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## Around the Community



Army Lt. General Francis Wiercinski was among the commanders who spoke at the 11th annual Hawaii Military Partnership Conference. I am introducing a resolution to highlight the importance of military spending in Hawaii and the need to have a strong U.S. armed forces presence in the Pacific-Asian region.



The Kapolei Sustainable Energy Park includes 4,200 solar panels that will generate 1.18 MW of electricity from the sun. Hoku Solar designed and installed the panels, for the Forest City Hawaii project. The park sits atop 12 acres near the Campbell Industrial area. Hawaiian Electric is a partner in the development.



The Henry Giugni Digital Archives is ready to begin Phase III of the project. It will move to the University of Hawaii at West Oahu this summer when the new campus opens. It is set to open in fall 2012. Powerful media asset management system technology enables the center to transfer, digitize, and preserve media.



Waipahu Intermediate School students Josh Claudio and Excelsius Dela Cruz practiced their training in broadcasting by interviewing Senator Espero about the upcoming 2012 legislative session. Zoe Tanaka teaches students on the technical and practical skills in the WIS Olelo studio located on the school campus.



Congratulations to the James Campbell High School Saber Cheerleaders, who just won the 2011 Gator Bowl Cheer and Dance National Competition. The squad also won for Best Choreography and Most Spirited. I am introducing a bill for a task force on whether cheerleading should be classified as a competitive sport in the DOE.

**Some of the bills I am introducing this Session will:**

1. **Improve our Corrections and Judicial systems** through implementing best practices regarding bail (pre-trial detention), probation, and programs for parole (the national Justice Reinvestment Initiative).
2. Review the administration's plan or strategy to **return prisoners from the mainland**. We are currently spending over \$45 million per year on the mainland to incarcerate prisoners. We need to return the prisoners and spend out tax dollars locally.
3. **Develop a Hawaii-China strategy** to tap into the potential positive benefits of working with China, such as tourism, global warming, alternative energy, education exchanges, sports exchanges, cultural exchanges, food production, and so forth.
4. Create **Marine Conservation Districts** and limit certain months where aquarium fish harvesters cannot gather aquarium fish for exportation.
5. Create an **urban art district** for graffiti artists using State property (walls, pillars, etc.).
6. **Ban spanking or hitting a minor child** for discipline purposes with a hard or man-made object such as a hanger, belt, stick, twig, ruler, pipe, bat, shoe, slipper, etc.
7. Create a **HOPE Parole pilot** project similar to the currently successful HOPE Probation program. This deals with convicts who are released and under government supervision, and is intended to help reduce the rates of inmates returning to prison.
8. Reduce **homelessness**. Rent would be exempt from the general excise tax for landlords if renters are from a list maintained by a homeless agency.
9. Reduce **light pollution** — the bill passed last year but it was vetoed by the Governor.
10. Establish **performance indicators within our prison system** — the Legislature passed a bill last year but it was vetoed by the Governor. We need data to better monitor inmates and the rehabilitation and re-entry programs that are intended to help them.
11. Create a task force to look into making **cheerleading a competitive sport**. Our outstanding James Campbell High School cheerleading team has won national competitions.
12. Bring international **tattoo conventions or trade shows** to Hawaii.
13. Mandate carriers or providers to give to **law enforcement call information** location in the event of an emergency or possible crime being committed (i.e., kidnapping, etc.).
14. Strengthen laws against **computer fraud** being committed via social networking sites.
15. Limit **cellular phone contracts** to be no more than a year in length before renewal.
16. (request) Allow condominium Board of Directors to approve **individual unit electricity meters**.