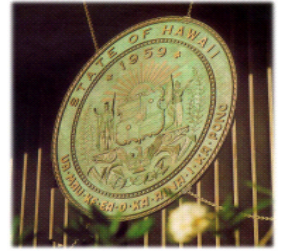


# Capitol Connection

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January 13, 2005



Happy New Year! The new legislative session will begin soon. Opening Day at the legislature is **Wednesday, January 19, 2004**. This year, I will serve as the Chair of the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA). This new committee will oversee activities that affect federal and county agencies, as they relate to the state government. I look forward to this new experience and the opportunities that I will have to work with other government officials in the spirit of cooperation. I will continue my focus on technology by serving as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Media Arts, Science and Technology (MAT).

Informational briefings are being scheduled by these committees to gather information on the concerns and the needs of federal and county agencies, and on ways in which we can promote the media arts, science and technology in our schools and communities. These briefings are open to the public if you are interested in attending.

Sincerely,

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

David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
16th District

## We, the People of the United States...

So starts the Constitution of the United States, one of the most important documents of our democracy. It is the foundation of our country – government of the people, by the people, for the people – and you play a very important role. Your participation in the process of governing our state and nation is a very valuable part of our democracy.

Because of this, the Legislature has developed several mechanisms to make it easier for interested citizens to get involved. The Public Access Room (PAR), located at the State Capitol in Room 401, provides a facility with equipment and services that enable any citizen to have access to the legislative process. There are computers and typewriters for drafting testimony, photocopiers for duplicating materials, and services for distributing the testimony to the appropriate offices. There is also access to the Internet and reference materials, such as a complete collection of the Hawaii Revised Statutes as well as copies of the Legislative Auditor's Reports and access to the Legislative Reference Bureau.

They also conduct workshops for the public on how to prepare and present testimony.

### Contact Information for the Public Access Room (PAR)

Phone: (808) 587-0478

Fax: (808) 587-0793

TTY: (808) 538-9670

Email: [Par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:Par@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Web: <http://www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par/>

The beginning of the legislative session is a great time to participate in the legislative process. One way of participating is to attend informational briefings and hearings, allowing you to learn more about such things as budget proposals or issues that each Department faces for continuing to provide needed services, such as in education, highways, public safety, housing, etc. These briefings are conducted by each legislative committee and are announced via public hearing notices prior to each hearing. These notices are also posted on the Legislative website, [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

Legislators are always open to hearing directly from constituents about any proposed legislation. So another way of participating is to contact them directly by phone, letter, fax, or email. We welcome the viewpoints and concerns of our constituents and take them into consideration when making our decisions about pending legislation.

If you wish to propose legislation, please contact your legislator as soon as possible, preferably prior to the opening of the session. All bills for the legislative session must be introduced within the first seven days of Opening Day, and there are times when legislators are limited to the number of bills they may introduce on a given day.

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## Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Hearings

We are currently planning and preparing informational briefings for our brand new committee. You can find out more information, as well as view presentations from informational briefings held during past sessions, online at [www.davidige.org](http://www.davidige.org).

Please check [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) for hearing notices if you're interested in attending informational hearings here at the Capitol. Future issues of our newsletter will also include more information on hearings, legislative deadlines and governmental activities that impact our lives.

### Continued ...

For further information, copies of the "Abridged Citizens' Guide to Participation" are available in our office or you may look at the complete "Citizens' Guide to Participation in the Legislative Process" by visiting the Legislative website, [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and looking under legislative information.

We look forward to hearing from you as you exercise your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of Hawaii. Please feel free to call my office if you have any questions.

### Community Corner

Congratulations go out to:

- + **Momilani Elementary School** for being named a 2004 National Blue Ribbon School! It is the second year in a row that Momilani Elementary School has been bestowed this distinction.
- + **The Aiea High School Girls' Bowling Team** for winning the HHSAA State championships! This was their first State victory since 1988 and third championship overall.
- + The Campbell Estates' Leeward Artists of the Year from Pearl City: **David Andrew Sakihara** of Waiiau Elementary School, **Kimberly Kaai** and **Leanne Nagai** of Highlands Intermediate School, and **Damien Valencia** of Pearl City High School.
- + **Mr. Dennis Nishihara**, a counselor at Waiiau Elementary School, who was chosen for the 2005 Ola Pono Award which honors those who make meaningful, substantial contributions to our community by promoting safe, healthy and drug-free lifestyles.
- + **The Pearl City High School Food Service Program** for their success at the Taste of Waipahu cooking competition. In addition, they were chosen as "Volunteer of the Year" by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Hawaii for their continued participation in UCP's annual fundraising activity.
- + **The Pearl City Chargers Peewee Division II Football Team** which captured the state championship in its division.
- + **Joelle Sugai**, a midfielder for the University of Hawaii Women's Soccer team, for being named to the All Conference and All Tournament first teams as well as being named to the District VII Academic first team and the 2004 CoSIDA Academic All-America third team. She is a three time UH scholar athlete who has played and started in 81 consecutive matches while still maintaining a 3.78 GPA.
- + **Pearl City Highlands Elementary School** for winning first place in the state sponsored Bottle Bill contest! For all their hard work, they will be presented with a check for \$10,000 from the Director of the State Department of Health on January 18th!

I am proud to serve such a distinguished and recognized community of people!



### Important Dates

**January 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 19** Opening Day

**January 27** Last Day to File Bills



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

**David Y. Ige  
State Senator, 16th District**

**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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