

Prevailing Winds



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Isaac W. Choy
State Representative

District 24 - Manoa, University, Moili'ili



Cheers from Merry ole England! I just returned from the UK and it was pretty cold. One of the things I liked about this trip was the wait time was not so bad to see famous tourist sites like the Crown Jewels. Some of the highlights of my journey include staying in castles, riding the subways, and experiencing The Phantom of the Opera in London, which was on my life's to do list.

This article, being of a political nature, will report on several observations about life in the UK. I will reference the UK instead of only England since my stay included a castle in Wales. I did not get any spiritual inspirations from the stone monuments at Stonehenge but was very impressed with the plumbing at Bath. I am glad to report that I was able to drive around on the opposite side of the street without damaging property or souls!

One of the notable things I saw, or should I say never heard, was the lack of noisy leaf blowers in London. I saw dozens of people actually using brooms to sweep the streets, driveways and parking lots. I mention this because we have had anti-noise legislation regarding leaf blowers for the past three years. Another observation is that the chemist (pharmacist) actually assess your illness and prescribe medicine according to the symptoms you describe to them. *I wonder if this cuts the costs of health care.*



The BBC declared that the UK was not in a recession but English economists are worried that spending by consumers will slow down because of worries about the other European economies. Public workers (transportation workers and school teachers) will go on strike; they are facing cuts to wages and benefits. Twenty-five percent of the UK's total workforce is employed by the British government. This is about the same ratio of government workers to all workers in our state. Politicians running for office promise not to make cuts to worker benefits, but will make cuts in discretionary spending and will cut tax expenditures (tax preferences)..... *Hmmm I wonder where I heard this before.*

Speaking of politicians, I sat in the gallery of the House of Commons and listened to the Representatives debate. They really take a long time to make a point (*I wonder if they can just submit written comments to the journal.*) **Jobs** are the main issue of concern for British policy makers. Like the United States, manufacturing is not competitive in the UK and intellectual and technological industries is where there is competition.

There is a disproportionate amount of young people that is unemployed in the UK. This is a sign that people in the UK are concerned about the future of the economy.

Speaking of jobs, before I left on vacation, I attended a meeting of the University of Hawaii School of Accountancy Advisory Group which I have been a member of for a decade. During this meeting, I believe we may have made a breakthrough by revising our mission statement and policy objective. For years we have talked about the workforce needs of accounting firms operating in our state. The result of this policy was a narrowed scope of thinking that did not challenge our students, facilities or faculty. In changing our philosophy, we talked about preparing our students for the global job market and enabling our students to compete and to actually encourage them to leave our state to seek meaningful careers worldwide. In order to facilitate this paradigm shift, we need to attract international students to compete with our local students. This could transform our University into a national educational delivery system. Education could be a major export product of our state. Tuition will have to cover cost for the non-resident students and of course our faculty and accounting program will have to also be able to compete globally. *Just writing this makes me excited; I wonder if we have the talent to execute this policy?*

Well back to my vacation in the UK, the one thing that I did conclude during this rest period is that our children will be facing many of the same problems that we are encountering today. They will find other solutions than what we executed, not because we were wrong, but because they will have options available to them that we do not have or could not have imagined.

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Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 323, Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-8475 Fax: 808-586-8479
Email: repchoy@capitol.hawaii.gov



Traveling abroad really puts our problems into perspective and shrinks the world a lot. The *Holiday Season* is upon us and the Christmas music on the radio and the Christmas TV ads always puts me in the holiday spirit. Christmas is just around the corner and spending time with family now outweighs any gifts I may get. I never did get my Harley Davidson I always wanted.. *Oh well, maybe next year.*

Let me end by wishing that all of your hopes and aspirations come true, that you and your family be blessed with good health and that we face all of our challenges with an open heart for our fellow man.



Here is wishing you a **Merry Christmas**
and a **Wonderful Holiday Season!**

Isaac W. Choy

Manoa Legislative Town Meeting



Senator Brian Taniguchi



Councilmember Ann Kobayashi



Representative Isaac Choy



INTERESTED IN FORMING A MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH ON YOUR STREET?

The Manoa NSW Recruitment team will be at the 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)

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



STEPS TO ORGANIZING A NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH?
We Can Assist You in Forming an NSW Group.

- Attend a Manoa NSW Informational Meeting for an overview of the Neighborhood Security Watch program.
- Gather in Groups BY STREETS.
- A Manoa NSW Coordinator will be assigned to your group.
- Volunteers NEEDED: NSW Coordinator, Block Captain(s), Members
- Share contact information.
- Fill out the NSW ORGANIZATION form.
- If your NSW is organized, plan to schedule a date for HPD District 7 Community Policing to come out to your neighborhood to meet your neighbors, provide a detailed training.
- A flyer can be designed to help recruit your neighbors.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! YOU NOW HAVE AN OFFICIAL NSW



www.capitol.hawaii.gov

The Legislature's Website

The Hawaii State Legislature's website has been redesigned. With this new design, the public will be able to access information more easily, track bills and deliver testimony much more efficiently.



2012 Regular Session of the Twenty Sixth Legislature

OPENING DAY
Wednesday, January 18, 2012



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

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