

CAPITOL CONNECTION

OFFICE OF SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE – 16TH DISTRICT

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Introducing the first issue of the 2006 Capitol Connection

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to another volume of our **Capitol Connection**! This year we are starting earlier than usual to get a jump-start on the 2006 Legislative Session.

With this issue, I would like to keep you informed with events and issues that most concern our community and neighbors.

As always, I encourage your participation in our legislative process. If there are any questions or concerns you feel that should be addressed, please feel free to contact me or my office staff.

Sincerely,

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

WHEN **BAD THINGS** HAPPEN TO **GOOD PEOPLE** ... Are You Protected?

In our youth, thieves were often depicted as the masked bandits who pilfered our homes or stole our wallets. By merely locking our doors and keeping an eye on our belongings, we felt safe and secure. However, with the advent of the Digital Age and the widespread use of the Internet and wireless communication, things have drastically changed. A new breed of bandits spawned in the early 1990's called *identity thieves*.

Characterized by their ability to steal our identities undetected, these thieves use various means of obtaining our personal information. Be it through the internet or rummaging through trash, they place our sensitive information at risk. We may be targeted, yet may not feel the effects for months or even years later. The damage can be severe and irreversible. Victims of identity theft may lose potential job opportunities, be denied loans and credit, or even be arrested.

In hopes of informing our community on how to protect ourselves and prevent identity theft from occurring, the local Neighborhood Watch groups and area legislators organized an informational presentation at the October 11th Aiea-Pearl City town meeting held at the Pearl Ridge Elementary cafeteria. Guest speakers **Sergeant Jensen Okagawa** and **Detective Miles Jung** of the **Honolulu Police Department** presented an hour-long video with various pamphlets on the dangers of identity theft.



Jai Cunningham of FOX-2 News interviewing Sgt. Okagawa.

Throughout the presentation, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and voice their concerns.

There are a few simple steps that you can take to safeguard yourself from becoming a victim.

- + Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit card bureaus once a year. (Equifax, Experian and Transunion)
- + Do not give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you are familiar with the person you are dealing with.
- + Guard your mail and trash from theft.
- + Before revealing any sensitive personal information, find out how it will be used and secured.
- + Be wary of promotional scams via phone, mail, or the Internet.

In addition to these basic tips, there are many informative websites that are easily accessible. The Federal Trade Commission has a website dedicated to identity theft (<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>). Information regarding this town meeting, including photos and copies of some of the pamphlets, are available at davidige.org.

I encourage each and every one of us to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones from financial tragedy.



The crowd listens intently to a nameless victim's story.

Getting in Gear

The 2006 Legislative Session is just around the corner, and many are wondering what they can do to take part in the legislative process.

To most, the legislative process seems far removed from everyday life and overly complex. Many believe that there is little they can do to make an impact. However, citizen participation is a vital element in making government work. An individual's concerns may be shared amongst many and through the creation of a bill, it garners the attention of a greater audience. As a senator, it is my duty as a legislator to listen to community concerns and address its needs. My staff and I are here to offer your ideas for the drafting of new legislation.

This opportunity is available to citizens of all ages. Here are some of the requests we had received in past years:

- + A student requested legislation to create safe and legal parks for pocket bike riders.
- + A constituent requested stricter quality regulations at hospitals in hopes of assuring cleaner and safer facilities.
- + Pearl City residents banded together to form legislation against the Department of Health building potentially dangerous facilities on the Waimano Ridge property.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact my office at **586-6230** or e-mail me at sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov. Take the first step in getting involved and make a difference!



...CONCERNS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board and University officials have established a Task Force to coordinate community involvement in the future development of the **Waimano Ridge property**.

This is your opportunity to learn about the progress of the **Waimano Ridge Master Plan** and hear the proposals of two new facilities that are planned for the area: **Hawaii Regional Level 3 Bio-Safety Lab and Emergency Medical Services**.

**Tuesday, November 8th
&
Wednesday, November 9th
6:30 pm**

Pearl City Cultural Center - Annex Room

Two public forum dates are scheduled in hopes of gathering a strong community turn-out. Your participation is sought and needed!

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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

History Comes Alive for Aiea Students

Learning about history has never been so rewarding for Aiea students! At the 16th annual **Hawaii's History Day**, students from across the state came together, armed with their essays, displays, documentaries, and planned performances to compete and qualify for the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland at College Park.

This year's theme was "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding". After selecting an era of historical interest, each student was tasked to analyze how different forms of communication brought about and encouraged universal understanding amongst different people throughout the years. Over 2000 students from grades 6 to 12 participated in the state-wide competition. From those entries, 251 students qualified for the State History Day competition held at McKinley High School on April 23rd.

Students from **Aiea Intermediate** and **Aiea High School** had amazing success at this year's District division competition.

Junior Division Winners (Grades 6-8)

- Kyan Agbayani - 2nd Place (Historical Research Essay)
- Kaleihiehie M. Cablay -2nd Place (Documentary Media)
- Jae-In Choi - 3rd place (Documentary Media)
- Casey McMahon & Sharey Vendiola - Qualifying Entry (Display)

Senior Division Winner (Grades 9-12)

- Jordon Higa - 1st place (Historical Research Essay)

First- and second-place winners traveled to Maryland for the national competition and various awards and scholarships were presented to individual entries. Congratulations to all participants and winners of the 2005 Hawaii History Day competition!