



# SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

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

March 2006

## Legislative Update

At this point, the Committee on Education & Military Affairs has heard over 100 bills. This update is to familiarize you with a number of the important issues that have moved forward from our committee.

One of our priorities is to support our schools and students by increasing the amount of funds to be allocated by the Weighted Student Formula (**SB 3195**). Another measure, **SB 3102**, strives to lower the student to teacher ratio and provide funds to hire an additional 400 teachers to reach this desired ratio.

### Students

- **Model Statewide Curriculum** (SB 3059) requires the DOE to establish a model curriculum for each grade level.
- **High School Construction Academy** (SB 2980) appropriates money to increase the number of public high schools participating in the Construction Academy training program.

### Administration

- **Information Technology** (SB 3093) provides funds for the expansion of information technology in the DOE.
- **Athletic Health Care Trainers** (SB 2072) appropriates money for additional permanent athletic health care trainer positions in the public schools.
- **Assistant Athletic Director/Coaches** (SB 2071) provides funds to pay stipends for assistant athletic directors and coaches of DOE activities.

### Parent / Community

- **School Community Councils** (SB 2884) provides money for training programs and other support activities.
- **Special Needs Students** (SB 2733) places the burden of proof on the DOE in the initial challenge to the student's individualized education program.

### Learning

- **Early Learning Authority** (SB 3101) creates an early learning authority within the DOE.

### Teachers

- **Teachers' Omnibus Bill** (SB 3194) establishes salary increases for teachers and a comprehensive evaluation process for teachers.
- **Substitute Teachers** (SB 3197) establishes that substitute teacher salary shall be tied to the salary of wage increases provided to class II teachers.
- **Hiring Retired Administrators and Teachers** (SB 2705) allows the DOE to hire administrators and teachers on a full-time basis in areas suffering a teacher shortage.

### Facilities / Repair & Maintenance

- **Fix Hawaii's Schools Act** (SB 2956) creates new school construction special fund and makes appropriations for DOE operations, repair, and maintenance.
- **Retrofit Schools for Emergency Shelters** (SB 2955) authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the retrofitting of public schools so they can be used as emergency shelters.
- **State Educational Facilities Improvement Fund** (SB 2836) increases the amount of money deposited for this fund.

### Military

- **Veterans' Newsletters** (SB 2886) appropriates money for a veterans' newsletter to inform returning veterans of benefit changes and availability of supportive services.
- **High School Diplomas for Veterans** (SB 2886) requires the DOE to issue high school diplomas to veterans drafted during WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and others whose schooling was disrupted by war.
- **National Guard Vehicular Tax Exemption** (SB 2650) exempts members of the National Guard and reserves from county vehicular taxes and fees for noncommercial motor vehicles.

Please visit our website at  
[www.normansakamoto.com](http://www.normansakamoto.com)

**Schedule of Community Meetings**  
**March & April 2006**  
**Neighborhood Board Meetings**

**Aiea NB No. 20**

Monday, March 13, 7:30 PM  
 Monday, April 10, 7:30PM  
 Aiea Library Conference Room

**Aliamanu/ Salt Lake/ Foster Village NB No. 18**

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 PM  
 Thursday, April 13, 7:00 PM  
 Aliamanu Middle School Cafeteria

**Kalihi-Palama NB No.15**

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 PM  
 Kapalama Elem. School Cafeteria

**Community Associations**

**Moanalua Gardens Community Association**

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 PM  
 Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 PM  
 Moanalua Middle, Room B1

**Town Hall Meeting**

Sponsored by Senator Norman Sakamoto &  
 Representative Glenn Wakai  
 Monday, March 6, 6:30 PM  
 Salt Lake Elementary Cafeteria

**Aiea-Pearl City Town Hall Meeting**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 PM  
 Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria

**EDUCATION**

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 PM  
 Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria

**Kamehameha Highway Task Force Meeting**

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 PM  
 Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria

# School Highlights

**5.1 Million** have been released for **Aliamanu Elementary renovations**. Work is expected to begin early this spring.

**Moanalua High** was selected by Hawaii Student Television to assist in a joint project with the National Academy of Television, to promote the National Student Television Awards. Congratulations to video students **Gerald Rojo, Sean Galera** and video instructor, **Kelly Calistro**.

The video-production team from **Moanalua High** also attended the 2006 Student Television Network Affiliate Convention. Congratulations to:

1st Place: Television Graphics	<b>Chase Hamano</b>
3r Place: Collaborative Commercial	<b>Marisa Kiethanom</b>
Honorable Mention: Video Essay	<b>Gerald Rojo</b>

## Community News

- On March 11 at 10:00 AM the **Moanalua Gardens Foundation** will have their annual meeting at Moanalua Gardens. They will report on the current status of the gardens and discuss the future sale of the property by the Damon Estate, who owns the land.
- The state is planning to acquire 3,716 acres of **Moanalua Valley** in an effort to protect endangered species and plants. The property, currently owned by the Samuel Damon Estate, would include Moanalua Valley Park and up to the Koolau ridge line. The sale would not include Moanalua Gardens, also owned by the Damon Estate. If the state purchases this conservation land, it would make Moanalua Valley a part of the Honolulu Forest Reserve.
- The **Taxi System at the Honolulu International Airport** is comprised of two components an on-demand system and a pre-arranged system. If a passenger makes prior arrangements to be picked up, rather than simply asking the taxi dispatcher for a taxi that becomes a pre-arranged pick up. Pre-arrangement pickups do not come under the jurisdiction of the airport taxi management.
- **Puuloa Road Improvements Project Updates**  
 The Contractor is continuing work at the Salt Lake Boulevard/Puuloa Road intersection. Additional drainage is being installed and utility work (adjustment of existing gas and AT&T lines) is being performed.  
 Estimated completion date: May 24, 2007
- **Nimitz Highway repaving through Kalihi**  
 Work is completed except for some minor work.



Left: Senator Sakamoto and **Maria-Christina Hill**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Kaleiopuu Elementary.

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs  
 Senator 15<sup>th</sup> District

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