



Aloha,

Next week, Congress will continue working on the budget for the 2012 fiscal year. Our constituents have made it clear – their number one priority is job creation. Jobs represent stability and security. Jobs build public confidence. We need to put teachers and first responders back to work, while giving employers tax credits for hiring veterans. Cutting payroll taxes for small businesses will encourage employers to hire more employees, and payroll tax cuts for workers will put more money into their families' pockets.

We all agree that government needs to control its spending, but investing in our nation's infrastructure, education, and technology sectors are vital to our economic growth.

There is no such thing as a quick fix when dealing with our economic recovery. Every step we take needs to be in the best interest of the United States. Democrats and Republicans have to work together to pass a budget that reflects our country's values and one that is focused on putting Americans back to work.

Watch my floor speech:





NEW DEFENSE BUSINESS PANEL

Earlier this month, the House Armed Services Committee appointed me to the newly formed *Panel on Business Challenges within the Defense Industry*. The defense industry is a vital component to Hawaii's economy. This seven-member panel will focus on ways to streamline defense contracting, and concentrate on what can be done to make small businesses more successful at bidding for competitive contracts. We will also examine ways to spur innovation, competition, and cost savings by fostering new technology and encouraging new companies to enter the industry.

The panel is holding a series of eight hearings through the end of the year in order to provide recommendations to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. I am very pleased to be part of this panel.

Click [here](#) for video of our first hearing.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Americans came together this month to honor those who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks.

Ten years ago, we as Americans were changed forever. Nearly 3,000 lives were taken, families were torn apart, buildings crumbled to the ground, and those devastating images have been permanently seared in our minds. The terrorists believed their actions would weaken our spirit and break us down, but in tragedy – we found unity. We witnessed true bravery in our firefighters, law enforcement, and first responders who ran towards danger to save others. We witnessed courage in everyday people, especially the passengers onboard United 93 who fought back against their hijackers in order to prevent another deadly attack. And we witnessed boundless valor in our men and women in uniform who have fought, and continue to fight, to protect our freedoms.

We must never forget what happened on that fateful day – and always remember the countless examples of heroism and fortitude that make the United States the greatest country in the world.

THE END OF “DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL”

September 20, 2011 marked the official end of the unfortunate “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy.

I believe any American who has the drive and dedication to serve our country deserves that opportunity, regardless of their sexual orientation. Thousands of talented men and women were forced out of the Armed Services at a time when we needed them most, and an unknown number of others had to hide who they are to avoid punishment.

As we move forward, we cannot let the fears and prejudices of people distract us from being the great nation we are.

FIGHTING FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

On September 15th, I spoke on the House floor against H.R. 2587, which I dubbed the “Death of Workers Rights Act.” The bill strips the National Labor Relations Board of their enforcement power and would essentially allow employers to punish their employees for exercising their right to organize. As a former labor attorney, I have fought for the rights and benefits of union members and have witnessed how the labor movement has helped local

families. I will continue to stand up against any attacks on workers' rights.

Watch my floor speech:



Mahalo,

Colleen Hanabusa

Visit our website at hanabusa.house.gov



Office of Representative Colleen Hanabusa
238 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2726

Honolulu Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 4-104
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 541-2570

To unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, please send a reply message with the word "unsubscribe."