents in the vicinity of the campus were invited to attend.



**Robotics** – Hundreds of elementary and intermediate students congregated at Kalani Gym for the First LEGO League Robotics Tournament (Above). Kalani High hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VEX Robotics Pan-Pacific Championship with participation from four high schools from China and 3 mainland schools. Kalani High students did a great job representing East Honolulu.

**District News Items** – Over the opposition of some neighbors, the Doris Duke Foundation received a shoreline management permit to construct a two-story building on the site of a maintenance shed. \* A City Council bill to allow and regulate Bed & Breakfasts failed. \* Pahoehoe Avenue – Watch for roadwork by the City in the next few months. \* KBPA Holiday Parade Huge Success \* Mahalo to The Outdoor Circle for saving dozens of cypress trees in the parking lot of the Kahala Towers condominium. \* LEED home at 3927 Kahala Avenue for sale at \$6.7 M. Designed by architect Jeffrey Long, it is certified a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design structure. \* Congratulations to founding director, Loretta Yajima, a Waiālae Iki resident, on the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Children's Discovery Center. \* Kudos to Epiphany Episcopal Church on 19<sup>th</sup> & Harding as it observes its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. \* Mahalo to comedian Frank DeLima for entertaining folks at Kaimuki Regional Library.

## MARUMOTO ACTIVITIES

**Legacy Awards** – Congratulations to the 2009 Legacy awardees: Michael W. Perry & Larry Price, Ron Nagasawa, Gary Sprinkle & Pamela Young all received the News & Media Awards. Tom Moffatt was the recipient of the Mayor's Performing Arts Award and Al Masini was recognized with the Best of Show Award. The Songwriters' Award went to Norman Kaye and the Young Entrepreneurial Award went to Pali Juan Ka'aihue while the Loyal Garner Award was won by Teresa Bright. The Fashion & Design Award was garnered by Tori Richard, Ltd. Dorothy "Auntie Dottie" Thompson merited the Governor's Fine Arts Award, and, finally, the Philanthropic & Humanitarian Award went to Dr. John Henry Felix.

Marumoto spoke to students at the UH School of Public Administration along with legislators, Reps. Takumi, Chong and Sen. Sakamoto. At a recent meeting at Laguna Niguel, CA, she was elected Treasurer of Women in Government, a national organization of women legislators. She also addressed the residents of Kahala Nui regarding state finances.

**Signposts** – Aloha to beloved former Lili'uokalani School principal and A+ Coordinator at Liholiho School, Art Wong. Our sympathies to NB 2 member Charlie Palumbo on the tragic death of his father and brother when their plane crashed behind Maunalani Heights.

**Happy New Year!** – Although the Legislature will not observe its usual festive ceremonial opening in 2010, Rep. Marumoto will hold, at her expense, her traditional modest office reception. Neighborhood residents are invited to stop by on Wed., Jan. 20 between 11 am to 1 pm.

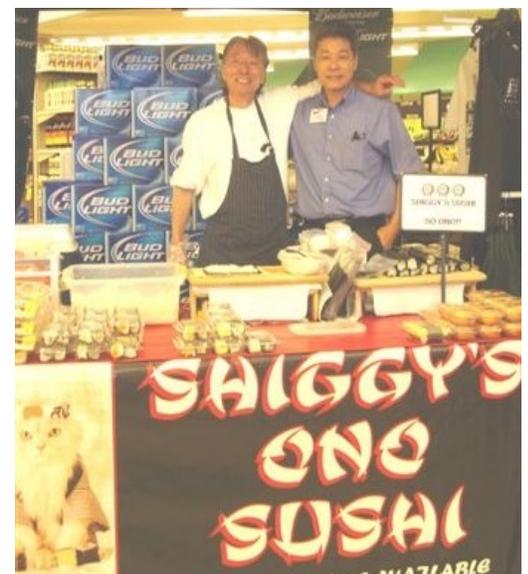


(Left) Legislators were invited to Pearl Harbor to learn about its excellent job training program. They also viewed Battleship Missouri in dry dock. (Right) On a site visit to Tesoro Refinery at Barbers Point, lawmakers received a briefing on its operations and renewable energy programs.

### **FACTS FROM THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER**

- Last year SATC helped 617 victims
- The youngest victim was 12 months & the oldest was 93
- 47% were below the age of 17
- 19% were below the age of 10
- 90% were female & 10% were male
- 90% of the time the victim knew the offender
- 57% of victims between the ages of 6 and 12 were assaulted over a period of 1 month to a year or more.

Times Market Kahala  
- Shiggy of Shiggy's  
Ono Sushi and General Manager Curtis.



Legislative Field Trip of Kahala – Dec. 11, 2009 – Blighted Properties

Rep. Barbara Marumoto

Since 2002 a billionaire has purchased 2 dozen Kahala Avenue Properties - He has purchased hundreds of residences in Kailua and Hawaii Kai. He now owns two dozen properties on Kahala Avenue, a well-traveled street used by tourists and residents alike. Neighbors were upset to see that walls fronting several homes were knocked down – sometimes without demolition permits. The rubble was then shoved into swimming pools leaving the wall remnants and re-bars visible to passersby. Perhaps because the Department of Health Environmental Division checked for stagnant water and vermin, the pools were eventually paved over.

Numerous City & County Violations - Wanting to help those in need, this billionaire invited Hawaiian families into three of his homes. These "lived-in" houses are fairly well-maintained. However, the other homes were left vacant and several attracted vagrants and vermin. Homeless people were apparently entering from the beach. One resident complained at a Neighborhood Board #3 meeting that vagrants were belligerent and refused to leave. We have anecdotal information that drug paraphernalia has been found in a few homes.

Electricity and water were turned off. Yards became overgrown, and ponds filled with stagnant water. The City & County issued several citations. The notice of violations (NOV) were for deteriorating structures, grubbing and grading without permits, seawall construction without permits, intrusion into the shoreline setback area, cylindrical footings exposed without a variance in the shoreline setback area, pools not properly enclosed, wall rubble, trash accumulation, and overgrown weeds.

This gentleman has amassed at least 53 violations in the past four years in Kahala alone of which perhaps 44 have been addressed. The City is currently in the process of placing liens on two lots. One fine now stands at \$3,000. He has a history of obtaining permits after-the-fact for demolition of walls and houses. The permit to demolish the \$12 million Hemmeter property came two days afterwards.

DLNR Action - The DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands also written to this owner about overgrown vegetation on the beachside. OCCL asked that he trim vegetation that was growing below the shoreline that was blocking beach access.

Demolition Perhaps Preferable? - Neighbors were complaining loudly to the Kahala Community Association, the Neighborhood Board and to City and State elected officials about deteriorating homes, but it has gotten to the point where some residents now prefer to see vacant homes demolished rather than watch them deteriorate and become hazards. All this unfavorable publicity and pressure and possible liability may have prompted this man to cut down waist high weeds and demolish some houses.

State Legislation - In the 2008 session Rep. Marumoto introduced HB 16, Relating to Nuisance, which would make a blighted property a *misdemeanor*. Precedent came from a California town where this same person owned many rundown properties. The measure passed out of the House Water, Land Use Committee and now resides in Judiciary. This bill is alive for the 2010 session.

Marumoto also introduced HR 166/HCR 204-08 *asking the City & County to assess higher fines* for an owner who runs up an egregious number of violations in one neighborhood in a short period of time. Higher fines could be a greater deterrent. These resolutions will be re-introduced in 2010.

In 2010 Rep. Marumoto will introduce a bill to allow an aggrieved person to sue an owner who accumulates 3 or more violations. It is necessary to keep the pressure on those who seem to have little regard for their neighbors. The Kahala Community requests a remedy to this very unusual situation.