



BARBARA MARUMOTO

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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

January - February 2009



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT! RECYCLE AT KALANI HIGH ON JAN. 24th

Support Kalani High by bringing your recyclable junk – athletic shoes, metal, computers, cartridges, telephone books, etc. - to campus on Sat. Jan. 24. See back page.

Legislature Opens Jan. 21 – You are invited to Rep. Marumoto's Capitol office - Room 304 - at noon for light refreshments. After the opening ceremonies at 10 am, legislators hold an open house in their offices - your chance to buttonhole House and Senate leaders.

No Games or Texting While Driving! – Rep. Marumoto wants to prohibit games, texting, and emailing while driving - too dangerous. It will be part of her Omnibus Traffic Safety Bill. The measure will also require people to wear helmets when riding two - wheeled and all terrain vehicles (ATVs), and prevent minors from riding on ATVs. Other provisions would institute restrictions on cell phone use and prohibit passengers - of all ages - in pick-up truck beds.



The Hawaii Association of Realtors briefed legislators on the outlook for the housing market in Hawaii.



Governor Lingle Driving Energy Self-Sufficiency – State-wide Energy Fill-up Stations and Electric Cars are leading the renewable energy parade this session. Because of her concern about Hawaii's vulnerable location, Gov. Lingle is the Grand Marshal. Although legislators have been discussing self-sufficiency for years, the recent high gas prices have brought urgency to Hawaii. Also expected to be marching forward, ocean wave energy and wind energy from Lanai via an underwater cable, cooling using undersea cold water, and more locally-produced ethanol and biodiesel. Self-sufficiency through locally-grown food will be the mantra for the agriculture industry, and sustainability will continue to have urgency.

Owners Must Maintain Properties – At the suggestion of Rich Turbin, Rep. Marumoto has requested the Legislative Reference Bureau to find an ordinance that would require owners to maintain their properties. Turbin indicated that Sacramento California might have enacted such legislation. This type of bill could deter homeowners who allow their yards to become overgrown, allow vacant homes to be invaded by transient persons and vermin. Kahala has several such vacant homes.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Support Hawaii's Businesses - Gov. Lingle was at the KCC Farmers Market to promote the Farm Bureau "Eat Local" campaign. Department of Agriculture Chair Sandra Kunimoto and Farm Bureau president Dean Okimoto were on hand for the occasion. Chef Ed Kenney of Town Restaurant on Waialae/9th Avenue demonstrated the benefits of locally-produced eggs and showed how to cook a local favorite – Loco Moco.



Kahala Realtor Mary Worrall Honored

The Girl Scouts recognized the achievements of several island businesswomen. Among them were Mary Worrall of Mary Worrall Associates Sotheby's International Realty, Kalani High graduate Anne Namba, and Maui Chef Bev Gannon. Go Girls!

Hold On To Your Hats: Small Schools May Close!

Schools Superintendent Pat Hamamoto informed district legislators that, in view of impending budget cuts, the DOE will perform a school consolidation study. Lili'uokalani is always considered as a candidate for closure, but Rep. Marumoto was surprised to learn that Wilson, Kahala, Waialae and Liholiho will also be scrutinized. Wilson is at capacity so Rep. Marumoto doubts that it will be closed. Waialae is a charter school so students should have an option whether or not to attend that school. During the '08 session a school consolidation study bill passed the Legislature with Marumoto voting no. The Governor vetoed the measure so it was not enacted. This new consolidation study is being pursued administratively.

Hazardous Walkway at Kahala School To Be Fixed - Thank you to Rep. Marumoto who helped unblock a bureaucratic procurement issue to get the beams above the School Office entrance repaired. The DOE was slow to implement a new Electronic Procurement System so R & M projects between \$50 – 150,000 were stalled. The representative cited health and safety reasons to obtain an exemption.

In order to keep 6 part time teachers, Kahala PTA will hold a Run 4 Funz event on Feb. 4 from. For information, contact Charlene Martinez at Charlene.Martinez.ra@gmail.com or 368-2393.

There's a Hole in the Wall! – Rep. Marumoto has asked the Department of Transportation to repair the lava rock wall that borders the H-1 Kahala off-ramp at 19th Avenue. “It’s not the first time drivers have ‘hit the wall’ at this location, she said.

Kaimuki Middle School Gets a Blue Ribbon - For achieving substantial gains in math and reading test scores, Kaimuki Middle was awarded \$3000 and prestigious 2009 Hawaii Blue Ribbon recognition. Congratulations to students, faculty and long time principal Frank Fernandez.

MARUMOTO ACTIVITIES



Rep. Marumoto’s elves included grandkids Nick, who attends Kahala Elementary, Haumea, 2, Makua and Samantha Marumoto of Punahou.

Mahalo for realtor Jackie Jones for hosting the sustaining members of the Junior League of Honolulu to her Waialae Iki V home for a holiday gathering.

SIGNPOSTS -

A doyenne of Kahala, the lovely Cecily Johnston, passed away recently. Our deepest sympathies go to her family. Cecily was supportive of many organizations such as the Hawaii Opera Theatre, Pacific Forum, Pacific and Asian Affairs Council. She will be missed.

Chaminade University mourns the loss of President Sue Wesselkamper who, during her 13 year tenure, led the University from the brink of closure to academic and financial success.

Mahalo to Bill Green for driving his '67 vintage Mustang in the Kaimuki Santa Parade. Congratulation to the KPBA for another successful event for the community. Legislators were invited to the annual HCVB luncheon meeting where Hawaiian Air president exhorted attendees to be creative in their marketing efforts.

Grand Marshalls for the Kaimuki Parade - Ginny Meade and Leonard Tam led the annual Holiday Parade in December. They have both been dedicated volunteer leaders in the community.



Rep. Marumoto was happy to attend the Safeway Kapahulu presentation to the Hawaii Food Bank.

