

Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy

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

Every time I mention the word "*Budget*", people roll their eyes in dismay anticipating that a long, boring lecture is about to begin. This subject has not come up for a while so I thought I would indulge myself and write what is going on with the University of Hawaii's budget before the final Conference committee convenes this month to iron out the House and Senate positions.

At the beginning of this session, the House position on the UH budget (HB 1700 HD 1) supported the workers by restoring the takeaways implemented by the great recession. After sitting through hours of testimony and reading volumes of reports submitted by UH, it became apparent to me that the infrastructure for deploying repair and maintenance funds was inadequate.

So we (House) funded positions in order that repairs and maintenance could proceed making it absolutely clear with the UH management, that we strongly oppose using anticipated tuition monies to float revenue bonds. This debt will have to be repaid with tuition money from future generations of our unborn children.

The House, looked at the situation holistically then told the UH to "*get their act together*", and use 2014 to organize a plan and build their capacity for repair work and we would re-look at the funding next year (2015), a mere seven months away.

We also asked the Cancer Center and UH West Oahu to come back with master plans so we could develop an approach to fund them appropriately, given the fact that the monies required for these campuses was so substantial that a long-term view was needed. I thought the House position was a reasonable approach.

The Senate came back with what I call the "*same ole, same ole*" approach on the worksheets (HB 1700 SD1). The Senate money committee allocated \$4 million to UH West Oahu for 39 positions. Then a few pages later, deleted a lump sum of \$4 million from the UH system.

The Senate did not fund the collective bargaining requests, nor the positions to build infrastructure for repairs and maintenance, and the very worst thing in their version is using future student tuitions-- from children who haven't even been born yet to pay for this huge backlog of repairs and maintenance.



I always said that we need a lot more CPA's in the legislature, but knowing my professional colleagues, they will never volunteer. We need a new system of budgeting, something longer term, maybe not doing a supplemental budget.

All I can do is pray for the one lawyer (House Finance) and the one engineer (Senate Ways and Means) coming to a judicious conclusion during Conference.

Aloha,

Hawaii State Capitol

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On Friday, April, 4, 2014, the Legislature, including the Governor and Lt. Governor opened its office doors for an evening of art, culture and history during downtown Honolulu's First Friday in April. Artwork at the Capitol is part of the State Art in Public Places Program.

We were fortunate to have Artist **Harry Tsuchidana** in our office talking to our visitors, having photos taken, and even providing autographed sketches. **Mrs. Kazuko Choy** who has done a calligraphy piece for Rep. Choy every two years was also our featured artist.



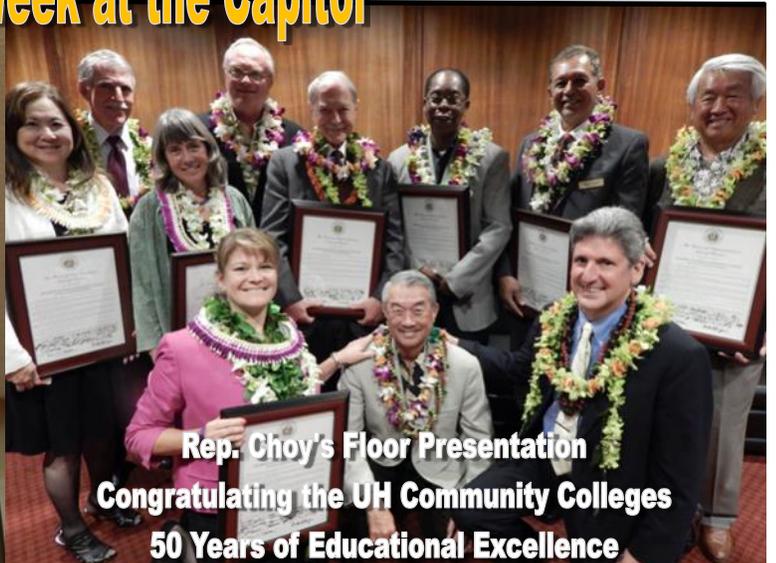
Artist Harry Tsuchidana, Mrs. Kazuko Choy, Mrs. Helen Nakano, Rep. Isaac Choy, Mrs. Laurie Choy



Education Week at the Capitol



Manoa Library's Christel Collins
2013 Librarian of the Year



Rep. Choy's Floor Presentation
Congratulating the UH Community Colleges
50 Years of Educational Excellence



Community Colleges Day at the Capitol



UH Interim President David Lassner
& Rep. Choy