

# Capitol Connection



Volume 1, Issue 2 February 18, 2002



**A**loha and welcome to the *Capitol Connection*, our continuing effort to keep you informed.

Our first major deadline has recently come and gone. Bills are now pending in their final referral committees and must be passed out by First Decking, which falls on Friday, March 1, 2002.

The Legislature will be taking its mandatory five day recess starting Thursday, Feb. 21st. This period is intended to encourage the public to review all of the bills introduced during the session. No formal floor action will take place during this period. However, committees will continue to hold hearings on bills.

Sincerely,

*David Ige*

David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
17th District

## Bills on Higher Education

**HB 1959 / SB 2067** repeals the HOPE endowment special fund and transfers the remaining balance to the University of Hawaii tuition and fees special fund to be used for programs to support underrepresented students and promote diversity. HB 1959 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Wednesday, 02-20-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308. Decision making on SB 2067 will be held by WAM on 02-22-02 at 9:00 am in conference room 211.

**HB 2037** implements decentralization of education governance and management to the school-community level and other aspects of full education reform. HB 2037 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308.

**SB 2104** sets forth governance and management structure reform provisions for the department of education. SB 2104 was deferred by EDU.

**HB 2164** reduces period of forgiving loans from the Hawaii educator loan program from 10 years to 6 years by forgiving 10% for each of the first 5 years and the remainder following the 6th year; establishes an appropriation ceiling; and authorizes up to 5% of outstanding loans for administrative costs. Appropriates funds. HB 2164 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Wednesday, 02-20-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308.

**HB 2172** appropriates funds for agricultural research and development and for the development of the agribusiness incubator initiative. HB 2172 is now pending in FIN.

**HB 2235 / SB 2579** creates the Pacific Center for Ecosystem Science. Appropriates funds. HB 2235 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308. SB 2579 is now pending in WAM.

**HB 2558 / SB 2816** creates an incentive for students to become teachers and to ensure that these graduates teach in our public schools. HB 2558 is now pending in FIN. Decision making on SB 2816 will be held by WAM on 02-22-02 at 9:00 am in conference room 211.

**HB 2585 / SB 2843** allows UH to indemnify a person, corporation, or entity when indemnity is required as a condition for obtaining research grants, benefits, services, interest in or right to use property, and other contractual benefits. No action was taken by JHA on HB 2585. SB 2843 is now pending in WAM.

**HB 2718** authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the University of Hawaii to improve its physical facilities. HB 2718 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308.

**SB 2033** reduces period of forgiving loans from the Hawaii educator loan program from 10 years to 6 years by forgiving 10% for each of the first 5 years and 50 per cent for the 6th year; establishes an appropriation ceiling; and authorizes up to 5% of outstanding loans for administrative costs. Appropriates funds. Decision making on SB 2033 to be held by WAM on 02-22-02 at 9:00 am in conference room 211.

**SB 2351** establishes a nursing loan program and appropriates funds to provide loans to nursing candidates. Decision making on SB 2351 to be held by WAM on 02-21-02 at 9:00 am in conference room 211.

**SB 2901** authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and makes an appropriation for the Institute of Astronomy's new research facility in Maui. SB 2901 is now pending in WAM.

*Note: Visit Rainbow Connection for a list of House committee acronyms and Senate committee acronyms.*

# Community Corner



For the second consecutive year, the **Aiea Little League** became the Junior Little League World Series Champions. The team swept the district playoffs and state tournament, and represented Hawaii at the division playoffs in Oregon where they went on to take the Western Region Tournament in Washington and earned a coveted spot in the World Series. After losing their opener to Louisiana, the boys bounced back to win against the Louisianans for the national title and a come-from-behind win against Venezuela for the World Series title.



## Spotlight on Services:

The Public Access Room (PAR) serves the citizens of Hawai`i by providing facilities, services and equipment to enhance their ability to participate in the legislative process.

The PAR recently announced that they will be accepting testimony via email to help the public communicate their concerns with their legislators. To submit testimony, email PAR at: [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

When submitting testimony, be sure to include the following information at the top of the page: committee name; bill/resolution number and title; the date; the time and place of hearing; and number of copies needed (as listed on the hearing notice). If submitting testimony via email, please do not also submit through other avenues.

If you're in the State Capitol, stop by the PAR located in Room 401. If you're not in the neighborhood, just call the PAR at 587- 0478 or email them at [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Visit the PAR website at [www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par](http://www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par) for more details.

## Bills on Lower Education

### On Education Reform:

**HB 2036** provides greater autonomy to DOE in budget, facilities, and personnel management. Decentralizes certain administrative functions of DOE. Requires a percentage of GET revenues to be deposited into special fund for DOE's operating budget. HB 2036 was held by EDN/LAB.

**SB 2928** provides greater autonomy to DOE in budget and personnel management. Decentralizes certain administrative functions of DOE. Requires a percentage of GET revenues to be deposited into special fund for DOE's operating budget. No action was taken on this measure.

**HB 2037** implements decentralization of education governance and management to the school-community level and other aspects of full education reform. HB 2037 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308.

**SB 2104** sets forth governance and management structure reform provisions for the department of education. SB 2104 was deferred by EDU.

### On Governance

**SB 3018** replaces the current board of education with regional boards of education and a statewide board of education composed of its members. Establishes an educational region commission to determine educational regions within the State. SB 3018 is now pending in WAM.

**HB 2033** / **SB 2102** proposes amendments to the state constitution to abolish the state board of education; require the governor to appoint a state superintendent of education; require the superintendent to establish statewide educational policy; and require the internal organization of the statewide system of public education to be as provided by law. HB 2033 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308. SB 2102 was deferred by JDC.

**HB 2034** / **SB 2101** proposes constitutional amendments to separate the DOE budget from the Executive budget, prohibit the governor from vetoing line items in the DOE budget, and prohibit the governor from restricting appropriated funds to the DOE. HB 2034 and SB 2101 did not pass First Lateral.

### On Accountability:

**SB 3005** holds students, educational professionals, and schools individually and collectively accountable for academic excellence, student safety and well-being, and civic responsibility by requiring establishment of an educational accountability system based on assessment, technical assistance, rewards, sanctions, and reporting. SB 3005 is now pending in WAM.

### On Principals:

**SB 2928** / **HB 2036** provides greater autonomy to DOE in budget and personnel management. Decentralizes certain administrative functions of DOE. Requires a percentage of GET revenues to be deposited into special fund for DOE's operating budget. No action was taken on SB 2928. HB 2036 was held by EDN/LAB.

*Continued on Page 3*

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Please join us for our next town meeting. The topic is crime and community policing.

We'll be meeting on **Tuesday, February 26, 2002, at the Aiea Public Library from 7:00– 8:30 p.m.**

For more information, please call 586-6340.

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**Capitol Connection is published and distributed by:**

**David Y. Ige  
State Senator, 17th District**

**Email:  
sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov**

**Phone: (808) 586-6230**

**Fax: (808) 586-6231**

**Website: [www.davidige.org](http://www.davidige.org)**

If you have questions or comments, please send an email to [sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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**Bills on Lower Education**

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On Governance

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**HB 2033 / SB 2102** proposes amendments to the state constitution to abolish the state board of education; require the governor to appoint a state superintendent of education; require the superintendent to establish statewide educational policy; and require the internal organization of the statewide system of public education to be as provided by law. HB 2033 is scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308. SB 2102 was deferred.

**HB 2034 / SB 2101** proposes amendments to the state constitution to abolish the state board of education; require the governor to appoint a state superintendent of education; require the superintendent to establish statewide educational policy; and require the internal organization of the statewide system of public education to be as provided by law. Both measures were deferred.

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**SB 3005** holds students, educational professionals, and schools individually and collectively accountable for academic excellence, student safety and well-being, and civic responsibility by requiring establishment of an educational accountability system based on assessment, technical assistance, rewards, sanctions, and reporting. SB 3005 is now pending in WAM.

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**SB 2928** provides greater autonomy to DOE in budget and personnel management. Decentralizes certain administrative functions of DOE. Requires a percentage of GET revenues to be deposited into special fund for DOE's operating budget. No action was taken on SB 2928.

**HB 2036** holds students, educational professionals, and schools individually and collectively accountable for academic excellence, student safety and well-being, and civic responsibility by requiring establishment of an educational accountability system based on assessment, technical assistance, rewards, sanctions, and reporting. HB 2036 was held by EDN/LAB.

On Charter Schools:

**SB 2662 / HB 2014** allows a nonprofit organization to manage and operate a new century conversion charter school as a division of the nonprofit organization, in which the charter school's local school board would consist of the board of directors of the nonprofit organization. SB 2662 is now pending in WAM. HB 2014 Bill scheduled to be heard by FIN on Tuesday, 02-19-02 at 2:00 pm in House conference room 308.