

Capitol Connection

Issue 2

January 23, 2004



Aloha! The 2004 legislative session has started. After Opening Day, the next major milestone for the legislature is the bill introduction deadline on Wednesday, January 28, 2004. After this deadline, both House and Senate legislators are unable to introduce any new bills for this session. All the bills can then be referred to their committees. I will keep you updated on future legislative milestones as they approach.

I wish you well and please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Y. Ige".

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

Opening Day

The legislative session for 2004 started on Wednesday, January 22nd with Opening Day. Family and friends of the legislators visited the capitol, with some seating available for them on the chamber floor and in the gallery. Both the House and the Senate met on Opening Day, with ceremonies held in both legislative chambers. Opening remarks in the Senate were given by Senate President Robert Bunda. Officials such as Governor Lingle, Lt. Governor Aiona, and Congressional Representative Neil Abercrombie attended the Senate ceremony.



In the Senate chamber, music was provided by Keahi Conjugacion, a jazz and blues vocalist; the Kamehameha Concert Glee Club; and Darrell Labrado, a young vocalist from the island of Molokai.

After the session adjourned, family and friends of legislators, lobbyists, representatives of organizations, and interested members of the public visited both House and Senate legislators. Food was provided by the offices.



Sen. David Ige, his daughter Amy, and Evan Dobelle.

Among the people dropping by the senators' offices were Chris Lee, Chairman for the University of Hawaii's new Academy for Creative Media, and Evan Dobelle, President of the University of Hawaii.

If you are interested in visiting the capitol on opening day in the future, the Hawaii State Legislature always opens on the third Wednesday in

January. Please visit my office if you attend!



Chris Lee and Sen. David Ige.

SAT/ECD Hearings

An informational briefing was held on January 14, 2004 to gather information on developing technologies made by Sony that have potential in Hawaii and to discuss the possibilities of the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii. Representatives from Sony Corporation and Chris Lee, the Chairman of the Academy for Creative Media, were on the agenda. The representatives from Sony presented some of their latest innovations, such as the QRIO robots, the PSX gaming console, the FeliCa contact-less smart chip technology, and the Leplan mapping device, to the legislators and the public.

Another informational briefing was held on January 22, 2004 to gather information on the budgets for a number of programs concerning Science, Arts, and Technology.

You can find more information on these informational briefings, including PowerPoint presentations from the informational briefing on Biotechnology in Hawaii held earlier in January, at www.davidige.org.

More informational briefings are coming! If you would like to receive hearing notices, please call my office or visit the legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. Future issues of this newsletter will also include updates on hearings held by the SAT and Economic Development committees.



Spotlight on Services

If you've ever wondered who your senators and representatives at the Hawaii State Legislature were, it's now easier than ever to find out. On the legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov, there's an item called Find Legislators under Legislative Information. From that page, you can find who your senators and representatives are according to street names. This is useful if you happen to move or if reapportionment should occur again, or if you just happen to live near a district's boundaries.

Community Corner

The Capitol Artists Program is sponsored by my office, and it lets public school students from Pearl City and Aiea display their artwork in public places throughout the State Capitol. Currently, we have photographs made by the students of Mr. Calvin Abe of Pearl City High School on display, which we also used for Opening Day. I'd like to thank all of the students that participated in this program. It makes my office and our capitol look wonderful! You can find some of the artwork from the previous 2003 Capitol Artists in the Keiki Connection section of my website.

Special congratulations go to Chelsea Villanueva of Pearl City Highlands Elementary, Jessica Fabrigas of Pearl City High, and Jasmine Kelekolio also of Pearl City High, for their success in the 10th Annual Leeward Young Artist Awards! Jasmine was awarded a scholarship from the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and one of Jessica's works is currently on display in my office.

**Capitol Connection is
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