



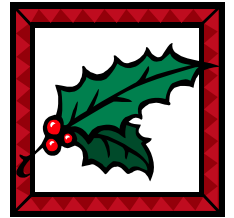
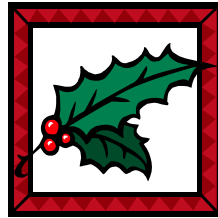
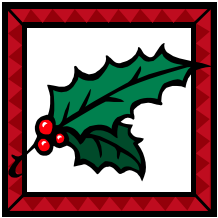
SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

• Salt Lake • Foster Village • Halawa • Kalihi • Moanalua • Aiea • Mapunapuna
Hickam • Aliamanu • Pearl Harbor • Pearl Ridge

December 2006

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May the spirit of the season be with you today and throughout the new year. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God Bless you all.



Make A Difference!

Castle & Cooke Hawaii's inaugural "Make a Difference" poster contest, launched in cooperation with the Department of Education culminated with a ceremony and luncheon for the award winners at the State Capitol on November 27.

Over 51 public schools on Oahu submitted 5,394 student posters. The student messages of how they make a difference in their communities and their focus on civic responsibility through visual art was quite impressive. Congratulations to the students, parents, teachers and schools!

In The Community



Groundbreaking ceremony at Frear Hall (dormitories) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus



"Voices in the Park" Community Strengthening Event for the Makalapa area

**Schedule of
Community Meetings
December & January 2006
Neighborhood Board Meetings**

Aiea NB No. 20

December – RECESS

Monday, January 8, 7:30 PM

Aiea Library Conference Room

Aliamanu/ Salt Lake/ Foster Village NB No. 18

December – RECESS

Thursday, January 11, 7:00 PM

Aliamanu Middle School Cafeteria

Kalihi-Palama NB No.15

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 PM

Kapalama Elem. School Cafeteria

Community Associations

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 PM

Moanalua Middle, Room B1

Kalihi-Palama Community Council

Monday, December 4, 7:00 PM

Monday, January 8, 7:00 PM

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Mark Your Calendars!

**2007 Opening Day of the Hawaii State
Legislature**

The New Year is quickly approaching and with it the 2007 legislative session. Opening Day ceremonies will be held on:

WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2007

The floor session will commence at 10 AM with Legislators receptions beginning at approximately 12:00 PM. Please stop by and say hello as our work gets underway for the new legislative session.

Worker's Compensation Costs Drop

On October 27, the Honolulu Advertiser reported that over the past four years Hawaii has dropped from third highest in the nation in workers' compensation cost to fifteenth place.

This is good news, not just for Hawaii's employers, but for the rest of Hawaii as well. The high cost of workers' compensation premium has been a burden on employers who have had to deal with the high cost of doing business in Hawaii. The lowering of workers' compensation premiums means that many Hawaii businesses will be able to use their money for other productive purposes. Reducing the cost of doing business in Hawaii, even a little bit, will go a long way to strengthening Hawaii's economic recovery.

The drop in workers' compensation costs can be attributed a number of factors: fewer injuries filed, lower premiums charged by Hawaii's largest workers' compensation carrier HEMIC (Hawaii Employer Mutual Insurance Company), and improved administrative process initiated by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. In the mid 1990s, workers' compensation costs were a major problem, now thanks to the various parties working together; Hawaii is a better place for doing business.

More issue briefs and commentary by Senator Sakamoto are available on our website

www.normansakamoto.com

Thoughts, Issues, Concerns?
Send Senator Sakamoto an email
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Senator 15th District

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