

Capitol Connection

Issue 3

February 6, 2004



Aloha! We have passed the bill introduction deadline. All bills have been referred to their committees and no new bills can be introduced.

The next major legislative milestone is **first lateral** on February 20th. At this point all bills must be in the final committee of their referral.

On February 5th the SAT committee heard SB2558, SB2559, SB2870, and SB2795, all relating to the film and entertainment industries. The SAT committee will have several other hearings before first lateral.

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

Capitol History

When heading into town, the features of the Hawaii State Capitol are architecturally striking in comparison to the high-rise office buildings that make up much of the rest of downtown Honolulu. However, the capitol building is far more interesting than that.

The capitol opened in 1969 and contains both legislative houses and the executive offices of the governor.

Since its opening, the capitol has only been closed once, for renovation from 1991-1995.

One central idea behind the capitol building is that it is open to all citizens, and this is embodied into the building itself. At the capitol's mauka entrance, visitors are greeted by a statue Father Damien. A statue of Queen Liliuokalani watches over the makai entrance. Open air and welcoming, exposing visitors to the beauty of Hawaii, our capitol is truly meant to be the people's building.

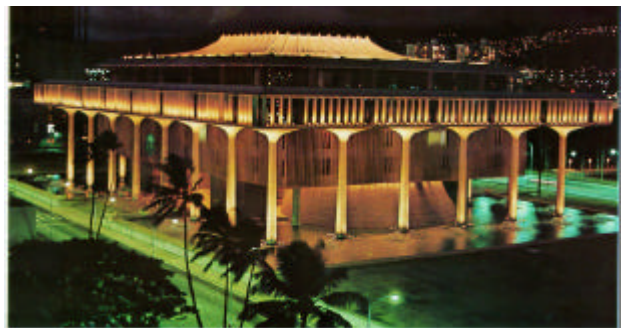
The exterior of the building symbolizes much of Hawaii's natural heritage, from the pool of water surrounding the building, representing Hawaii being an island, to the supporting columns, which at the top branch out like coconut trees, to the beams at the top of the capitol, which are shaped like canoe hulls. The House and Senate chambers themselves resemble two rising volcanoes.

The interiors of the building are also a tribute to the uniqueness of the islands. The reds and browns in the tapestry of the House chamber represent the volcanoes and the earth, while the blues, sandy yellows, and greens of the Senate tapestry represent the ocean, beaches, and sky of Hawaii.

If you would like to learn more about the capitol, please contact my office for a tour! This is the building of the people of Hawaii. You are always welcome here.



The Senate chamber, lit by the chandelier 'Moon'.



The Hawaii State Capitol at night.

SAT/ECD Informational Briefings (1/24 - 2/6)

An informational briefing was held by the Senate Science, Art, and Technology Committee on January 27th to discuss the current state and future possibilities of Hawaii's film and media industries. In this briefing, the panelists discussed how the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media would impact and spawn new growth in these industries.

Another SAT informational briefing was held on January 29th to discuss the proposed State Private Investment Fund and to examine the state of venture capital and angel investing in Hawaii. Among the panelists in this hearing were Bill Spencer, president of the Hawaii Venture Capital Association; the leaders of tech-oriented and other startups in Hawaii, such as Hawaii Biotech, Hoku Scientific, Oceanit, SuperFerry, and Hoana Medical; and the heads of U.H. Angels and Enterprise Honolulu.

A third SAT informational briefing was held on February 2nd to discuss the current state of public IT infrastructure and how it would accommodate increased demand as Hawaii's digital media industry develops. The panelists included representatives from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the State Comptroller, the University of Hawaii, and the Department of Education.

A fourth informational briefing was held on February 5th to discuss the private sector side of the film and music industries. The panelists discussed how film deals are made, television production, and local music opportunities in Hawaii.

You can find more information on these informational briefings, including the testimony and presentations given by the panelists, at www.davidige.org.

More informational briefings and hearings 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 include updates on the hearings held by the SAT and Economic Development committees.

Community Corner

Congratulations to Mr. Dewey Gottlieb of Pearl City High School, who was awarded a 2003 Milken National Educator Award! This is one of the most prestigious educational awards, given to teachers with exceptional educational talent, outstanding accomplishments, inspiring presence, and high potential for professional leadership. Earlier, Mr. Gottlieb became a National Board Certified Teacher. His accomplishments in and dedication to education are truly commendable.

I would also like to thank Ms. Wendy Larrow's students of Aiea High School for participating in my Capitol Artists program! Their drawings, paintings, and soap carvings are on display in my office.

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