

# Prevailing Winds



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State Representative



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District 24 - Manoa, University, Moili'ili

Whew! Interim has been a very busy time for me, and session will be starting again in a few months! I just got back from the **Council on State Governments (CSG) Western Legislative Academy and the National Conference & North American Summit**.



The **Western Legislative Academy** allows legislators, those who have been in office less than four years, to learn about how to be a more effective legislator. The academy is held in Colorado Springs, which I believe helps us focus on learning as there are no distractions that you find in large cities. We went through various training sessions and exercises. One session was to determine our personality types. I was evaluated to be a person who is domineering with an emphasis on shaping the environment by overcoming opposition to accomplish results. I am still trying to figure out why they could not have just said I was a nice guy. To be honest, they recommended that I can be a warmer person by being a little more tactful. I do not think this will happen soon though.

On a more serious note, we learned quite a bit on the history of legislatures, the evolution of the legislative process, policies, team building and leadership. Most important, I was able to meet and exchange ideas with other state legislators. I bet most of you did not know that two states did not see the downturn that our nation saw a few years ago. Alaska and Wyoming are doing fine thanks to its natural resources. I shared with them my experience of our state having to cut programs to address our budget shortfall. I believe when their time comes, they are going to appreciate my *mana'o*.

The **CSG Annual Meeting and North American Summit** was held in cold and rainy Bellevue, Washington. I sat on the *Committee for Suggested Legislation* at this conference. The committee is a vetting process to determine legislation that CSG as a body will recommend to the state legislatures. It was an exercise in politics as usual. The committee is compromised of legislators from

various states, and I saw the factions based on partisan- ships vote on which pieces of legislation should be recommended. One piece of legislation that concerned me was a proposal to deal with the taxing of internet sales. I had to speak out against the chair of the committee to support several pieces of legislation that are attempting to tax internet sales. I heard that I became a fighter for Walgreens, Target, Best Buy and other large companies that set up shop in our communities and pay our taxes, even though I am still loyal to small business owners like myself.

The best speaker was *Senator Alan Simpson* who spoke about the work of the super committee in Congress. It was refreshing to know that the committee is making a diligent effort to come up with budget solutions. He is confident that a plan will be worked out. It will be bipartisan and will probably be hated by everyone. He spoke of entitlements, cuts and tax increases. Social programs will also be affected. He strongly stated that erosion of the federal tax base is costing one trillion dollars every year and that the tax base should be restored. He described how the strongest and most skillful lobbyist worked to put tax preferences in our tax laws. The Senator's most interesting comment was his description of AARP as an insurance lobby and how he refuses to be a member of the AARP.

Representatives from Canada indicated that their country's unemployment is low and this is causing wage inflation. *I think we need to find a way to attract more Canadian tourists!*

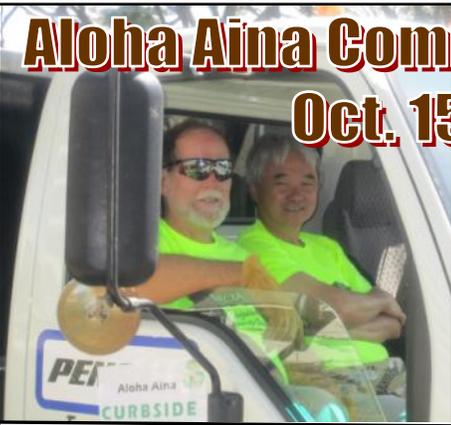
Mexico is looking at ways to attract high technology to the country. *Maybe we should send them a copy of our Act 221 high technology tax credits*. Seriously, they are looking for high technology because their low wage jobs are not very competitive when compared to China and India. Until next month...

Aloha, *Isaac W. Choy*

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# Aloha Aina Community Cleanup Oct. 15, 2011



**MAHALO RALEIGH FERDUN!**



## Safety Never Takes a Holiday!



**EMAIL BLAST ALERTS  
TO MANOA NSW**  
18 Manoa NSWs scattered all over Manoa  
**MAHALO NORMAN WONG!**



**MANOA NSW BLOG**  
for Manoa Neighborhood  
Security Watches

<http://manoa.homeserver.com/nswblog>

**MAHALO RALEIGH FERDUN!**



# Manoa Legislative Town Meeting

**DATE:**  
Thurs., Dec. 15, 2011

**TIME:**  
6:15p.m. to 8:00p.m.

**LOCATION:**  
Manoa Elem. School Cafeteria  
(3155 Manoa Road)

Interested in forming a NSW?  
Visit the Manoa  
NSW Information Table



**DISCUSS** Community Issues  
and  
**BRING YOUR IDEAS**  
for Legislation for the 2012  
Legislative Session.



Senator  
Brian Taniguchi  
Senate District 10



Councilmember  
Ann Kobayashi  
Council District 5



Representative  
Isaac Choy  
House District 24

ANNUAL

## MANOA CHRISTMAS PARADE



**DATE:** SAT., DEC. 10, 2011

**TIME:** 5:00 PM

**PARADE STARTS AT NOELANI ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL AND ENDS AT MANOA GYM ROAD**

Sponsored by the East Manoa Lions & Manoa Jaycees

## Manoa Valley District Park FALL FUN FAIR



**Fri., November 4, 2011**  
5:30—7:30 p.m., New Gym  
**CARNIVAL** type games for  
the children to enjoy.

Assisted by the Waioli Lions and various community  
service/sports organizations of Manoa Valley.

View My Newsletters, Bill Status & Documents, Legislative Information, House/Senate, Photos, Links:  
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/members/house/memberpage.aspx?member=choy>

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