

# Capitol Connection

Issue 11

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The 2002 Legislature recently came to a close. This issue of *Capitol Connection* gives a brief overview of some of the major bills that passed.

For more details, visit my website at [www.davidige.org](http://www.davidige.org) for the **2002 Highlights** prepared by the Hawaii State Senate, and the **Summary of Bills Passed** and the **Summary of Resolutions Adopted** prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau Systems Office.

Learn more about the session at our next town meeting on **Tuesday, May 28th, at the Aiea Public Library, from 7:00-8:30 pm.** It'll be a great opportunity for you to ask questions on the issues that you've been reading and hearing about all session. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

*David Ige*

David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
17th District

## Update on the 2002 Legislature

### Consumer Protection

#### Gasoline Price Caps (SB 2179 CD2) –

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish maximum pre-tax wholesale and retail gasoline prices based on an index of West Coast prices. Prohibits sales above the maximum prices, but allows for adjustments. Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to analyze fuel prices and conduct audits under the Petroleum Industry Reporting Act, and substantially increases civil penalties for reporting violations. Requires DBEDT to review documents from the State's gasoline antitrust case and the attorney general's investigation of the petroleum industry.

My vote on  
SB2179 CD2?  
No.

My vote on  
SB1188 CD1?  
Yes.

### Crime & Public Safety

#### Drug Treatment for Nonviolent Drug Offenders (SB1188

CD1) – Requires first-time, non-violent drug offenders convicted of possession or use of any drug to be sentenced to probation with drug treatment, with the same sentence for first violation of terms and conditions of probation and parole. Establishes inter-agency coordination to oversee the development and implementation of offender substance abuse treatment programs to ensure compliance with the master plan under the criminal offender treatment act.

### Economic Development & Tax Credits

**Ko Olina Tax Credit (SB2907 CD1)** – Establishes a tax credit for qualified construction and related costs at Ko Olina Resort and Marina for private development of attractions and educational facilities incurred from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2008. Maximum tax credit is \$7,500,000 in any year; with a maximum total tax credit of \$75,000,000.

My vote on  
SB2907 CD1?  
No.

### Education

**Charter School Conversion (SB2662 SD2)** – Allows a nonprofit organization to operate and manage an existing public school as a new century conversion charter school. Requires a minimum 1:4 match between nonprofit organization resources and Department of Education (DOE) per-pupil allocations. Caps conversions at 25 schools and allows existing public schools to convert using the same process.

### Environment & Natural Resources

**Bottle Bill (HB1256 CD1)** – Establishes a deposit beverage container program. Sets a fee of one-half cent for plastic and metal beverage containers beginning October 1, 2002, and one cent on all beverage containers beginning October 1, 2004, with moneys to be used to reimburse refunds and pay handling fees. Sets a deposit fee and refund value on every beverage container at five cents beginning January 1, 2005. Establishes various ways to redeem containers, including centers and reverse vending machines.

I voted yes with  
reservations to  
pass HB1256 CD1  
on Final Reading.

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## Community Corner



Congratulations to the **Kid Witness News Team of Pearl Ridge Elementary School!** The team recently won two national Panasonic New Vision Awards for Best Documentary and Best Sound for their short video entitled "Voices from the Past, Hope for the Future." Team members **Lauren Ige, Adrianna DeMello, Jordie Ocenar, Kelli Miyahira, and Devin Schafer** and Advisor **Mrs. Kathy Nagaji** recently left for New York to receive their awards. Visit the **Panasonic website** at ([http://www.panasonic.com/meca/kwn/2002\\_winners.html](http://www.panasonic.com/meca/kwn/2002_winners.html)) for more details on the competition.

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### Healthcare & Health Insurance

**Health Insurance Rate Oversight (HB 1761 CD1)** – Prohibits managed care plans from charging health insurance rates that are excessive, inadequate, unfairly discriminatory, or unreasonable in relation to benefits provided. Requires plans to submit rate filings to the Insurance Commissioner for approval. Establishes a reserves ceiling and requires that excess reserves be returned to enrollees or applied to reduce premium rates.

I voted yes with reservations to pass HB1761 CD1 on Final Reading.

My vote on HB2834 CD1? Yes.

**Prescription Drugs (HB2834 CD1)** – Establishes the Hawaii Rx program, a pharmaceutical discount program for all Hawaii residents. Requires participating drug manufacturers to pay rebates to the State on drugs sold at a discount by participating pharmacists. Reimburses participating pharmacists. Establishes Hawaii Rx special fund.

My vote on HB2167 HD1 SD1? Yes.

### Transportation

**Traffic Enforcement (HB2167 HD1 SD1)** – Repeals photo traffic enforcement program for speeding and red light violations.

## Capital Improvement Projects for the 17th District

**\*Waimalu Elementary School:** Design, construction and equipment for the renovation of Building A, \$500,000.

**Aiea Elementary School:** Design, construction, and equipment for air conditioning for classrooms and electrical upgrades, \$200,000.

**Highlands Intermediate School:** Design and construction for the extension of the music building, \$936,000.

**Pearl City Elementary School:** Design, construction, and equipment for air conditioning of school buildings, \$500,000.

**Pearl City High School:** Plans, design, construction, and equipment for a weight training room, \$450,000.

**\*Aiea Public Library:** Land acquisition, \$2,500,000.

\*These appropriations were made in the previous year and some changes may have been made during the 2002 session.

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