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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

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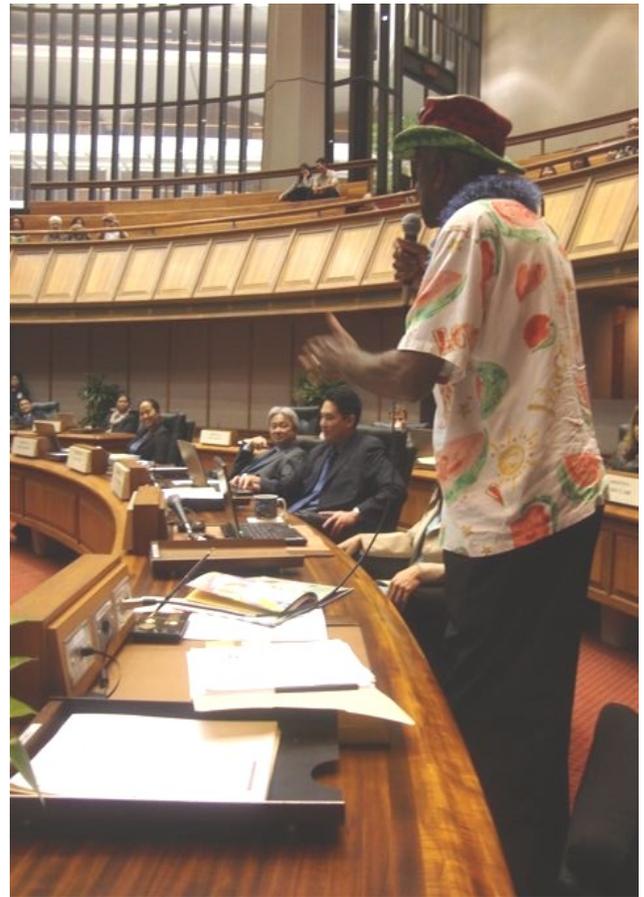
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Legislative Update – Core Issues & Distractions (as of April 15)

Pending Bills –Balancing the Budget - A Core Issue - The Finance and Ways & Means Committees are wrestling with the budget. While the good news is that it appears that the 4.5% general excise tax (GET) will not be raised, the committees are looking at a myriad of other tax increases. For instance, the tax on a barrel of oil will go from 5 cent/bbl. to \$1.05 and income tax deductions may be capped! The money chairs are also deciding which funds to raid, which benefits to "take-away", which programs to cut, what expenses can be deferred, and what tax credits to reduce. The school furlough issue will also determine what programs can or cannot be funded.

Cockfighting a Distraction? – Some have claimed that "supporting cockfighting as a cultural activity", or prohibiting the taking of shark fins for food are distractions. Marumoto opposed the cockfighting resolution as well as a bill to establish comfort centers that provide medical marijuana on grounds that both marijuana and cockfighting are illegal on the federal and state level. She supported the shark fin bill. The Humane Society and hundreds of concerned citizens emailed testimony on these bills so obviously these issues were very important to them.

Other bills that generated considerable testimony that appear to be dead include: the proposed 1% tax on condo maintenance fees, banning fireworks, legalizing gambling and formalizing civil unions, Other bills that have generated a lot of mail that are still alive include: raiding the Tobacco Settlement Fund and the Rainy Day Fund and the Hurricane Relief Fund and county hotel room tax, reducing high tech tax credits, establishing a clean energy bond loan program to help residents purchase renewable energy systems, a ban on the sale of shark fins, establishing penalties or shark feeding and allowing county fireworks restrictions.



Wally "Famous" Amos read a story to the Representatives to promote literacy



Legislators provide needed items for the homeless shelters and the residents, mostly in colorful Easter baskets. Do you recognize the toilet paper Capitol constructed by Rep. Marumoto?

House Republicans presented a budget and 6-year financial plan that doesn't require raising any taxes. It includes House or Senate budget bill program cuts and well as some money-saving ideas, revenue raising ideas as well as new cuts. For instance, privatizing state hospitals, selling surplus state land, and folding up duplicative agencies. The best thing about the proposal is that it sets aside \$92 million to eliminate school furloughs.

A Few Points From the Republican Budget Proposal by Rep. Gene Ward

1. We believe we have the best plan to end furloughs without raising taxes. It provides the Governor with up to \$92 million to end furloughs.
2. We also believe this budget preserves jobs by not increasing taxes on our small businesses and forcing more lay-offs in the private sector (with already over 43,000 jobs lost).
3. The budget is very socially conscious and provides a fiscally sustainable safety net for Hawaii's most vulnerable.
4. This budget returns funds to the Kupuna Care Program and raises funds by selling just 3 non-ceded land State owned properties.
5. The budget does not increase DOE class size as proposed by the House budget and restores funds to our public libraries, and does not cut school bus transportation funds.
6. The budget funds the end of furlough Fridays by borrowing – not raiding – the Hurricane Relief Fund.
7. It decreases the size of the state government's payroll by implementing an "Early Retirement Incentive Program."
8. It increases the efficiency of the State owned hospitals by putting them under new management and eliminating the yearly subsidies.
9. Avoids lay offs of Dept. of Human Services eligibility workers due to the EPOD automation plan.
10. The budget restores the TAT funds to the Counties with a small 20% cut.
11. The budget also restores the 38 agriculture (vs. Senate budget's 22) inspectors who are fighting invasive species.
12. The budget is built on the best of the Governor's, House's, and Senate's budgets and uses the latest Council on Revenues March projections. We used a "laser" rather than a "surgical" budgeting approach used by other budgets.
13. That is, not just surgical-but laser-guided cuts were made, and for the first time in history of state budget discussions- interactive excel sheets were developed with the option of choosing revenues and expenditures. Open and transparent budget choices are now available to legislators as well as the public.
14. As the budget suggests, the key to making this budget succeed is making Hawaii's economy strong and keeping people in their jobs in the private sector where 75% of Hawaii works. Small businesses simply can't remain healthy with increased unemployment taxes and the other 15 Job Killers now moving through the Legislature. As of April 12, 2010 over \$270 million in increased taxes, mostly on small businesses, have been passed by House-Senate Conference Committees.
15. When Republicans vote "no" on tax issues, we're always asked for alternatives...this budget represents that alternative and represents 100's of staff hours sifting through data and crunching numbers.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Diamond Head Monument - Concerts in the Crater – the Board of Land & Natural Resources OK'd two concerts/year for 2011 and 2012 in Diamond Head Monument. Several Diamond Head Advisory Committee members opposed large commercial activities in the Monument. The promoter is again promising to pay \$50,000, but the money never materialized after the last event.

Monument Improvements - The DLNR will construct the Linear Park walkway along Diamond Head Road from the Cannon Club entrance just past 18th Avenue. The walkway will proceed up to the Crater entrance. Also moving ahead, the Summit Loop Trail, and the National Guard will be undertaking some electrical upgrades.

KCC Chapel – Starting up: a Friends of the Chapel group to support the renovation and maintenance of this 1925 structure. A Marumoto intern, KCC student Aaron Cornelison is spearheading a campus movement to educate students and garner support for the Chapel. Marumoto & district legislators are working to obtain \$575,000 CIP funds through HB 2200, the state budget bill.

Historic Hawaii Foundation in the Neighborhood
If you are interested in the history and cultural significance of the Kaimuki area, join the Historic Hawaii group that is considering an inventory of interesting homes and landmarks.

Education – Frank Haas New KCC Dean – Formerly the Assistant Dean at the UH School of Travel Industry Management, noted tourism expert Frank Haas has been named Dean of Hospitality, Business & Legal Education at KCC . Frank also served as Vice President of Tourism Marketing for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.



Kalani Students Jocelyn Ng and Jill Fukumoto and other students performed slam poetry at the Capitol. They were recognized for Youth Speaks Hawaii winning the Brave New Voices spoken word poetry competition in 2008 and 2009.

MARUMOTO ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lawrence Tseu of Maunalani Heights was installed as a Chancellor and honored for endowing Oxford College with a building named after him and his late wife who was an alumna. Congratulations for Waialae Iki residents Sid and Diana Snyder on their 50th Anniversary. Kahala Towers resident Howard Okada has relocated to Hawaii Kai Retirement Community. Our Aloha and condolences to the family of Kahala Nui resident Man Kwong Au who passed away recently.

Chief Justice Moon, a Waialae Iki resident, may have the new Kapolei Judiciary Building named after him. The Legislature passed a concurrent resolution asking that it be named the Ronald T.Y.

Moon Judicial Complex. Former Congressman Pat Saiki, who lives in Kahala, will be honored by the UH Alumni Association as a Distinguished Alumni. The May 11 event at the Sheraton also recognizes Wesley Fong, David Lassner, Ashok Kumar Malhotra and Waialae Nui Ridge resident Dr. Virginia Pressler, head of Hawaii Pacific Health.



Rep. Marumoto with Daniel Kaleikini. He helped raise money for the Boys and Girls club with a putting contest in the Capitol rotunda.