



Representative David Y. Ige • State Capitol • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**INSIDE OUT**

In stark contrast to its quiet opening, the 1992 Legislature closed with a flurry of activity and many accomplishments. Although there were many concerns about fiscal constraints, a number of important programs and services were given significant funding.

Most notable among this session's accomplishments was a bill to reform the public school system. Voters will have an opportunity during the 1992 primary election to determine whether Board of Education members are elected or appointed by the Governor. Other changes will see each individual school being more responsible for their own fiscal matters as well as managerial style.

This year's Legislature also dealt with the volatile issues of no-fault car insurance reform and a ban on assault pistols. Insurance holders will see a reduction in their premium soon and certain types of pistols will be banned from the State as soon as this summer.

This month, we provide a brief summary of these issues.

*David Y. Ige*

## Lower Car Insurance and School Reform Highlight Legislative Session

### No-Fault Insurance Reform

In response to the rising cost of auto insurance, the 1992 Legislature approved a sweeping reform package to reduce and stabilize insurance rates. The measures in this package reduce premiums, improve benefits and increase protection, provide additional safeguards, and attempt to reduce the number of uninsured motorists in the State.

The highlights of the package include placing an immediate freeze on motor vehicle insurance rates to be effective until December 31, 1993, and implementing a 15 percent rate reduction on motor vehicle insurance policies in effect on March 1, 1992, and for each new and renewal policy issued thereafter, effective January 1, 1993.

### Education Reform

One of the most keenly watched issues during the 1992 Session was reform of the public school system. The Legislature, acting upon the recommendations of the Task Force on Educational Governance, initiated significant changes in the structure of the school system, and sought to ensure accountability within each school community.

During the 1992 primary election, voters will be able to choose between an elected or appointed Board of Education. Also included in the education reform bill are requirements for the Department of Education to develop a lump-sum budgeting plan for school-by-school allocations, and for each individual school to prioritize its repair and maintenance projects.

### Budget Summary

Funds were scarce this session. The Legislature responded to the needs of the community and focused resources in three areas: education, health, and human services. Human services, which includes family services, long term care, homelessness, and medicaid, received the largest increase in the 1992-93 supplemental budget with an allocation of \$68.61 million. Education received an additional \$14.17 million, while health care services received \$13.43 million.

### Gun Control

The 1992 Legislature passed a measure which would ban assault pistols in Hawaii. As defined in this measure, an assault pistol must, among other things, accept a detachable magazine. The Department of the Attorney General is required to compile a listing of firearms which meet the criteria of an assault pistol.

Under this bill, assault pistols would be prohibited in the State after July 1, 1992. Persons who own an assault pistol before July 1, 1992, would be required to render it permanently inoperable, sell or transfer it to a licensed dealer of the chief of police of any county, or remove it from the state within 90 days after July 1, 1992.

If you would like more information on these or other measures passed by the 1992 Legislature, please call me at 586-6230 and I would be happy to send you the details.

**David Ige**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 43rd DISTRICT

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