



Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy

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

This year I reached a milestone, my 60th birthday, and my mother insisted that we celebrate “*kanreki*” with a birthday party. It was fun to be with family and friends and I even wore the traditional red hat and coat, because my mother made me. My wife and I celebrated my 60th birthday with a trip to Europe, which was one year in the making, and well-worth it. Our journey started in Germany and wound through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and then Rome before returning home.

Back to reality. Same sex marriage is now law in Hawaii. Unfortunately, the Governor called the Legislature back into Special Session just as Laurie and I were leaving on our European trip. Many people wondered why I was excused from Special Session and absent from voting on the bill as it progressed through the House. House Leadership knew I would be voting against this bill and excused me from special session. The number of affirmative votes needed to pass any legislation in the House of Representatives is 26. SB1 HD1 passed third reading in the House with 30 ayes and 19 nos, and two excused House members. SB1 HD1 was signed into law by the Governor on Wednesday, November 12. The supporters did a masterful job, and from a sportsman’s perspective, it is only appropriate to congratulate them on a good win for successfully passing this measure. I hope this illustrates to everyone, how the legislative process works or doesn’t work.

On to regular work at the legislature. The University of Hawaii has had over 6 months to reflect upon the last legislative session and creatively work on their “wish list” for the upcoming 2014 session. My greatest fear is that the scenario will be the same as 2013; nothing new. I have visited almost every campus in the University System and must say that there are many well-meaning individuals working within the system. The challenge now is having that right person to serve as our next president to coordinate all this talent and energy into one cohesive direction.

I hope the presidential selection committee understands the full scope of the position, is honest with the candidates, and truly assesses whether that person is qualified and can get the job done.

On another front, there is another invasive species that can potentially devastate our beautiful valley, “fire ants.” I recently revisited the Hawaii Island CTAHR campus and was shocked to see how severe the fire ant problem is, and how quickly it is spreading on the Big Island. (Remember the coqui frogs?) The bite of these fire ants, may result in hundreds of red, itchy welts on your skin. These fire ants could be in your bushes right in your backyard. If (when) these fire ants spread to Oahu and make a home in our valley, they will be extremely difficult to eradicate.



Fire ants will be one of several topics at our **Manoa Legislative Town Meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2013**. This is also an opportunity for the community to share their concerns and talk to their district-elected officials. Meeting flyer is attached. We look forward to see you there.

From Our Family to Yours...



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

Aloha,

Isaac W. Choy

Hawaii State Capitol

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Please Join
Your State & City District-Elected Officials
as they host a
Community Meeting



Representative Isaac Choy
House District 23



Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senate District 11



Councilmember Ann Kobayashi
Council District 5

Date:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013

Time:
6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Location:
**MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CAFETERIA**
3155 Manoa Road

TOPICS:

- Update on Woodlawn Drive Bridge Drop Structure Project
- Disaster Preparedness Training
- Meet Interim UH President David Lassner
- Prevent Fire Ants from Invading Manoa
- Proposed Legislation for the 2014 Session
- Address Your Concerns
- Q & A

INVITED GUESTS:

CARTY CHANG, Chief Engineer
Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)

JAMES BURKE, Associate Director for Course Development

GREGG NAKANO, Recovery Coordinator
National Disaster Preparedness Training Center

DAVID LASSNER, Interim President
University of Hawaii

DR. NEIL REIMER, Acting Administrator
Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division

*Questions? Please contact Carole at the Office of Representative Isaac Choy
Tel: 586-8475 or Email: c.hagihara@capitol.hawaii.gov*

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