

State Representative Gregg Takayama

District 34 • Pearl City • Waimalu • Pacific Palisades

Community Update



Serving Seniors Highlights 2013 Session



Aloha Neighbors:

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you in the State House of Representatives. As a newly elected Representative, I am committed to upholding the trust you have placed in me and am dedicated to working to improve our community.

I am tremendously proud to represent Pearl City – recognized for some of the very best public schools in the State; admired for our outstanding youth athletic, music and civic organizations; and respected for our active and involved citizens.

My office works with our community on projects and I am happy to share with you some of our accomplishments in this newsletter. For example, more than \$7 million was secured for school improvements.

Being accessible and responsive to you will always be my top priority. Please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or by phone 586-6340.

Mahalo,


Gregg

reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov

The good news is that we are living longer than ever. Hawaii's average life expectancy of 82 years is one of the world's longest. But long life often comes with a cost, as expenses mount to deal with health problems and other afflictions.

As House Co-chair of the Kupuna Caucus, Rep. Gregg Takayama has taken a leading role in developing the Legislature's plans to deal with the "silver tsunami" of growing numbers of elderly. Among the accomplishments of the 2013 session:

- Taking the first step in developing a much-needed statewide plan for long-term care services by providing \$380,000 for a feasibility study and actuarial analysis of a public long-term care insurance program. This was the top recommendation of the 2012 Hawaii Long-Term Care Commission to help residents pay for future health services.
- Adding \$4 million for Kupuna Care services – which helps feed, transport and assist seniors – plus establish a coordinator for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia services; and fund a Healthy Aging partnership program in the Executive Office on Aging.

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Rep. Takayama accepts the Alzheimer's Association's State Champion Award on behalf of the State Legislature's Kupuna Caucus, which he co-chairs.



Rep. Takayama and Senator Chun-Oakland, both co-chairs of the Kupuna Caucus, and other members were honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Hawaii Alliance on Retired Americans (HARA) and Kokua Council.



Rep. Takayama participating in a House Finance hearing.

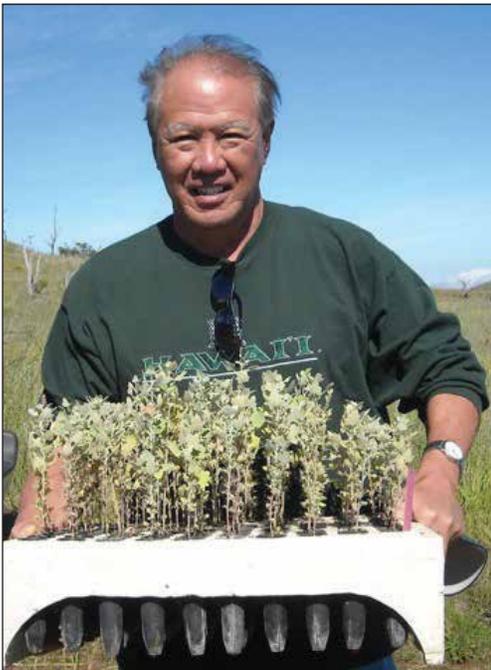
Representative Takayama is proud to announce more than \$7,000,000 for District 34 school improvements

- **Highlands Intermediate School** - \$65,000 for ceiling fan installation
\$100,000 for campus perimeter fence installation
- **Momilani Elementary School** - \$384,000 to resurface Hookiekie Street
\$253,800 for electrical upgrades
\$9,000 to replace the fire alarm system
- **Pearl City High School** - \$5,000,000 for track and field improvements
\$193,000 for reroofing
\$132,000 for new countertops in electronics classrooms
- **Pearl City Highlands Elementary School** - \$50,000 to install solar ventilators
\$2,000 replacing two main valves
\$80,000 to resurface Mauka Loop
\$120,000 for plans to design and expand the administration building
\$100,000 for accessible and age appropriate play equipment
- **Waimalu Elementary School** - \$300,000 for parking lot resurfacing
\$10,000 for structural repairs
- **Palisades Elementary School** - \$300,000 for reroofing
- **Waiau Elementary School** - \$1,200,000 in electrical upgrades



"It is important that all of Hawaii knows about the great work the Kupuna Caucus is doing to meet the needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their family caregivers."

Christine Payne,
Executive Director/CEO,
Alzheimer's Association



Planting koa, pilo and a'ali'i for the Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project.

(Serving Seniors continued from page 1)

- Providing \$1.4 million to implement a statewide system of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) which are one-stop shops in each county to assist persons seeking long-term care services for themselves or their loved ones.
- And we are helping protect the elderly from abuse by mandating that financial institutions report suspected financial abuse to the appropriate county police department, in addition to the Department of Human Services;

For these achievements, Rep. Takayama and other members of the Kupuna Caucus were honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Hawaii Alliance on Retired Americans (HARA) and Kokua Council; as well as the State Champion Award by the Alzheimer's Association.

Among the measures sponsored by the Kupuna Caucus in the upcoming 2014 session is continued funding for Kupuna Care, the Healthy Aging Partnership, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, senior centers, a long-term care education and awareness campaign, a bill to establish a position in the Executive Office on Aging to prevent elder abuse and fraud and a bill to establish a fall prevention coordinator position.



Rep. Takayama walks with the Health Department's John Messina and Rep. Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair, at the Health Lab on Waimano Ridge.

Rep. Takayama sponsored and presented the Award for Outstanding Citizenship, as he believes in supporting our keiki:

- Jakob Ryan Cabatingan, Waimalu Elementary School
- Mia deLara, Highlands Intermediate School
- Zoe Engelman, Palisades Elementary School
- Rhysa Lee, Pearl City Highlands Elementary School
- Kuahiwi Pearce, Waiau Elementary School
- Kristin Tabios, Momilani Elementary School



Helping collect e-waste for recycling at Aiea Community Association's Going Green Day event at the old Aiea Sugar Mill.



Talking with inmates during a visit to the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

New bird feeding law responds to Pearl City complaints

Some long-term Pearl City residents pleaded for help from freshman Rep. Gregg Takayama after suffering for many years from neighbors whose feeding of feral birds has attracted flocks of more than 200 pigeons and other birds. Their feathers and droppings damage homes and cars, create a stench and make their backyards unusable.

Rep. Takayama introduced HB 619 to make it illegal to excessively feed feral birds by declaring it a health nuisance if the feeding creates odor and filth. He persuaded the House and Senate to approve the measure and then gained the support of Governor Neil Abercrombie, who signed it into law as Act 269.

"We are very grateful to Rep. Takayama for listening to our complaints and responding so quickly and effectively," said Florence Tanaka, leader of the residents' group. "We were impressed that as a freshman member of the House, he was able to gain the support of other legislators in just his first term."

Other neighborhoods in Hawaii have also experienced similar problems from excessive bird feeding, and Rep. Takayama is working with the State Health Department on finding ways to effectively enforce the new law.



**State Representative
Gregg Takayama**

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Rep. Takayama was honored to provide the opening remarks for the 34th Annual Ken Suenaga Invitational Swim meet at the Patsy Mink Central Oahu Regional Park.



“Having the support and participation of our elected officials is very important to the work of the neighborhood boards. The Pearl City Neighborhood Board is fortunate to have the support of all of our elected representatives, such as Rep. Gregg Takayama.”

Larry Veray, Vice Chair,
Pearl City Neighborhood Board

Rep. Gregg Takayama

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If you would like to stay informed about community events, e-mail me to sign up for e-news, and like Rep. Takayama on Facebook.

**You are welcome to join us
for the opening of the
2014 Legislative Session**

**Wednesday,
January 15, 2014
10 a.m.
State Capitol**

**Open to the public
Seating & Parking are limited**



Rep. Takayama and wife of 38 years, Linda, at last year's Opening Day festivities.