



REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AQUINO

WAIPAHU COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 35
WAIPAHU * CRESTVIEW * SEAVIEW



MARCH 2012

Dear Neighbors,

The military's presence in Hawaii is critical to the state's economy and essential to ensure the United States military readiness. The House Committee on Finance approved a legislative package supporting Hawaii's military, service members and their families.

Two Waipahu residents shared the spotlight in February. Goro Arakawa was named one of five Living Treasures by the Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii. House members honored Army Specialist Edward Barut, Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge recipient for his bravery and courageous actions in Afghanistan.

Waipahu High School students continue to excel by participating in the 2012 LifeSmarts Consumer Competition. Waipahu competed against Aka'ula School, 'Iolani School and Kealakehe High School.

March marks midsession and House lawmakers will now address bills approved by the Senate and crossed over to the House. I will continue to advocate legislation to address public safety, economic recovery, job creation and military affairs. Please contact me with your feedback and comments.

With Much Aloha,

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- P1 & 2: House Finance Passes Legislative Package Supporting the Military
- P2: Honoring a Local Hero, Army SPEC Edward Barut
- P3: Goro Arakawa, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Living Treasure
- P3: 2012 LifeSmarts Consumer Competition
- P4: Waipahu Town Center Spring Carnival
- P4: Frequently Called Numbers – City, State & Federal



Left to right: Rep. Ty Cullen (Vice Chair – Public Safety & Military Affairs) Laurie Crehan (Dept. of Defense Regional Liaison), Rep. Marcus Oshiro (Chair – Finance), Rep. Henry Aquino (Chair – Public Safety & Military Affairs)

House Finance Passes Legislative Package Supporting the Military

The House Committee on Finance approved a legislative package supporting the military in Hawai'i. "The passage of these five pieces of legislation shows the commitment to and appreciation of the military, service members, and their families that is consistent with the values and priorities of the state of Hawai'i," said House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs Chair Rep. Aquino. The bills supporting the overall military presence in the state as well as military members and veterans are as follows:

HB2410 RELATING TO THE MILITARY – This bill requires the Governor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Dept. of Defense to provide continued support for the military's presence in Hawai'i. "Tourism and the military are the two pillars of our economy. HB2410 will further bolster the relationship between the state of Hawai'i and the U.S. Dept. of Defense, ensuring continued cooperation moving forward," said, Rep. Henry Aquino.

HB2409 RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION –

This bill authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to enforce existing federal laws protecting military members and their families. The John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 limits the terms of credit that may be applied to military members and their dependents. The act is designed to protect military members and their families from unfair lending practices that are commonly used by issuers of payday loans, vehicle title loans, and tax refund anticipation loans. There is no federal enforcement mechanism for the legislation, and HB2409 will authorize the DCCA to take action in the state of Hawai'i.

HB2258 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING –

This bill allows professional and vocational licensing authorities to accept military training, education, and service towards licensing requirements.

HB2639 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION – This bill authorizes the University of Hawai'i system to grant military members with college credits for military experience. Military members currently receive college credits for military training, but not for professional experience while serving. The bill will establish a learning assessment to determine college-level learning gained during military service.

"Our commitment to military members does not end with their service to our country," said Rep. Aquino. "Mandating that the University of Hawai'i, as well as professional and vocational licensing authorities, to recognize military training is a key step in helping veterans transition to the civilian work force."

HB2798 RELATING TO A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT –

This bill establishes a Veterans Court that will allow Hawai'i to join more than a dozen states across the country in taking into account the impact returning home from combat has on veterans when administering justice. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have caused a spike in veterans going through the court system. The Veterans Treatment Court is a system that recognizes the psychological effects of deployments and gives veterans a degree of justice commensurate with their service.

Waipahu's Son SPEC Edward Barut, Purple Heart Medal & Combat Action Badge Recipient Honored

The Hawaii State House of Representatives honored Waipahu's son **Army SPEC Edward Barut** for his bravery and courageous actions in Afghanistan. Rep. Aquino introduced House Resolution 29 recognizing SPEC Edward Barut, recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge, for his ultimate act of service and valor in serving our nation. A floor presentation was conducted to honor SPEC Barut.

SPEC Edward Barut & Rep. Aquino



On October 2011, SPEC Barut and his convoy were ambushed while travelling through Afghanistan's perilous Tangi Valley. SPEC Barut and his comrades fought courageously as the insurgents launched a 45-minute barrage of rocket-propelled grenades, small arms fire, and improvised explosives. These brave soldiers successfully

defended against the brutal attack, risking their own lives to protect the innocent and uphold the freedoms of democracy.

On October 31, 2011, SPEC Barut and his fellow soldiers were presented with Purple Heart Medals and Combat Action Badges in recognition of their bravery, acts of sacrifice, and highest distinction of service.



Representatives Har, Aquino and Cullen with the Barut family.

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's
Living Treasure Program Honors
Goro Arakawa**



2012 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Living Treasures Honorees Dr. Ben Finney, Goro Arakawa, Barbara Fusako Kawakami, Lynette Kahekili Paglinawan, Gordon Mark

Waipahu resident and business owner **Goro Arakawa** along with Dr. Ben Finney, Barbara Fusako Kawakami, Lynette Kahekili Paglinawan, and Gordon Mark were recognized as Living Treasures by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Since 1976, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Living Treasure Program has been honoring individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their fields and who have made lifelong and significant contributions toward creating a more humane society.

Mr. Arakawa is a civic leader and accomplished businessman. He helped found Hawaii's Plantation Village in Waipahu, an outdoor history museum that showcases the experience of Hawaii's plantation workers. Many longtime Waipahu residents know Mr. Arakawa as the son of Zempan Arakawa, the founder of Arakawa's General Store, a long-time fixture on Waipahu's historic Depot Road before it closed in 1995 after 85 years in business.



Rep. Aquino congratulating Barbara Fusako Kawakami

2012 LifeSmarts Consumer Competition



On 2-11-12, **Waipahu High School students** participated in the 8th annual LifeSmarts Consumer Competition. This game-show style competition tested students on their knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities.

Aka'ula School, 'Iolani School, Kealakehe High School and Waipahu High School battled in brainy competition with 'Iolani High School winning the state title.

LifeSmarts is a free consumer education for teens in grades 6 – 12. The LifeSmarts program is run by the National Consumers League and is sponsored in Hawai'i by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) in partnership with the Hawai'i Credit Union League.



Aka'ula School, 'Iolani School, Kealakehe High School and Waipahu High School student participants

WAIPAHU TOWN CENTER SPRING CARNIVAL

Spring Carnival at the Waipahu Town Center

Friday, March 16, 2012 – 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 17, 2012 – 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please join your neighbors for two days of ongoing entertainment, food booths and carnival rides for children.



FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

CC= City & County, F=Federal, S=State

Department	Phone	Department	Phone
(CC) Abandoned Vehicle	733-2530	(CC) Senior Citizen Information	768-7700
(CC) Bus Route/Schedule Information	848-5555	(CC) Street Use Permits	768-8391
(CC) Driver's License		(F) Social Security Administration	
City Square Main Station	532-7730	300 Ala Moana Blvd. #1114	800-772-1213
Commercial Driver License	487-5534	Honolulu, HI	
Kapolei	768-3100	563 Farrington Highway #201	808-674-2477
Koolau	239-6301	Kapolei, HI	
Wahiawa	621-7255		
Waianae (Mon. & Wed. only)	768-4222		
(CC) License Renewals and Duplicates		(S) Department of Transportation	587-2150
only at the following Satellite City Halls:		869 Punchbowl St.	
Fort Street Mall	768-4103	Honolulu, HI	
Hawaii Kai	768-4800	Email: dotpao@hawaii.gov	
Pearlridge Center (Renewal Only)	768-5000	Web: hawaii.gov/dot	
Windward City Shopping Center	768-4100		
(CC) HandiVan Reservations	456-5555	(S) Department of Education	586-3310
Humane Society, Hawaiian	946-2187	Email: webmaster@k12.hi.us	
(CC) Motor Vehicle Registration	532-4325	Web: doe.k12.hi.us	
	532-4324		
(CC) Refuse collection, Green waste,		(S) Department of Commerce &	
Bulky item pickup:		Consumer Affairs	586-2850
Aiea-Kapolei	455-9644	Email: dcca@dcca.hawaii.gov	
Kunia, Mililani, Wahiawa	621-5241	Web: hawaii.gov/dcca	
(CC) Sewer Line Problem	768-7272	Consumer Protection	
(CC) Street Light Repair	768-5300	Web: hawaii.gov/dcca/ocp	
(CC) Street Sign Repair	768-3638		