

Community Newsletter

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative in our Hawaii State Legislature. After six years, it is still an honor and privilege to work for you and the needs of our district and state. As Chairman of the House Public Safety Committee and House Majority Policy Leader, I, along with my colleagues, worked hard to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our communities. This newsletter highlights the accomplishments and brief descriptions on some of the significant bills passed by the 27th Hawaii State Legislature.



The 2014 legislative session was another challenging year, but we addressed concerns that affect Waipahu and our state together. The biggest accomplishments were bills relating to our kupuna (seniors), education, minimum wage and climate change. Along with the Senate, we worked diligently to better our communities.

I also had the opportunity to acknowledge many in our community and state who have accomplished great achievements or reached major milestones including Waipahu High School (WHS) Principal Keith Hayashi, WHS Kumu Rebecca Sanborn, World Champion Boston Red Sox Shane Victorino, Eagle Scouts Matthew and Gabriel Balais and Futaba Owner Carol Nezu.

Again, I am humbled to have served this community for the past three terms. Please keep in touch with me about your recommendations or concerns. Feel free to email me at repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov or call 586-6520. Also, please visit me at the Hawaii State Capitol in room 419. I look forward to working with you all again in the future, and thank you for the privilege to serve as your State Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry J.C. Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Henry J.C. Aquino
State Representative

Rep. Aquino Shares 2014 Legislative Highlights

The 2014 Legislature opened with the state's economy on the rise, tourism was strong and unemployment was down. However, lower than expected long-term revenue projections were forecasted by mid-session causing a more cautious approach in addressing the budget and planning how best to invest in current programs and projects, as well as making judicious investments in Hawaii's future.

This year I served as the Majority Policy Leader and was responsible for spearheading House Majority (Democrats) members in developing policies to be endorsed by the Democratic lawmakers. A successful partnership with the House and Senate Majority leaders resulted in a joint majority package of priorities for the 2014 legislative session.

The 2014 Democratic Majority Package focused on two key areas of statewide concern: Seniors and the Environment. The number of seniors over 60 in Hawaii grew by nearly 140 percent and seniors over 85 increased by more than 430 percent in the last 30 years. By 2035, the projection is Hawaii's seniors over 60 will make up nearly a third of the State's total population. Therefore, support for Hawaii's rapidly growing elderly population was deemed a priority. The Majority Package measures support healthy aging programs, increase public awareness of long-term care and address financial abuse of our kupuna.

Climate change and invasive species is a paramount challenge, posing both an urgent and long-term threat to the State's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life. Through the Majority Package, we passed measures to protect our environment and economy by planning for contingencies in the event of catastrophic consequences due to climate change and the eradication of invasive species.

For the first time since 2007, we raised the minimum wage to help our lowest wage earners. Lawmakers also approved a measure to assist the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. We increased funds allocated from the State's conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund from 30 percent to 50 percent starting July 1 to help our young families who are struggling to make ends meet with their housing needs.

I am also pleased to announce the approval of over \$102 million in capital improvement project (CIP) funding for Waipahu (38th District), neighboring communities, statewide facilities and roadways. These projects address improvements to Waipahu schools, the Filipino Community Center, Leeward Community College, University of Hawaii's West Oahu Campus, as well as projects to address areas of public safety and transportation. (A complete list of projects and appropriations are contained in this newsletter.)

2014 BILL HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE

Invasive Species Council. Appropriates \$5,000,000 for Hawaii Invasive Species Council projects, including invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning. **HB1716 (2014 Joint Majority Package)**

CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Cybersecurity; Cyber Resiliency. Establishes a Hawaii Cybersecurity Economic, Education, and Infrastructure Security Coordinator to assist with the development of methods to improve the State's cybersecurity and cyber resiliency. Appropriates \$200,000 for salary and operating expenses associated with establishing the Coordinator. **HB2003 HD1 SD1 CD1**

Kupuna; Financial and Investor Education. Appropriates \$50,000 for educational outreach to protect vulnerable kupuna based on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' existing investor education programs, particularly in the areas of indexed annuities, life-settlement annuities, variable annuities, and Ponzi schemes. **SB2345 SD1 HD1 CD1 (2014 Joint Majority Package)**

Financial Disclosure; Public Officers and Employees. Requires the financial disclosure statements of members of certain boards, commissions, and agencies to be made available for public inspection and duplication. **SB2682 SD1 HD2 CD1**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

State Plan; Economy; Innovation. Incorporates the promotion and encouragement



Rep. Aquino speaking during the Opening of the 2014 Legislative Session.

of innovation and entrepreneurship into the policies, objectives, and priority guidelines of the Hawaii State Plan. **SB2981 SD2 HD1 CD1**

EDUCATION

Mandatory Kindergarten; Age Requirement. Makes kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the school year, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, unless otherwise exempt. **SB2768 SD2 HD2 CD1**

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Climate Change Adaptation; Sea Level Rise. Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide to 2050. Tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations using



Chair Aquino presiding over a House Committee on Public Safety along with Vice-Chair Kanela Ing and Rep. Bob McDermott.



Rep. Aquino and other public officials at a Filipino Caucus meeting.

the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report as a framework for addressing other statewide climate impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Appropriates a total of \$567,749 for staffing, resources, and the development of the report. **HB1714 HD1 SD2 CD1 (2014 Joint Majority Package)**

Advanced Grid Modernization; Renewable Energy. Amends the Public Utilities Commission's guiding principles regarding the modernization of the electric grid. **HB1943 HD2 SD2 CD1**

HEALTH

Executive Office on Aging; Long Term Care. Appropriates \$6,576,772 to the Department of Health for community-based services and programs for older persons. Requires the Department of Health Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on long-term care and appropriates \$500,000 for this purpose. **SB2346 SD1 HD2 CD1 (2014 Joint Majority Package)**

Health Policy; Social Determinants of Health; Native Hawaiians; Pacific Islanders; Filipinos. Directs state agencies and officers to direct health-related planning activities toward achieving the elimination of health disparities by identifying and addressing social determinants of health by codifying the commitment to address health disparities in the Hawaii State Planning Act. **HB1616 HD1 SD1**

HOUSING

Conveyance Tax; Rental Housing Trust Fund. Supports Hawaii's affordable housing goals by restoring the allocation of 50% Conveyance Tax collections to the Rental Housing Trust Fund beginning July



WHS PRINCIPAL KEITH HAYASHI AND REP. AQUINO
House Resolution 207 cites the achievements of Principal Hayashi who was the 2013 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award Recipient.

1, 2014. **SB2542 SD1 HD1 CD1**

JUDICIARY

Violation of Privacy in the First Degree; Disclosure of an Image or Video of Another with the Intent to Harm. Expands the offense of violation of privacy in the first degree to include knowingly disclosing an image or video of another identifiable person either in the nude or engaging in sexual conduct without the consent of the depicted person and with intent to harm substantially the depicted person. **HB1750 HD1 SD1 CD1**

Habitual Property Crime. Imposes a mandatory minimum term of one year

imprisonment upon conviction for the offense of habitual property crime. Authorizes probation only for a first conviction of the offense of habitual property crime. **HB2205 HD1 SD1 CD1**

HUMAN SERVICES

Domestic Violence; Abuse of a Family or Household Member. Requires a police officer, after reasonable inquiry, to order a no-contact period of 48 hours upon the person whom the officer reasonably believes has inflicted physical abuse or harm upon a family or household member. Makes the commission of an act of physical abuse in the presence of a family or household member who is a minor under the age of fourteen a class C felony. **HB1993 SD2 CD1**

LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Minimum Wage. Increases the minimum wage rate to \$7.75 per hour beginning on January 1, 2015, \$8.50 per hour beginning on January 1, 2016, \$9.25 per hour beginning on January 1, 2017, and \$10.10 per hour beginning on January 1, 2018. Increases the tip credit to 50 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2015, and 75 cents per hour beginning on January 1, 2016; provided that beginning January 1, 2015, the combined amount the employee receives in wages and tips is at least \$7 more than the applicable minimum wage. **SB2609 SD1 HD2 CD1**

Human Trafficking Victim Services Fund; Labor and Prostitution Offenses. Establishes the Human Trafficking Victim Services Fund to be administered by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide support and services to



KUMU REBECCA SANBORN 2014 NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
Rep. Henry Aquino, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Kumu Sanborn, Rep. Ty Cullen and students.



EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR PRESENTATION
(L to R) Rep. Aquino, Eagle Scouts Matthew Balais and Gabriel Balais



Rep. Aquino presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Carol Nezu, Futaba Restaurant owner, for her family's service to the community.

2014 BILL HIGHLIGHTS

human trafficking victims. Establishes human trafficking victim fees to be imposed upon persons convicted of labor trafficking and prostitution offenses. **HB2038 HD1 SD2 CD1**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Temporary Fireworks Storage. Requires that permanent and temporary fireworks storage buildings or structures and buildings or facilities where redistribution activities are performed comply with currently adopted county building or fire codes or latest edition of nationally recognized standards. **HB1664 HD1**

Criminal History Record Checks; Volunteers. Allows qualified entities to conduct state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record checks on their applicants, employees, and volunteers who provide care for children, vulnerable adults, or individuals with disabilities, and to receive the results directly. **HB2243 HD1 SD1 CD1**

TOURISM

Transient Accommodations Tax; Allocation to Counties. Increases the cap on Transient Accommodations Tax revenues to \$103,000,000 to be distributed to the counties for the next two fiscal years. Establishes a working group to determine future county allocation ceiling amounts and the appropriate division of the provision of public services between the State and counties. **HB1671 HD1 SD1 CD1**

Hawaii Tourism Authority. Amends functions and requirements of the Hawaii Tourism Authority by, among other things, requiring a single-document Hawaii tourism



Rep. Aquino and World Champion Boston Red Sox Outfielder Shane Victorino.

marketing plan; requiring the Authority to have a permanent, strong focus on Hawaii brand management; and authorizing the Authority to withhold competitively sensitive information from public disclosure. **HB1692 HD2 SD2 CD1**

TRANSPORTATION

Mobile Electronic Device; Operation of a Motor Vehicle. Amends the law prohibiting operation of a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device by adding an exemption for completely stopped drivers that have the engine off and are in a safe location out of the way of traffic, amending the definition of “operate,” amending the penalties for violations, and deeming a violation to be a traffic infraction for which a flat-rate fine shall be imposed. **SB2729 SD2 HD1 CD1**

FINANCE

Budget; Supplemental Appropriations.

Adjusts appropriations for the operating and capital improvement costs for the Executive Branch for the 2013 – 2015 fiscal biennium. In total, this measure sets the Executive Branch budget at \$11,726,810,661 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 and \$12,147,239,877 for FY 2014-2015. Of this total amount, \$5,944,324,439 for FY 2013-2014 and \$6,189,204,272 will come from anticipated general fund moneys. This supplemental budget measure adjusts the total appropriations for FY 2013-2014 by recapturing unexpended funds to achieve a reduction of \$92,507,527 in total appropriations, the majority of which is comprised of general funds. Some of the major budget items funded in this supplemental budget measure include:

- \$955,256,000 for FY 2013-2014 and \$1,372,592,000 for FY 2014-2015 for capital improvement projects, to be funded by general obligation bonds, and an additional \$5,094,070,000 for fiscal biennium 2013-2015 for projects funded by all means of financing;
- \$15,185,356 in general funds for FY 2013-2014 and \$15,292,859 in general funds for FY 2014-2015 for pension accumulation and Social Security/Medicare payments;
- \$5,476,009 in general funds for FY 2014-2015 for health premium payments for active employees;
- \$15,000,000 in general funds for the Weighted Student Formula in School-Based Budgeting and \$3,000,000 in



Rep. Ty Cullen, Rep. Aquino and Sen. Clarence Nishihara participating in Waipahu Elementary School's "Read-to-Me" program.



Rep. Aquino meeting with August Ahrens Elementary School students during a recent tour of the capitol.

PHILIPPINES VISIT



Rep. Aquino and Med-Assist School of Hawaii students.

general funds for early learning school readiness programs;

- \$9,191,840 general funds transfer from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services to help consolidate and streamline payments and services between the Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division and the Department of Human Services' MedQuest Division for adults with severe and persistent mental illness;
- \$17,359,000 in special funds for the functions of State airports, including routine maintenance of baggage handling and explosives detection systems at the Honolulu International Airport and Kahului Airport, pavement-marking rehabilitation at eight airports, and Wiki Wiki bus services at the Honolulu International Airport;
- \$5,546,076 in general funds and \$2,956,860 in federal funds to adjust monthly foster rates to the three-tier age-based system and funding levels cited by the United States Department of Agriculture's Report, Expenditure on Children by Families;
- \$45,970,000 in special funds and \$9,200,000 in revolving funds for various programs at the University of Hawaii, Manoa; \$9,350,000 in special funds for various programs at the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine; and \$33,000,000 in capital improvement funds for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy facility at the University of Hawaii-Hilo; \$28,800,000 in capital improvement funds for University of Hawaii-West Oahu's Allied Health and Administration Building; and
- \$50,000,000 in special funds from Green Energy Market Securitization bond proceeds for the purposes of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Loan Program. **HB1700 HD1 SD1 CD1**



Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez and Rep. Aquino discussing disaster preparedness, rebuilding, and future resiliency plans.



Tacloban residents endure despite rebuilding challenges.

In November 2013, the Philippines suffered a major disaster with Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). The city of Tacloban in the Leyte province was hit the hardest. At the invitation of the Consulate General of the Philippines Julius Torres, Rep. Aquino, as Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety, traveled to the Philippines to meet with government leaders in Metro Manila and Leyte. This visit was an opportunity to assess the recovery efforts in the typhoon-hit areas and share insight on emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resiliency efforts. This initial meeting also provided the prospect for continued partnership to benefit Hawaii and the Philippines in the areas of public safety and emergency management. The Hawaii delegation also distributed first aid and hygiene kits donated by the Med-Assist Schools of Hawaii to the Tacloban community.



Reps. Yamane, Aquino, and Cullen with Philippine Senator Nancy Binay, Chair of Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development.

Reps. Aquino and Yamane donating supplies to Philippine Red Cross officials and volunteers.





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2014-2015 Capital improvement Projects (CIP) Funding

KUNIA AGRICULTURAL PARK

*Design and construction for the Kunia
Agricultural Park \$2,500,000*

FIRST RESPONDERS TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS AND CYBER SECURITY COMMAND CENTER, OAHU

*Plans, land acquisition and design for TMKS: 9-5-046-041; .
9-5-046-010; 9-5-002-057; 9-5-046-018; and 9-5-046-042,
to be designated for the site of the First Responders
Technology Campus and Cyber Security
Command Center \$11,500,000*

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC., OAHU

*Plans, design, construction and equipment to retrofit
existing central air-conditioning system \$550,000*
*Plans, design and construction for a retractable
roof covering \$250,000*

RETROFIT PUBLIC BUILDINGS WITH HURRICAN PROTECTIVE MEASURES, STATEWIDE

*Plans, land acquisition, design, construction and
equipment to retrofit public buildings with hurricane
protective measures and increase the number of
public shelters statewide \$4,000,000*

DISASTER WARNING AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES, STATEWIDE

*Plans, land acquisition, design, construction and
equipment for the incremental addition, replacement
and upgrade of State Civil Defense warning and
communications equipment \$4,800,000*

AUGUST AHRENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Design, construction and equipment for
ceiling fans in existing portables and
second floor classrooms \$180,000*
*Design and construction for new walkway at
front of campus for pedestrian safety \$300,000*

HONOWAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Plans and design for a new eight-classroom building ... \$880,000

WAIPAHAU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Design and construction for new parking lot and
refurbishment of existing parking area into formal
playcourt \$550,000*
*Design and construction for campus wide
electrical system upgrades \$2,000,000*

WAIPAHAU HIGH SCHOOL

*Design, construction and equipment for
synthetic field turf, an all-weather 8-lane track
and other related improvements \$5,500,000*
*Plans, design and construction for a retaining
wall behind the school \$800,000*
*Plans, design and construction for a new
classroom building \$1,200,000*
*Design and construction for a campus wide
electrical upgrade \$2,000,000*

CENTRAL OAHU AMBULANCE FACILITY

*Plans, design, construction and equipment for an
ambulance facility for Central Oahu located on
TMK: 9-4-122-103 \$3,850,000*

SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT COMMERCIAL HARBORS, STATEWIDE

*Plans, design and construction for security
system improvements at commercial harbor
facilities, statewide \$5,000,000*

INTERSTATE ROUTE H-1, KUNIA INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

*Plans for improvements to the Kunia interchange
and approaches \$780,000*

OAHU BIKEWAYS

*Land acquisition for a multi-use path from the
vicinity of Waipio Point Access Road to
Lualualei Naval Road \$11,932,000*

H1 FREEWAY, WAIKELE, OAHU

*Construction for repavement of onramps
and offramps \$1,500,000*

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-WEST OAHU

*Design, construction of Road B on UHWO campus
to connect to Kualakai Parkway \$3,500,000*
*Design, construction for the Allied Health and
Administration Building \$28,800,000*

LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Plans and design for a Native Hawaiian Center
for Excellence \$2,000,000*
*Design, construction and equipment for renovations
to the Leeward Community College theatre \$8,000,000*

TOTAL CIP FUNDING \$102,372,000