



Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
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2007 and 2008 Sessions

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND

MAJORITY WHIP

CHAIR

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

CO-CHAIR

State Legislature Women's Caucus
Asset Building Task Force

MEMBER

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Education
Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving

CO-CONVENOR

Children and Youth Day and Month in Hawaii

State Legislature Keiki Caucus

State Legislature Kupuna Caucus
and many other Legislative and Community Efforts

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Ke Kumu Wai

"The Well-being of Our People"

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions have been tremendously busy for our office - with Regular Sessions, my legislative interim work, and also three Special Sessions in 2007.

The Legislature strives to lay the groundwork every year for the creation of a sustainable Hawai'i, supporting strong families and communities, a healthy economy and environment, and a literate and competent workforce that is able to compete in the global marketplace.

To this end, the Legislature passed some significant legislation in the past two years. Affordable housing, children's health and safety, public education, transportation, economic development, energy, environmental protection, kupuna services, and family caregiving were among the priority areas we focused on. We were also successful in funding capital improvement projects that directly affect our community.

I have highlighted some significant legislative accomplishments as well as capital improvement funding approved by the Legislature. I also want to take the time to acknowledge the outstanding academic achievements of our children, youth, educators, and school community partners in our schools. It is exciting and gratifying to know of so much accomplishments. I have highlighted some of them on my Capitol website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>.

In addition to reviewing 1,995 bills and 379 resolutions in 2007 and an additional 1,264 bills and 374 resolutions this year, the Senate fulfilled its additional constitutional responsibility of conducting confirmation hearings for directors of state Departments, Boards, and Commissions, reviewing the qualifications of over 450 individuals.

On the economic front, recent spike in world oil prices has a ripple effect impacting many facets of our daily lives. Hawaii's economy slowed significantly in 2007. Recent local events, i.e. the shutdown of operations of Molokai Properties Limited/Molokai Ranch, and the demise of Aloha Airlines' passenger service have impacted our economy significantly. With the diminished forecast from the Council on Revenues, the State has nearly half a billion dollars less in general fund tax revenues to spend from its budget as it seeks to balance the many worthy, competing interests vying for State resources. The Legislature made very difficult and fiscally conservative decisions in crafting the 2008-2009 State budget.

Finally, support and participation from different members of any community is vital and essential to make that community thrive. I want to extend my appreciation to all organizations, businesses, non-profits, schools, churches, and other stakeholders for your contributions and hard work. Your efforts together have kept our community vibrant, safe and beautiful. Thank you for all you do to make Hawaii a special place for all. Please keep in touch.

Me ke aloha pumehana ("with warmest love"),

Susie Chun Oakland

Susie Chun Oakland

State Senator

District 13: Alewa Heights, Dowsett Highlands, Kahakaaulana, Kalihi Kai, Kalihi Business District, Ke'ehi Small Boat Harbor; Liliha, Mokaeua, Nuuanu, Mokueo, Pacific Heights, Palama, Pauoa, Puuui, Sand Island



Highlights and Accomplishments

Over 2,000 bills and resolutions were introduced at the beginning of the 2008 Legislative session, covering a wide range of issues and subject matters. After four months of public hearings, many amendments and numerous votes, 294 measures were passed by the Legislature and transmitted to the Governor for approval or veto at the close of session. The following represents some highlights of the 2008 Legislative session:

Sustainability

Sustainability is on the minds of all in the state. Senators participated in a **pilot “paperless” effort**, reducing their consumption by millions of pages. As a result, all public documents are now available online at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

The Legislature also sponsored many sustainability initiatives:

- New **requirement to recycle electronic device waste** - manufacturers will now be required to collect and recycle computers and other electronic devices.
- **Expansion of** the state’s



Members of the McKinley High School Kika Mana (“Tiger Power”) Robotics Team demonstrated engineering savvy, design excellence, camaraderie, gracious professionalism, and the aloha spirit in the 2008 FIRST Robotics Competition Championships. As a division finalist, McKinley ranked among the top 24 out of 1,500 FIRST teams worldwide.

- **biosecurity** program, increasing protection from new importation of invasive species.
- **Prohibition on the sale of noxious weeds.**
- New tax credits to **encourage renewable energy and conservation.**

- **Pilot food waste recycling** program in public schools.
- New incentives to **preserve important agricultural lands** and support to farmers.
- New staff positions within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to ensure that the state’s **Greenhouse Gas Task Force** meets its goal of **reducing Hawai‘i’s emissions** by 2020.
- **Solar water heating systems** on all **new residential homes** starting in 2010.
- Establishment of Hai‘ku Valley Cultural Preserve.
- Required negotiations to acquire land to preserve open space at Kawela Bay.

Education

The 2008 Legislature aimed to support and improve Hawai‘i’s education system from pre-kindergarten through college:

- **Address teacher shortage** by providing funding for tutorials



Honoring WWII service of Japanese Americans - Lawson Sakai, President, Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans

lements of the 2008 Legislature

and preparation for PRAXIS examinations.

- Provides wage adjustments for substitute teachers.
- Lifts one-year restriction on participation in **Bridge to Hope education program** to increase participants' economic self-sufficiency.
- Improving higher education opportunities for former foster youth.
- **Launching of** a new **statewide early learning** preschool system.
- **\$173.3 million funding** for repair/maintenance and new construction on all UH campuses.
- Amends due process administrative hearing procedures, relating to the education of children with disabilities, from a 90 to 180 day period.
- **\$310 million funding** for repair/maintenance and new construction of K-12 facilities statewide.

Transportation

- \$1 million for pedestrian safety improvements statewide.
- Creating a **violation to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle.**
- **\$124 million funding** for harbor modernization improvements statewide.

Change For The Better

Other notable initiatives that passed in the 2008 session:

- Increased funding for **Kupuna Care** to help our elders to live as independently as possible and to support caregivers.
- Expands adult protective services from dependent adults to vulnerable adults.
- Extends sunset of the voluntary employees beneficiary association (VEBA) trust pilot.



The Hawaii State Senate recognized the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities for 125 years of service to the people of Hawaii this past legislative session.

- Authorizes assessment of needs for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Expands the Children's Health Care pilot to insure children whose parents or legal guardians lost their jobs between February 29 and September 30, 2008 due to business bankruptcy and ceased operations in Hawaii.
- Additional support to primary health care centers statewide.
- Strengthens government's language access services to people with limited English proficiency.
- Allows registered voters to request receiving absentee ballots permanently.
- More support for **Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i**.
- A working group to begin establishing the **Hawai'i Health Corps** program to **provide loan repayments for physicians and dentists** who agree to practice in rural or medically underserved areas in the State.

- To **protect reporters from having to disclose sources** or unpublished information.

Procurement

Government continues to seek improvements to the State procurement system to achieve optimum efficiency, fairness and accountability in the purchase of goods and services for public benefit. The Legislature passed several measures to improve the procurement process.

- **Fines for state procurement officers** who do not take corrective action within 30 days.
- Requirements to **ensure timely posting of state contract awards data**.
- **Annual random audits** of purchasing agencies, as well as agencies that show history of noncompliance.
- **Mandatory training** and follow-up training for state procurement officers.

All Acts enacted by the Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session and Special Session of 2008 as well as Bills vetoed by the Governor in 2008 can be accessed by the public at the following web site of the Legislative Reference Bureau: <http://www.hawaii.gov/lrb/reports/bill.html>

Capital Improvement Projects Funding Approved

Dole Middle School			Stevenson Middle School	
Reroof kitchen	\$ 168,000		Relocation of front office	\$ 550,000
Temporary facilities (portables)	\$ 1,200,000		New multi-purpose recreational facility including classrooms, gymnasium, locker rooms, meeting space	\$ 7,200,000
				\$ 1,500,000
Kaewai Elementary School			Interstate Route H-1	
Electrical upgrades	\$ 539,000		School Street drainage improvements	
Replace kitchen floor	\$ 65,000		On-ramp retaining wall replacement	\$ 8,999,000
Library entry drainage improvements	\$ 250,000			
Kalihi Elementary School			Keehi Small Boat Harbor Improvements	
ADA-compliant restrooms	\$ 500,000		Additional funds for piers	\$ 1,500,000
Kalihi Kai Elementary School			Replacement of piers	<i>work to begin 2008</i>
Electrical upgrades	\$ 775,000		Keehi Small Boat Harbor Improvements for Honolulu Marine Supply relocation	\$ 4,000,000
Kalihi Uka Elementary School			Sand Island Container Yard	\$ 3,500,000
Restroom renovations	\$ 320,000		Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center	\$ 132,000
New security fencing	\$ 35,000		Additional 2007-2008 operating funds	
Kalihi Waena Elementary School			Maluhia Hospital	
Air conditioning	\$ 300,000		Replace X-ray system	\$ 414,000
ADA access ramp	\$ 153,000		Lanakila Rehabilitation Center	\$ 300,000
Kauluwela Elementary School			Kukui Gardens Rental Housing Complex	
Whole school renovation		<i>awaiting release of funds by Governor</i>	First increment of purchase	\$ 26,000,000
Covered walkway - Building E to Building F	\$ 100,000		Public Housing Elevator Improvements, Statewide	\$ 6,410,000
Kawanakanako Middle School			Public Housing Improvements and Renovations, Statewide	\$ 10,000,000
Electrical upgrades	\$ 475,000		<i>Makamae Housing, Renovation of units scheduled for completion in 2008</i>	
Lanakila Elementary School			<i>Puahala Housing, Renovation of units scheduled for completion in 2008</i>	
Whole classroom renovation completed			Rental Housing Trust Fund Infusion	\$ 15,000,000
Electrical upgrades	\$ 539,000		Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Infusion	\$ 10,000,000
Likelike Elementary School			Hawaiian Home Lands Trust Fund, Statewide	\$ 30,000,000
Whole school renovation		<i>funds appropriated by Legislature, awaiting release by Governor for construction</i>	Hawaiian Home Lands Development, Statewide	\$ 100,000,000
Liliha Library			Veterans Cemetery Improvements, Statewide	\$ 1,000,000
New carpeting and receiving desk		<i>installed in 2007</i>	Bishop Museum	\$ 1,000,000
Linapuni Elementary School			Dam Assessments, Maintenance and Remediation, Statewide	\$ 14,530,000
Soil stabilization, structural repairs	\$ 800,000		Rockfall Protection/Slope Stabilization at Various Locations, Statewide	\$ 800,000
Lincoln Elementary School				\$ 200,000
Structural repair to rock wall			Rockfall Mitigation, Statewide	\$ 1,770,000
Drainage improvements	\$ 940,000		Bikeway Improvements at Various Locations, Statewide	\$ 800,000
Ma'ema'e Elementary School				
Whole school renovation completed				
McKinley High School				
Plans for athletic complex	\$ 450,000			
Nu'uanau Elementary School				
		<i>funds appropriated by Legislature, awaiting release by Governor for construction</i>		
Pauoa Elementary School				
Electrical upgrades, re-roofing	\$ 610,000			
Roosevelt High School				
School auditorium		<i>completed in 2008</i>		