Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Majority Policy Leader
Hawaii Senate
July 27, 2010

Hawaii Senate’s Green Initiative: Paperless and Beyond
State of Hawaii – Senate

- 1.2 million residents on 7 islands and 4 counties
- 25 Senators elected to four-year staggered terms
- 60-day annual sessions convene 3rd Wednesday in January
Senate President Colleen Hanabusa announced a “sustainability platform” on Opening Day of the 2007 legislative session.

Senate Leadership proposed “Paperless Initiative” as part of sustainability platform.

Senator David Ige appointed Senate Technology Leader to oversee paperless initiative.

Interim work groups recommended legislative and administrative “paperless” processes.
Senate Paperless Initiative: Two Goals

- Reduce paper waste produced by the Senate
- Enhance public access to the legislative process using technology
2008 – Year One:
Paperless Chamber Sessions

• 2008 Senate floor sessions went “paperless”
• Senators and chamber staff used computer laptops, instead of paper documents
• Order of the Day posted on website with interactive links to agenda items
Senate Paper Sessions
To Paperless Sessions
ORDER OF THE DAY

S.B. 2695, S.D. 1
"RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS."
(Transfer of Non-general Funds)

S.B. 2007, S.D. 1
"RELATING TO BUDGETARY POWERS."
(Budgetary Powers; Legislature; Governor)

(See Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2341)
(See Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2345)

Testimony Prior Versions Status
Testimony Prior Versions Status
2008 – Year One: Eliminated Unlimited Access to Paper Documents

- Eliminated print shop mailboxes & senators’ hardcopies
- Offered free CD’s of documents
- Enhanced senate web documents and OCR’d PDFs (searchable)
Paper Waste Reduction
Year One – 2008:

• Saved 6.7 million sheets of paper, or 1,340 cases of copier paper
• Senate reduced paper consumption by 68%
• Saved a forest of trees – 804 the first session
• Senate eliminates hardcopy documents in committee hearings
• Started accepting testimonies electronically, by email and via legislative website
• Hearing notices have hyperlinks to bills, and all testimonies available on-line by start of public hearings
THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 11, 2010
TIME: 2:15 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

AGENDA

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.
Creates and implements a silver alert program to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program, to be activated on behalf of a missing senior citizen in the appropriate county. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB744 HD2)

RELATING TO MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY.
Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide presumptive eligibility coverage to patients who have been waitlisted for Medicaid. Requires DHS to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations regarding costs and other issues related to Medicaid presumptive eligibility. Requires DHS to conduct a study...
Year Two – 2009 Session: Public Access & Green Results

- 1,770 people received hearing notices by email
- Over 40,000 testimonies sent electronically and posted online, saving 90,000 sheets of paper
- 8 million RSS hits (feeds); 80,000 different people visited legislative website over 791,000 times
- Senate reduced paper consumption by another 33%; saved about one million sheets of paper
2010 – Year Three: Beyond Paperless

• Three committees sent “Tweets” during hearings; may be expanded in 2011 session

• Website enhancement planned – Senators to generate web content: including newsletters, flickr photos, YouTube videos, news stories and hearing broadcasts

• Senate participates in Green Government Challenge
2010 – Year Three: Green Government Challenge

- Senate wide recycling of paper and plastics
- Energy saving settings on monitors and printers
- Procurement of recycled paper products
- Energy conservation signage in Senate offices
- Staff training on green practices
- Green “message” in Senate e-mail signatures
- Administrative forms converted to fillable forms
2010 – Year Three

**Paperless Results (cumulative):**

- Total 80% paper reduction in three years
- Annual savings of $560,000 to Senate budget (less 8 million sheets of paper, 40% reduction in Sgt-at-Arms session staff, fewer copier machines)

**Electronic Access Results (2010 session):**

- 2,542 people received hearing notices by email
- 4,237,000 RSS hits (feeds) in last month of session
- 1,760 Senate Twitter followers
For More Information on the
Senate Paperless Project and
Senate Green Government Challenge

www.capitol.hawaii.gov/senate
senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov
sclerk@capitol.hawaii.gov
808-586-6250