



Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy Volume 5— June 2013

District 23 - Manoa, Punahou, University, Moili'ili



Recently the media has focused a revealing (stink) eye on the University of Hawaii. And, rightly so, the public has become troubled with the "product of education" and how it is being "delivered."

As the Chairman of the Committee on Higher Education my involvement in the "delivery" of the educational product has become the focal point of my work. Simply put, the age-old adage "fo da kids" is still the mantra of our society. That being said, it's "how" we educate them that has led to all the controversy. So why is this happening?

Before discussing this question, let's review the reasons why education is important. *We all firmly believe that education is an investment in our future.* And perhaps more crucial, debating the "cost of education" may not guide us to a solution.

The educated person has a lower chance of being a burden on our society. New technology has raised our standard of living, new discoveries have eased our workload, and even providing food for our tables quickly and safely. Economic growth is directly related to education. This all can be attributed to an educated society and workforce. It can even be argued that education is a defensive measure for survival among nations, rather than an offensive initiative. So let's just conclude that the reasons for an educated society is a "no brainer" (An educated joke.)

How this product is delivered is where the controversy lies. Are our schools being as efficient as they can be in supplying the educational product? One major disagreement which rests heavily on people's minds, is the high cost of labor in higher education. Should there be a salary differential in paying

someone to perform a task versus paying someone to teach one to accomplish the task? Some educators reason that their compensation should be tied into the potential economic output of the student, rather than just the hours they spend teaching. Then there are others who are not interested in teaching at all, they want to be compensated for the time spent in improving our world (research.) To further complicate things, there must be someone to herd all of these assorted casts of characters in some cohesive manner and head them in one direction; hopefully to providing an excellent educational product.

Campuses and their buildings are another area where costs appear as only a passing concern. Just because we build a school, doesn't mean it will thrive. Monuments to ourselves as an affluent society are the norm, and we spend an exorbitant amount building institutions of instruction and research. Volume is important too, it seems the more buildings, the better. The problem lies in the sustainability of these structures; we shouldn't build them if we cannot maintain them. Efficiencies in facilities planning will be critical in the sustainability of our university.

How we provide quality higher education has and will continue to be debated. It is important to remember the majority of our state budget is allocated to education. Can the legislature bring balance to the process? Is it the legislature's job to assure the citizen whose taxes underwrite education, that there is sanity in the educational system? After all it is "fo da kids."



Aloha,

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

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House District 23



Council District 5

Please Join

REPRESENTATIVE ISAAC CHOY & COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI

as they Host a
Manoa Legislative

Community Meeting

Share Your
City & State
Concerns

Date:

TUES., DECEMBER 10, 2013

Time:

6:15 P.M.—8:30 P.M.

Location:

MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

(3155 Manoa Road)

Save This Date

Questions? Contact Carole Hagihara from the Office of Representative Isaac Choy at 586-8475.

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For More Information

Dates/Times in June, July, August

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