



SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

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

May 2006

EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Repair & Maintenance

Fix Hawaii's Schools (SB2956 SD2 HD2 CD1) provides **\$235 million** to renovate classrooms and help address the backlog of repair and maintenance projects at our public schools.

Learning

Early Childhood Education (SB3101 SD2 HD2 CD1) establishes and appropriates **\$1.5 million** for an early learning educational task force, opens up more Head Start preschools spots and expands the Families for R.E.A.L. parent-child educational program.

Teachers

Teacher Shortage (SB3195 SD2 HD2 CD1) appropriates **\$150,000** to the DOE to address the teacher shortage with increased teacher training and support to focus on high school students hoping to become teachers.

Vocational Education (SB 2887 SD1 HD1 CD1) directs the Hawaii Teachers Board to approve highly qualified vocational education and career pathway teachers upon the Superintendent's recommendation.

Students

Standards- Based Curriculum (SB3059 SD2 HD1 CD1) appropriates **\$2,008,000** for school complexes to purchase software to help teachers by targeting students individual weaknesses and helps school complexes develop coherent and aligned curriculum in each subject.

High Schools; DOE (SB 2980 SD2 HD1 CD1) appropriates funds to increase the number of public high schools participating in the Construction Academy training program, which allows high school students to take classes in various construction trades and earn credit towards an associate degree at an affiliated community college; makes appropriations to campuses.

\$5,402,182 appropriated in the State Budget.

School-Based Substance Abuse Program (SB 2505 SD2 HD1 CD1) appropriates **\$1,817,500** to extend substance abuse programs to middle and intermediate schools, giving priority to schools with the greatest need.

HB 1900 HD1 SD1 CD1: State Budget

More items will be featured in next month's newsletter and our Legislative Update.

- Weighted Student Formula (WSF) Implementation-
Increase funds to the DOE budget for the Weighted Student Formula - **\$20,000,000** to go directly to the schools.

**The Committee on Weights set a foundation amount for each school. The Legislature determined the \$20 Million would be immediately directed toward funding this foundation. High schools, middle/intermediate schools, elementary schools, as well as combination schools will receive a specific amount of funds ranging from \$126,580 for high schools to \$63,300 for elementary schools. When the \$20 Million is added to the 10% WSF transition funding, each school will receive an amount greater than previously allocated. Schools should continue to prioritize how best to utilize the fund.

Schedule of Community Meetings

May & June 2006

Neighborhood Board Meetings

Aiea NB No. 20

Monday, May 8, 7:30PM

Monday, June 12, 7:30PM

Aiea Library Conference Room

Aliamanu/ Salt Lake/ Foster Village NB No. 18

Thursday, May 11, 7:00PM

Thursday, June 8, 7:00PM

Aliamanu Middle School Cafeteria

Kalihi-Palama NB No.15

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 PM

Kapalama Elem. School Cafeteria

Community Associations

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 PM

Moanalua Middle, Room B1

Aiea-Pearl City Town Hall Meeting

MAYOR MUFI HANNEMANN

Monday, May 22, 7:00 PM

Pearl Ridge Elementary Cafeteria

Aloha Aina Earth Day

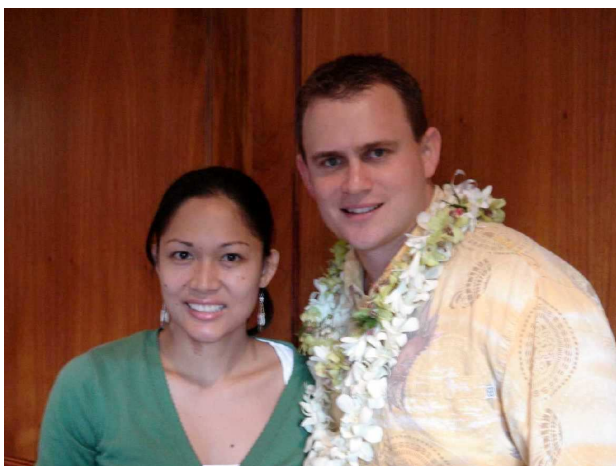
Moanalua-Salt Lake Clean Up

Moanalua High School Parking Lot

Saturday, June 3, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

For more information please call 586-6220 (Rep.

Wakai) or 586-8585 (Senator Sakamoto)



Community News & Legislative Highlights

- **Moanalua Valley Land Acquisition** –appropriates \$3 million for the conservation of 3,716 acres (from Moanalua Valley Park up to the Koolau ridgeline) to protect endangered species and plants. The acquisition of this property would make Moanalua Valley a part of the Honolulu Forest Reserve.
- **Moanalua Gardens (SCR 148)** – Urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with the Damon Estate Trustees, Moanalua Gardens Foundation, the Trust for Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to purchase Moanalua Gardens.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs Public Island Health Care System dedicated the **newly relocated Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome Residential Program at the Tripler Army Medical Center** located at 1 Jarrett White Road, 5C1 Wing, oceanside.

School News

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Many schools in Hawaii are faced with major challenges to build new or renovate existing school education facilities because of population growth, aging facilities, population displacement, funding constraints, and a large backlog of repair and maintenance projects. Our district is no exception. However, we are fortunate to obtain CIP appropriation for schools in the 15th Senatorial District and for some of the schools in the adjacent schools. Please be aware that while the Legislature provided funds for these projects, the projects are subject to release of funds and line item vetoes by the Governor, among other impediments. We will feature CIP items in the State Budget (HB 1900 SD1 HD1 CD1) in next month's newsletter.

Left: **Cherry Torres** (Office Manager, Senator Sakamoto) and **Chris Shinnick**, a youth pastor, at the Jefferson Awards Luncheon. Chris was nominated for his dedication to the students and members of the Moanalua Middle and Moanalua High School community. **Jefferson Awards** strives to recognize someone who has made a difference in the lives of others and their community.

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs
Senator 15th District

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