

# Community Connection

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

## Happy New Year!

I would like to ring in the new year with an introduction to the new "**Community Connection**", a newsletter designed to keep you informed of activities in our community and at the State Capitol.

I invite you to be a part of this effort. If you would like to see any issues covered or any community events, or members recognized, please feel free to contact me at:

*sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov*

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
16th District

## 16th DISTRICT'S SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK

Starting off 2005 with a big bang is the terrific trio of elementary schools making headlines this month: **Pearl City Highlands**, **Momilani Elementary**, and **Pearl Ridge Elementary** all made the grade with the **2004 School Recycling Challenge** sponsored by the Department of Health. They swept the top three awards for medium sized schools by taking empty metal, glass, and plastic containers to participating recyclers from November 1 through December 31, 2004.

These schools organized their staff, parents, and students to save un-marked beverage containers and take them to the schools or to participating recyclers. Grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunties participated. This resulted in these schools submitting a whopping total of 266,314 containers to earn prizes of \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$4,000 respectively for their efforts.

**Pearl City Highlands** has conducted recycling days two or three times each year for the last 20 years, so this year's Challenge was not a new activity for them. The success of these schools can be attributed to the teachers, families, and students who practice year-round recycling at home and at school.

Also noteworthy is the fact that **Pearl Ridge Elementary** donated \$750 of its prize money to the **Tsunami Relief Fund**, showing that they have a sense of community that encompasses the whole Earth.

Congratulations to all schools that participated in this Challenge. They certainly demonstrate that our community is actively involved in saving our 'aina.



**Highlands Intermediate** will be inducting 40 eighth graders into the **National Junior Honor Society** on Tuesday, February 8th at 7pm in the school library. Parents and friends are invited to attend!

It is that time of year again for the **Capitol Artists Program**. Every year, I invite kids in the Pearl City and Aiea district schools to submit artwork to be displayed in my office at the State Capitol!



Currently on display are the outstanding pieces by **Highlands Intermediate's** drawing classes taught by Jonathan Fong and **Pearl City High School's** photography classes taught by Calvin Abe. They not only brighten up my office, but captured the attention of many of the visitors on Opening Day!

If you or someone you know would like to participate in the program, please contact my office at 586-6230.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

At the suggestion of community members, I would like to create this avenue to focus attention on those in the community who demonstrate excellence, achievement, or leadership.

Pearl City resident **Mari Chun** is one deserving of the spotlight. In 2004, she won the Hawaii State Women's Amateur Match-Play Championship, the Callaway Junior World Championship for Girls 15-17, and the Ladies' Flight in the 25th Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament. It is no surprise that she was named the 2004 ILH Girls Player of the Year. She got off to a good start this year when she was paired with Retief Goosen and won the 4th First Hawaiian Bank Pro-Golf Challenge at Waialae Country Club. In addition to being an exceptional young golfer with an impressive record in women's amateur golf, she is a straight-A student at Kamehameha Schools and will attend Stanford University on a golf scholarship.

**Ashley Watanabe** is another person in our community worthy of mention. A graduate of Aiea High School, Ashley worked very hard to fulfill her dream of becoming a Rainbow Wahine. She played a key role in Hawaii's undefeated season in the WAC as libero and played 102 games out of 120, missing only 18 due to her season ending injury. She was named to the All WAC second team, has the second highest number of total digs (430), had 21 double digit dig matches of which 9 were over 20, and broke the UH's season record for digs per game with a 4.22 average. She also set the WAC tournament single-match record for aces with five in the tourney championship victory over Nevada. Lest anyone think that Ashley is a one-dimensional person, she plays the bass guitar and trombone and sings in her family's band "NYK," which stands for "Not Yet Known" at the beginning and "Now You Know" at the end of their performances.

Our community is truly blessed with these young women who set such good examples for all who aspire to reach their chosen goals.

### TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE

The next town meeting is scheduled for **February 23rd**.

Topics covered:

- + Traffic/Transportation
- + Potholes
- + H-1 Widening
- + Zipper Lane
- + Closure of Roads
- + Kamehameha Hwy

For more information, please contact **Rep. K. Mark Takai's Office** at **586-8455**.

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If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact us!

### GROWING PAINS

Known or unbeknownst to Pearl City and Aiea residents, there are many city and county projects in the works that may directly or indirectly affect you in the future. These projects may bring about some temporary inconveniences, but will provide long-term solutions to some of the pressing concerns of residents.

The **Board of Water Supply** has scheduled the design of a water main project in the Aiea area that involves the installation of new water mains and appurtenances along the area between the **Aiea Gulch Well** and **Halawa Heights Road**. With these installations, they hope to improve the water service to residents of the area by 2007. For more information, contact Mr. Francis Fung at 748-5710.

The **City and County of Honolulu** has finalized a traffic study regarding a possible expansion of the **Cane Haul Road** from **Waimano Home Road** in the Ewa direction to **Waihona Street** in **Waiawa Gulch**. They also addressed improvements to the **Kamehameha Highway** and **Acacia Road Intersection**. This project is proposed to alleviate traffic congestion in these popular areas by 2010. For more information, contact Mr. Denis Fukumoto of the Department of Transportation Services at 523-4936.

Although these projects are still in the early planning phases, I will keep the community informed of new developments as they arise.

