



# Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy

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



What an interesting election. Now that it is over, let me record a few reflections so I may put this experience behind me. My opponent used an advertising technique know as “FUD” — Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt. For most of us who went to public school, this is inexcusable behavior. But I fear that this will be the new normal for political campaigns. This technique is designed to use fear to influence ones thoughts and drive certain behaviors. Outright lies and half-truths coupled with my words taken out of context from as far past as ten years ago. Did it work? I am guessing not because of the outcome of the election. But face it, the good ole days of putting yourself to the public citing *credentials, experience and vision for the future* is now probably gone. I always considered my district voters to be “high information” voters, ones that questions, researches and strives for the underlying truths. A fair question to ask voters who supported my opponent would be, what is my opponent’s position on early childhood education, economic development, the environment, food safety, tourism, agriculture, invasive species, or workforce housing? I certainly don’t know. I wonder if supporting him was based on the fear of some type of personal loss? Hmm....Well, I guess it’s just something we should talk about.

Now that the election is over, Carole, my legislative office manager, reminds me constantly it’s time to get back to work. The Monday after the election, I started meeting with the UH folks. It appears there were not much improvements at the campuses; just more reports of cost over runs, and of course, the University of Hawaii’s leadership changes.

It seems nothing has happened that would change my thinking about several initiatives that I believe would move the University to a better place:

- ▶ The placing of the University student tuitions into general funds so that full funding of the University can be achieved without putting the costs on the backs of the students.
- ▶ Having construction projects assigned to the Department of General Services (DAGS), so that the UH management can focus on educating our children.
- ▶ Separating the community colleges, educational campuses and the Manoa campus so that there can be better control and accountability.
- ▶ Finally, professional schools and research components must be self-sufficient.

As I preach this message, I can hear the pundits say, “*who the hell is he and what does he know about education?*” I agree with the pundits. I know very little, except for the fact that I am the person who has to write a check every year. Maybe I represent all of the check writers of the State of Hawaii who would like to know what they are paying for. The alternative would be to give us an opportunity to withhold our payments.



Aloha,

*Isaac W. Choy*

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# BE READY MANOA

Mānoa became the first urban community to finish its written disaster preparedness plan on April 25, 2014.

The motto of **Be Ready Mānoa** is *"Together We Prepare, Survive and Thrive."* We believe that our best chance of surviving and thriving as a community after a disaster will be with everyone working together now.

Mānoa has 28 **Neighborhood Security Watches** under the supervision of the HPD. They are connected by an email network which sends regular info blasts to its members and a website. Now, in addition to crime prevention, disaster preparedness information has been added. Future plans include a ham radio network.

The **Be Ready Mānoa Disaster Preparedness Fair** will be held at the **Mānoa Valley District Park on Saturday, September 13**. This will be the first community fair that will be held in Mānoa in the past 10 years.

As co-chair of this fair with Helen Nakano, we are pleased to see the excitement unfold, as in addition to the fair, and as part of the total BRM outreach objectives, two additional initiatives were organized by BRM:

1. **Creation of a communications network** among all the faith-based organizations located in Mānoa Valley.
2. **Disaster Blaster Challenge**, an educational program consisting of:
  - 50 Q and A's (with answers provided), which is to be studied by the family of a student striving to become a *"Disaster Blaster"*; and
  - A testing program at the Fair itself to qualify the students wishing to become disaster blasters.

Three thousand students and their families are participating in this program from the following schools: the public schools - Mānoa Elementary, Noelani Elementary, Stevenson Middle and Roosevelt High School; and the private schools - Maryknoll Elementary and High Schools, St. Francis School, UH Laboratory School and Punahou School.

**Come and Join us at the Fair...Everyone is Welcome!**

*"Together We Prepare, Survive and Thrive!"*



## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Oahu)

**Police—Fire—Ambulance: CALL 911**

State Civil Defense	www.scd.hawaii.gov	733-4300
Department of Emergency Management	www.honolulu.gov/dem	723-8960
American Red Cross (State Chapter)	www.hawaiiredcross.org	734-2101
Statewide List of Emergency Shelters	www.honolulu.gov/demevacuate/hurricaneinfo.html	
Ready.gov	www.ready.gov	
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov	

**BE READY MĀNOA**  
**Disaster Preparedness Fair**  
**Saturday September 13, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
Mānoa Valley District Park Gym  
Parking entrance from Mānoa Road

Let's prepare Mānoa for the next flood, fire, hurricane, or earthquake.

Q&A with Natural Disaster Preparedness Experts:

- Hawaii State Civil Defense
- National Weather Service
- Hawaiian Humane Society
- Department of Health, Medical Reserve Corps
- Department of Emergency Mgmt.
- Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
- National Disaster Preparedness Training Center
- and many more!

Are you and your neighbors prepared?

Complete the **DISASTER BLASTER** challenge and win a cool bag!



FOR MORE INFO: [bereadymanoa.org](http://bereadymanoa.org)  
E-MAIL: [fair@bereadymanoa.org](mailto:fair@bereadymanoa.org)  
CONTACT: Helen Nakano ☎927-0993

Free Admission and Parking • Fun Hands-on Activities • Food • Keiki ID Free Samples • Aerial Drone & K-9 Rescue Demos • Local Entertainers

**Together, we prepare, survive, and thrive.**

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