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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

April-May 2008

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (as of Apr.15th)

After a contentious 6th Reading vote on April 8, the Legislature goes into the "conference committee mode" until the May 1 adjournment. No more hearings with public input, but many private meetings and House/Senate conference committees where conferees are handpicked and not allowed to talk without the permission of the chair.

Controversial and interesting bills include:

- An "unethical" ethics bill that would prevent a Kona representative from working at his state job as an emergency room doctor and others who work as consultants or part time in various departments. Dr. Josh Green, Health Chair, claims that he is being punished for pursuing tort reform.
- The Governor vetoed the "card check" bill that allows unions to get a majority of workers to sign up for union representation. Workers on farms, small businesses and small non-profits could be coerced into signing since there is no secret ballot. The Democrats may override this bill.
- Styrofoam food containers and plastic bags will not be banned this year.
- An e-waste program for electronic devices is being considered.
- A mandate to install solar panels on all new houses sounds good but presents problems.
- Many "smart growth" bills to encourage commercial development, tax breaks and higher density at rail stations are advancing.
- One bill calls for a 2050 Sustainability Task Force.
- Ignition interlock systems for persons convicted of DUI is still on the agenda.
- A reduction of the E911 fee on cellular phones.
- A 5year moratorium on some varieties of taro was recommitted at the request of environmentalists.
- For local airlines, a loan guarantee program and regulation are possibilities.
- A "streamline sales tax" bill on internet sales is still alive.
- The constitutional rebate issued after the state realizes two years of revenues with over 5% increases now stands at only \$1.00/person.



Legislators were invited on a two-hour re-fueling flight with the Hawaii Air National Guard on a K135 tanker

Constitutional amendments that are likely to pass and placed on the November ballot include:

- Raising the retirement age of new judges from 70 to 80 years.
- Lowering the age of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor from 30 to 25 years.

Everyone is concerned about the tight budget so the outcome of Governor Lingle's tax relief package looks bleak. She is opposing measures that reduce gubernatorial powers in appointing boards and commissions as well as declaring certain types of emergencies.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Incredibly Shrinking Kahala Beach – Mahalo to the Office of State Planning in the DBED&T for convening a second meeting of state and city departmental officials, Kahala neighbors, Neighborhood Board officials and district elected officials to devise a plan to clear the beach of encroaching vegetation. The DLNR Office of Coastal Management plans to send out letters to land owners who are encouraging the growth of plants toward the ocean. Then Neighborhood Board No. 3 will be asked to invite Kahala Avenue residents to attend a meeting to discuss the letter. Rep. Marumoto expects many of the landowners should be happy to comply with the DLNR request. Meanwhile, Rep. M's concurrent resolution is advancing and, if passed, will give the neighborhood process greater authority. If successful, it can provide a roadmap for other beach communities.

SCHOOLS



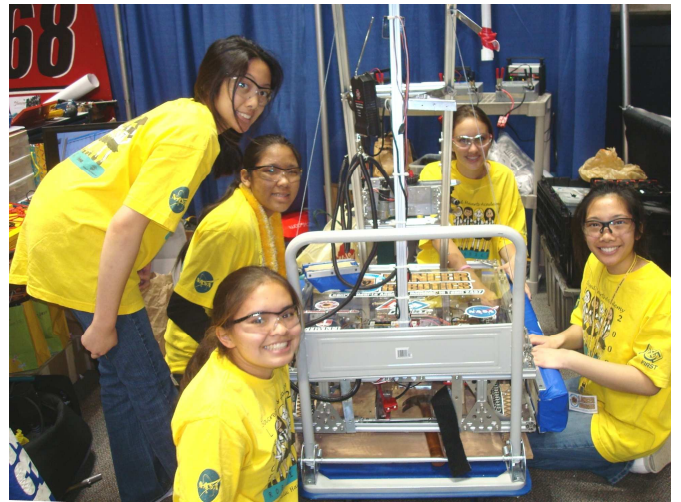
Kaimuki Christian School Mrs. Sachs 5th graders spent a morning at the Capitol visiting hearing rooms, the Governor's Office, the House Chambers, and Rep. Marumoto's office.

Rep. Marumoto participated in the Barnes & Noble Book Fair to purchase designated books for Lili'uokalani School.

Forty school ensembles participated in the Parade of Orchestras. Among them were Kaimuki Middle

Concert Orchestra, Beginning Strings and Advanced Strings, and the Kalani High String Orchestra.

Robot Races at Stan Sheriff Stadium – The competition sponsored by FIRST/ NASA resulted in exciting time for several mainland and local high schools.



Sacred Hearts award winning robotics team in their "pit" ready to compete!

McKinley, Waiakea, Waialua, Punahou and an all-girl Sacred Hearts Academy team will go on to compete in the national FIRST/NASA Robotics tournament on the mainland. Mahalo to the engineers who volunteer their time coaching the students and to the corporations that underwrite tournament activities.

Rep. Marumoto joined the Kalani High table at the annual OIA fundraising banquet.

Neighbors in the News - Kahala Shell featured in Honolulu Magazine - According to Bill Green, the Kahala Station relies on four revenue streams for profitability: a car wash, a quick lube, a convenience store and a propane refilling pump. Gasoline provides but a razor-thin margin.

Keanu Street resident Leonard Tam was nominated for the Jefferson Award that recognizes outstanding and unsung community volunteers. Mahalo to Brad Coates and friends who fundraise for Make a Wish Foundation by hosting the annual Aprils Foolish event at Aloha Tower.

MARUMOTO ACTIVITIES



Rep.'s Marumoto, Ching and Thielen participated in the annual Easter Basket drive for the IHS shelter for Women & Children. Legislators collect toiletries, food, cleaning and baby supplies.

Marumoto attended the Mayor's community meeting at Kalani High when he announced curbside recycling beginning for all of East Honolulu in Nov. 2008. Each home will be given one green and one blue bin in addition to the gray one.

Green bin for green waste:
grass, tree & hedge trimmings.

Blue bin for mixed recyclables:
newspaper, glass, plastic #1 & #2,
aluminum, corrugated cardboard.

The gray bins are for all other refuse and will be picked up once a week.

The blue & green bins will be picked up every other week on our 2nd refuse day alternating between blue one week & green the next week.



The Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross recently held a blessing for its renovated headquarters on Diamond Head Road. Attending were Stan Fichtman and Kelley Roberson of Neighborhood Board No.3, Tercia Freas, former Red Cross Board member, Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO of the Red Cross and Ray Vara, current board member.



Indru Watamull was recently honored by the Commission on the Status of Women at a Washington Place reception