

# Capitol connection

Office of Senator David Y. Ige – 16th District

Volume 4, Issue 3 February 23, 2005



## Welcome to the third edition of Capitol Connection!

With the passing of the First Lateral deadline on February 18, we are all working hard to meet the final decking deadline on March 4. By this date, all bills should have been heard by the committees to which they were referred and submitted to the Clerk's office.

The Senate body will then discuss the bills during Third Reading and vote on them. Approved bills will crossover to the House for further consideration, while the Senate receives House bills.

If there are any measures that you hope to continue in the legislative process, please contact the offices of the committee chairs and request a hearing for the bill.

Sincerely,



David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
16th District

## THE DEBATE CONTINUES: WAIMANO RIDGE

“The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which Government was instituted.” -James Madison

On Monday, February 14, 2005 Senate Bill 1473, relating to Waimano Ridge, was heard by the Senate Committee on Health. The bill which I introduced is designed to prohibit the expanded use and further development of state-owned land in the Waimano Ridge area until a new master plan can be created with input from the community and approval from the legislature. A similar bill on the House side, HB 1141, is also making its way through the legislative process.

Although the Committee on Health had scheduled numerous bills to hear on their agenda, Chair Rosalyn Baker and Vice Chair Suzanne Chun-Oakland devoted a significant amount of attention to SB 1473. A representative of the State Department of Health (DOH) requested that the measure be held in committee, stating that the bill would create cumbersome obstacles for necessary repairs and maintenance to the facility. The DOH representative also stated that the Department of Health has done its best to maintain open communication with the community.

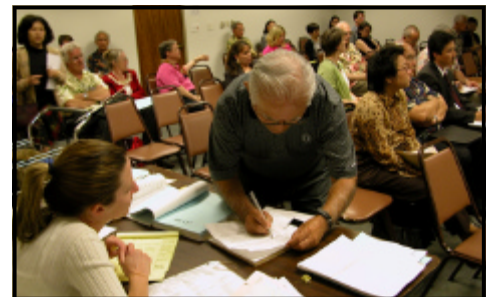
Members from the Momilani and Manana communities appeared en force to voice their support on the measure. A representative from the community alleged that the DOH has done little to inform the community about significant changes and had engaged in activities on the premises without first notifying the surrounding community.

Chair Baker requested additional reassurances from the DOH that the community continue to be involved in future decision making plans regarding the property.

The Senate Committee on Health later voted to pass the measure with amendments. While the amended bill no longer requires that the DOH seek approval from the community before proceeding with new developments, it does provide that the DOH incorporate community input when creating a new master plan

The amended bill also provides that any state/county agency, commission, or department must give a 90-day notice to community boards and associations prior to initiating any new or expanded uses, or further development of existing leased lands or facilities on the property.

SB 1473 has passed Second Reading and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture (WLA) for further consideration. WLA has scheduled a hearing for this measure on **Friday, February 25th at 1:30pm in Room 212**. I encourage all concerned members of the community to please submit testimony to the Office of Senator Russell Kokubun. Those who would like to participate in the legislative process may also contact Representative Dwight T. Takamine of the House Finance Committee regarding the companion House Bill 1141.



Citizen involvement was evident at the Senate Health Committee hearing for SB1473.

## Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Highlights

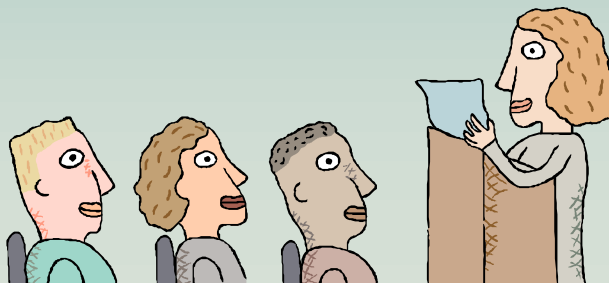
February has been a very active month at the State Legislature. Bills have been introduced, heard, and voted on. Some bills have been passed and voted on by the Senate body, others have been held in committee. As we enter March, the approved bills will be decked with the Senate Clerk's office before switching over to the House for referral and hearings. Below are some of the bills heard by the IGA committee that may impact our community.

**SB 83—Relating to Photo Traffic Enforcement :** A hot topic amongst many motorists island-wide, this bill was designed to authorize the Department of Transportation to implement a system to photograph red-light runners in counties with more than 500,000 residents. Led by the Transportation and Government Operations (TGO) committee, a joint hearing was held on February 16th. Both committees voted to hold the measure and the bill will not proceed any further this Session.

**SB411 SD1—Relating to the Counties' Eminent Domain Powers :** For landowners across the State, this bill prohibits the County from condemning private property and subsequently selling that same property to a private entity that wishes to purchase that property for their own plans. This bill was heard by IGA on February 8th and was passed with amendments. It is now waiting to be heard by the Senate Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee (JHW).

**SB522 SD1—Relating to Drug Rehabilitation Homes :**

This bill prohibits the establishment of a drug rehabilitation home in communities without first notifying the public in an informational meeting. It was heard by the Senate Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee (WLA) and IGA. This measure passed Second Reading as amended and is currently referred to JHW.



### Mark Your Calendars!

**March 12, 2005** is the **GraffitiBusters** community paint-out day organized by your legislators. Let's take this opportunity to band together and clean our streets of vandalism!

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**March 30, 2005** is the date of the next Town meeting to be held at Pearl Ridge Elementary School cafeteria from 7 to 8:30pm. Senator Norman Sakamoto's office is organizing this meeting which will focus on Early Childhood Education.

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

### Capitol Connection

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## Start Spreading the News

**Charles Jason "C.J." Tausaga** of **Aiea High School** responded to the tragic death of fellow football player Ikaika Tan of Kapolei High by starting a collection among students and faculty and presenting \$500 to the Tan family. His spontaneous act of caring so touched his coach, Wendell Say, that he nominated CJ to be featured on the TV show, "Heroes: Stories of Inspiration," which is shown on OC 16. In addition to being in athletics, CJ is student body president and a member of the Na Alii O 'Aiea Athletics Club that helps athletes prepare for and make a better transition into college. He is the oldest child of Fale and Dawn Tausaga.

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**Highlands Intermediate School** is one of 18 schools to receive a **Hawaii 3R's award**. This award uses federal money and funding from the Hawaii Community Foundation, Campbell Estate and the James and Abigail Campbell Foundation, the AT&T Foundation and the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation to help schools make needed repairs using volunteer manpower. The grants and volunteerism often result in repairs worth far more than if they were to be done by the usual process and procedures.

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Please consider helping **Alvah Scott Elementary School Student Council** by donating clean, uncrushed aluminum cans and bottles with the HI 5 stamp to their recycling campaign. They are trying to raise funds for their future projects and hope that the community will support their efforts by dropping off their donations behind the cafeteria until 9 a.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month through May 15, except on March 21.