



June is the traditional month for graduations. I had the privilege of attending the Hawaii Community Action Program (HCAP) Youth Services Class of 2011 graduation ceremony held at McCoy Pavilion. I will bet most of you never heard of this program. This

was my first attendance for this program in the five years I have sat on the HCAP board. On my way to the ceremony, I asked a fellow board member if this was a kindergarten graduation, thinking it was for our Head Start program. He chuckled and told me that it was for the at-risk youth. I quietly sat there for the rest of the ride not knowing what to expect.

When we arrived, I was surprised to see so many supportive parents, friends and relatives as this seemed to be the same as any high school graduation that I have gone to. As we took our seats, I began to realize what a special event I was attending. This graduation was for the kids that did not graduate with their class at other schools. In fact, these kids were actually the drop outs and were now getting their GED through their own efforts with the help of HCAP. As I sat there listening to a young woman graduate giving what was equivalent to a valedictorian address, my heart sank as I heard her story of how she was placed into foster care at age eight, homeless throughout her life, lived at Aala Park for two years and now a high school graduate who intends to further her education by attending Honolulu Community College (HCC.) What is even more surprising is her parents were present witnessing her graduation!

As I looked at the sixty-eight other graduates sitting there in their blue caps and gowns, I knew that their stories would be similar to hers. During the awards portion of the program, several students who had perfect scores on their high school competency tests were recognized, and then those students who failed this test

several times, but never gave up and finally passed the test were also recognized. In fact the girl who gave the graduation address was one of those individuals. If success has a place for one more individual, I hope this young woman will be the one that is chosen. The funding for this program comes from adult education which is a program that is on the chopping block.

Changing gears, I just found out that my representative district grew by 940 people. Ten years ago, our population was 23,626 now it's 24,566. I wonder where all of these people live. I think it is my high school class mates moving back into the valley to take care of their parents. I seem to see a lot more of them around.

I introduced a bill for our community relating to Home Invasion which did not make it through the regular legislative process so I used another bill to carry the concept through the Legislature. SB 1025 has two parts, one to protect water safety officers and the other with the concept of my original bill. To summarize, once a person unlawfully enters the dwelling of another and the occupant is a senior or disabled individual, the person will be charged with a class B felony. If an occupant is not a senior or disabled, the person is still looking at a class C felony. I tell people in simpler terms, if you plan to burglarize a home after this law, you better make sure no one is home!



Finally, I'll be relaxing in a mountain cabin for a few days in Utah enjoying the beauty of nature taking early morning walks, fishing and working on *Prevailing Winds*—Special Edition which will reflect on this past legislative session. Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Fourth of July weekend!

Aloha, Isaac W. Choy

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



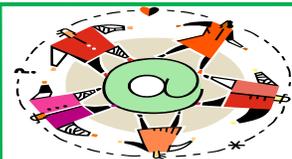
The **3rd Annual Manoa NSW Coordinators and Block Captains Meeting** held on June 7, 2011 at the Manoa Elementary School Cafeteria drew a crowd of 64 people.

HPD, District-elected officials, special guest speakers were on hand to inform and share with the Manoa NSWs updates of crime and prevention, networking while enjoying Rep Choy's favorite beef stew and rice, kim chee and mac salad. **The Manoa NSW network, it's committed vounteers, resources, annual gatherings & community awareness proves that the Manoa NSW program works especially when the bad guys are caught!**



The **Manoa Neighborhood Security Watch Program** is a collection of individual neighborhood security watches organized all over Manoa Valley to help improve residential security. The **NSW** program is sponsored by the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and relies on citizen participation and involvement to help bring awareness and to protect their neighborhoods.

If you are interested in forming or joining a Manoa NSW, contact Carole from the office of Rep. Isaac Choy for more information at 586-8475.



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