

Capitol connection

Office of Senator David Y. Ige – 16th District

Volume 4, Issue 2 February 9, 2005



Welcome to the second edition of Capitol Connection!

In this issue, I would like to highlight the concerns we are facing in this the 23rd Regular Session of the Legislature and, in particular, those that are being heard by the committees to which I am assigned. Some of the more high-profile bills that have surfaced deal with taxation for a mass transit system, tax credits for film and TV productions, and most recently, a prohibition for further development on Waimano Ridge in the Pearl City area.

If any other these issues spark your interest, please contact our office, and my staff and I will be happy to assist you in the Legislative process!

Sincerely,

David Y. Ige
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Y. Ige". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

16th District

Crafted Of the People, By the People, For the People

... Inquiring Minds Want to Know

With a newly elected group of legislators and the beginning of a new biennium, we have made some changes in the organization of the Legislature. This year, one of the new committees is the Senate Intergovernmental Affairs committee (IGA), which I have been tasked to chair. As the name suggests, this committee focuses on those areas that require cooperation and collaboration between and among the respective governmental agencies, such as between the City and County of Honolulu, the State and the Federal government.

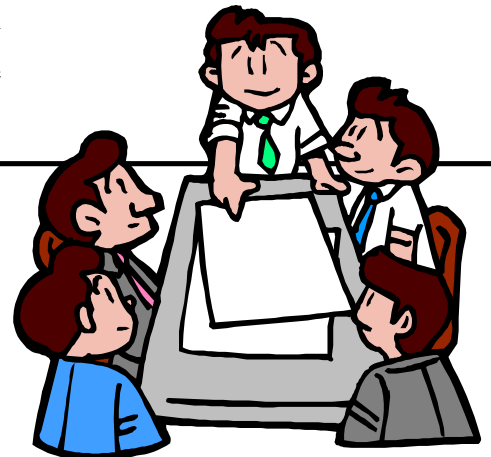
For instance, one of the bills now being examined in this session deals with the attempt to make our highways safer by installing a "photo red light imaging system" to deter "motorists who disregard red lights in counties with a population of over 500,000." Another is a bill creating a "new offense of excessive speeding." Regardless of whether or not the violations are on city and county roads or state or federal highways, the enforcement of these laws is the responsibility of the city and county police. However, if anyone chooses to contest any citations, they must appear in a court that is presided over by a judge appointed by the governor of the state. Furthermore, fines that are received from traffic citations and tickets are deposited into State coffers.

Another bill being heard examines the issue of collecting reimbursement from "a person whose failure to exercise reasonable care or failure to comply with the law or public safety warnings necessitated the search and rescue" from either county or federal agencies, such as county fire rescue squads or the Coast Guard.

As you can see, these issues which concern multiple jurisdictions are very complicated and are not easy to resolve. There may not be an "easy" answer regarding any of these issues because so many factors and variables affect the ways in which any law might be received by the people whom it is intended to protect. Yet, because these particular issues are important to the welfare of our community, to disregard them would be irresponsible.

As you can well imagine, public input is of great interest to those of us who have been entrusted with the responsibility of crafting legislation that will benefit our citizens. Government is ideally of, by and for the people.

Opening Day 2005



Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Hearings

As is it now February and session is underway, the IGA committee is holding bill hearings on:

Date	Time	Senate Bill No.	Description
February 10, 2005	3:00pm	SB522	Relating to Drug Rehab Homes
		SB531	Relating to the Counties
		SB1060	Relating to Counties
February 11, 2005	9:00am	SB959	Relating to Cable Television
		SB1803	Relating to Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers
	1:00pm	SB656	Relating to the Land Use Commission
		SB1152	Relating to Land Use
		SB1593	Relating to Land Use
February 15, 2005	9:00am	SB1881	Relating to Land Use
		SB1181	Relating to Taxation
	1:15pm	SB106	Making an Appropriation for the Centennial Celebration of Maui County

Also, a decision-making hearing will be held on **February 15, 2005 at 2:45pm** for Senate Bills : 411, 602, 660, 1272, 1542, 1546 and 1685. No testimony will be accepted.

If you would like to submit testimony for any of these bills, please contact either my office at **586-6230** or e-mail at sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov. Written testimony must be received 24 hours prior to the hearing for it to be properly considered. You may also fax your documents directly to Sergeant-At-Arms at **586-6501**.

Please check out the State Capitol homepage (<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>) for current hearing notices if you are interested in attending hearings here at the Capitol. Future issues of our newsletter will include more information on upcoming hearings, legislative deadlines, and governmental activities that impact our every day lives. You can find out more committee information, as well as view testimony from past informational briefings and bill hearings online at DavidIge.org under the "committee" link.

For the Sake of Our Community

Since December 2000, Waimano Ridge in Pearl City has been the site of the Department of Health's Youth Sex Offender Treatment Facility. The facility has concerned residents for a number of years because it is situated near two schools and a large residential area. Area legislators have worked arduously to move the facility to another location, even having secured a promise from the former governor and monies for the relocation. Unfortunately, the relevant state entities in charge of the land and facility have yet to follow through on their obligations to the community.

To add further concern to our community's safety, the State Laboratory sits atop Waimano Ridge, where testing for dangerous bacteria and microbes, such as West Nile Virus and the avian (bird) influenza, takes place. The laboratory was originally built to test water and food samples, but the growing concern of bio-terrorism and high-risk diseases have placed different demands on the laboratory than that for which it was originally intended. Although a master plan for the use of the Ridge was called for in the early 1990's, present uses have not always been done with appropriate and timely public involvement. Moreover, unless costly maintenance and heightened safety procedures are guaranteed, the safety and stability of the facility may not be sufficient to protect the health of the surrounding community.

In an effort to protect the safety and health of our community and its residents, my colleagues, Senators Clarence Nishihara and Rosalyn Baker, and I have submitted **Senate Bill 1473**, to prohibit further development of the Waimano Ridge property until a new master plan can be created with community approval. There is also a companion **House Bill 1141**.

This bill will be heard in the Senate Health Committee on Monday, February 14, 2005, at 2:45 PM in Conference Room 016.

The Health Committee is currently soliciting public testimony on this bill so that members of the community can be heard and effect change for the better. Written testimony must be received 24 hours prior to the hearing for it to be properly considered, and those who offer testimony need not attend the hearing. Concerned parties and questions may be directed to my office by calling **586-6230** or via e-mail: sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov. You may also fax written testimony to Sergeant-At-Arms at **586-6501**.

Get Involved!

February 23, 2005 is the date of the Town Meeting held in **Pearl Ridge Elementary School's Cafeteria at 7pm**.

Traffic and Transportation are the issues of discussion this meeting. Voice your concerns and make your opinions count!

March 12, 2005 will be the GraffitiBusters gathering organized by your legislators. Let's take this opportunity to band together and clean our streets of vandalism!

For more information on these events, please contact my office at **586-6230**.

Capitol Connection

is published and distributed by:

The Office of Senator David Y. Ige
State Senator, 16th District

Phone: (808) 586-6230

Fax: (808)586-6231

Website: <http://www.davidige.org>

If you have questions or comments, please send an e-mail to:
sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov