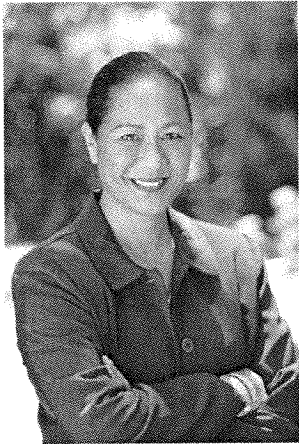


District 14 e-News

Prepared for you by Representative Hermina M. Morita (District 14, East-North Kaua'i)

JUNE 2006



Aloha kākou,

The realities of congressional politics, the huge expenses of the Iraq-Afghanistan wars, Katrina-Rita recovery and burgeoning federal deficit hit home last week when some Kauai federal disaster relief appropriations in the U.S. Senate version of the budget bill were not included in the House-Senate conference version of the bill, which was sent to President Bush for his signature. As a result, funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Services for debris clean up and Wailapa

Stream corridor restoration and stabilization were not included in the federal budget bill. Efforts are being made to ascertain if Federal Emergency Management Agency programs can assist in covering some of these costs that may now have to be fully borne by the County and State at this time.

On a happier note, I will be participating in a bill signing ceremony with Governor Linda Lingle for Senate Bill 2957, the final bill to be enacted of a package of energy initiatives I worked on this session. The bill signing ceremony will take place at Gay & Robinson Sugar Plantation on Monday, June 26. Some of the important provisions of Senate Bill 2957 are:

- *Removing the sunset date and raising the income tax credit on solar hot water, wind, and photovoltaic systems;*
- *Establishing a pilot "Pay As You Save" project to provide a financing mechanism for residential solar hot water systems through one's electricity bill from the anticipated savings;*
- *Establishing a State alternative fuels standard to increase transportation fuel diversity;*
- *Codifying Hawaii's renewable hydrogen program as a long term energy strategy; and*
- *Supporting research for biofuel crops and a biofuels strategy.*

Although the Legislature is not in session, my office is still open to assist you. Should you have any questions regarding our State Government, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo nui loa,

MINA MORITA

Hawai'i State Representative
DISTRICT 14, EAST-NORTH KAUA'I



I was honored to receive a ceremonial signed copy of H.B. 2175 and to address the audience at the bill signing ceremony on May 12.

Two More Energy Efficiency Bills Signed by Governor

On June 2, Governor Lingle signed H.B. 2848 and S.B. 3185 into law at a ceremony on the island of Hawaii.

The two measures are part of a comprehensive energy package that was passed by the Legislature this year.

H.B. 2848 will provide \$200,000 to the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum to formulate strategies to implement an energy vision for Hawaii.

S.B. 3185 makes amendments to the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards law.

Earlier, on May 12, the series of energy bill signing ceremonies began with H.B. 2175, which makes the State lead by example for its support in utilizing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency in State buildings and facilities.

The final bill in this series of energy bill signing ceremonies is S.B. 2957, which will be signed in a ceremony at Gay & Robinson Sugar Plantation on June 26.

Bottle Law Update

It has been nearly two years since Hawaii's bottle law went into effect. According to the Department of Health, the redemption rate for Hi-5 containers has reached about 78%. This is a positive sign that the law has been successful in achieving its goal of reducing litter and diverting waste from our landfills.

However, some individuals have experienced problems while trying to redeem their containers. Some of the common complaints have included:

- Customers not receiving the full 5-cent deposit for containers that are weighed instead of counted by hand;
- Redemption centers closing early;
- Redemption centers closing for special circumstances; and
- Customer-service complaints.

To help address some of these concerns, the Legislature recently passed S.B. 3181. Among other things, this measure will:

- Allow customers to request a hand count if they have 200 containers or less (the current law only allows a hand count for up to 50 containers); and
- Allow customers to redeem containers that are up to 68 fluid ounces (including 2-liter soda bottles, which are currently excluded from the law).

S.B. 3181 is currently waiting for the Governor's approval. In the meantime, individuals who have concerns about the bottle law or a redemption center may call Kauai County Recycling Specialist Diane Rosenkranz at **241-5112**.

Diane will log your complaint and will forward your concerns to the State Department of Health – Solid Waste Branch.

Kauai Redemption Centers

All sites, except for Kekaha, are closed between noon and 1 p.m. for lunch. Please visit www.kauai.gov/recycling for more information.

Kapahi

Reynolds Recycling
5675B Kawaiahau Road, Kapa`a
(located near Menehune Food Mart)
Oahu Phone: (808) 754-8985
Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lawai Post Office

Reynold's Recycling
02-3687 Kaunualii Highway
Oahu Phone: 754-8986
Saturdays only, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

*Lihue

Garden Isle Disposal
2666 Niumalu Road
Phone: 245-2372
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Nawiliwili Harbor

Reynold's Recycling
Corner of Wilcox and Kanoa Street
(Near Hale Kauai and Matson Shipping)
Phone: 245-7233
Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Kekaha Landfill

Kauai Community Recycling Services
Phone: 645-1676
Wednesday & Saturday only, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Princeville

Reynold's Recycling
Prince Albert's Park
(Near Princeville Library)
Oahu Phone: (808) 754-8986
Wednesday & Friday only, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

* *Accepts commercial loads.*

NOTE: *You may request a hand count of beverage containers only if your total is 50 or less. If you have over 50 containers, the containers will be weighed. Weight per pound is calculated based on the average taken of all containers of a certain material (Ex: the average weight of all plastic containers and the average weight of all aluminum containers)*

Legislature Passes Identity Theft Bills

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes today. In fact, according to the Federal Trade Commission, the percentage of identity theft crimes in the United States rose a surprising 265% from 2001 to 2005.

In an effort to protect Hawaii residents, the Legislature passed a package of six bills that will provide increased security and provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to deter and prosecute identity theft crimes.

The following measures were signed into law by Governor Lingle on May 25, 2006:

S.B. 2290 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Act 135, SLH 2006)

Notification of Security Breaches

Requires businesses and government agencies that keep confidential personal information about consumers to notify those consumers if that information has been compromised by an unauthorized disclosure.

S.B. 2292 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Act 136, SLH 2006)

Destruction of Personal Information

Requires businesses and government agencies to take reasonable measures to protect against unauthorized access to an individual's personal information when disposing of the records they keep.

S.B. 2293 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Act 137, SLH 2006)

Social Security Number Protection

Reduces the risks associated with fraudulent use of Social Security numbers by restricting businesses and government agencies from disclosing an individual's Social Security number to the general public.

H.B. 1871 HD1 SD2 CD1 (Act 138, SLH 2006)

Security Freeze

Allows victims of identity theft to place a security freeze on their credit reports. This security freeze provides individuals with greater control over who has access to their credit report by prohibiting a consumer reporting agency from releasing any information to unauthorized parties without the individual's express authorization.

S.B. 2159 SD2 HD1 CD1 (Act 139, SLH 2006)

Criminal Penalties

Provides increased protection of personal information by establishing "unauthorized possession of confidential personal information" as a Class C felony, and adding identity theft as an offense within the repeat offender statute. This crime would be punishable by a \$10,000 fine and/or a maximum prison sentence of five years.

H.B. 3244 HD1 SD2 CD1 (Act 140, SLH 2006)

ID Theft Task Force

Changes the name of the Hawaii Anti-Phishing Task Force to the Identity Theft Task Force and expands its responsibilities to include prevention of identity theft crimes.

ID Theft Tips*

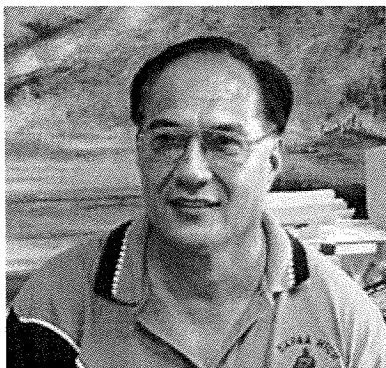
Here are some helpful tips to help prevent identity theft from happening to you:

- Review your consumer credit reports annually;
- Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information;
- Don't leave mail in your mail box overnight or over the weekend;
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately;
- Memorize your Social Security number and passwords. Don't use your birth date as a password and don't record passwords on paper you carry with you;
- Beware of mail or phone solicitations that offer prizes or awards in return for personal information or account numbers;
- Don't disclose account numbers or other personal information on a website unless the site offers a secured transaction; and
- Never leave transaction receipts at gas stations, ATM machines, or bank counters.

For more information about identity theft, visit the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Identity Theft website at:

<http://idtheft.hawaii.gov> or call the State's Identity Theft hotline at **274-3141**, wait for the tone and dial **x7-3222**.

* Tips were provided by the United States Postal Service official website at:
www.usps.com/postalinspectors/idthft_ncpw.htm



Kapa`a High School Principal Nominated for Award

Kapa`a High School Principal Gilmore Youn is one of eight outstanding High School principals that was nominated earlier this year for Island Insurance Foundation's Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award.

The Tokioka Award recognizes Principal's who display strong convictions and great leadership. As a nominee for the award, Mr. Youn received \$500 and a commemorative plaque in honor of his achievement.

Mr. Youn has been the Principal at Kapa`a for the past 10 years. He strongly believes that setting expectations and offering incentives will encourage and motivate people to work hard to meet those expectations.

The winner of the award was Principal Robert Stevens of Radford High School on Oahu, which was announced on May 17 in a ceremony on Oahu. As the winner of the award, Mr. Stevens received a \$10,000 personal award, and \$15,000 for a school project of his choice.

For more information about the Award and to view a detailed write-up for Mr. Youn, you may visit <http://doe.k12.hi.us> and click on "News."

Weighted Student Formula Update

The Committee on Weights had their last meeting on June 5 on Oahu. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Saturday, June 24 at Waipahu Intermediate School on Oahu. The Committee will be receiving verbal testimony between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. that morning.

The most recent proposal the Committee is considering is to establish a "foundation" award for all schools affected by the Weighted Student Formula (WSF). The Committee is currently looking at establishing the foundation amount at 25% of the total WSF for each school.

To view the foundation formula currently being considered by the Committee, visit the DOE website <http://reach.k12.hi.us/empowerment/wsf/index.htm> and click on "WSF Allocation Summary (draft for discussion purposes)."

Ka Loko Reservoir Update

On June 15, the U.S. Congress approved an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that contained \$13.5 million in storm related assistance for Kauai and Oahu.

\$11.5 million was appropriated to fix roadways that were damaged by the heavy rains in March and April, with the bulk of the money going towards repairs to Kuhio Highway.

The remaining \$2 million has been designated for dam-break analyses of selected dams throughout the State that may be at-risk because of the heavy rains, including Alexander Dam on Kauai.

To date, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Association have approved grants and loans totaling about \$1.8 million. FEMA is still continuing to conduct damage assessments and may award additional grants to the State or County to assist with debris removal.

DISTRICT 14 CALENDAR

Community events & important legislative dates

Friday, June 23

Fourth Annual Hanapepe Folk Festival. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. At the Storybook Theatre. Call 651-1090 for more information.

Benefit Concert. 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Jazz singer Michaelle Edwards will be holding a concert to benefit victims of hurricanes, earthquakes and Tsunamis. At the Church of the Pacific. For more information, call 826-6481.

Free Outdoor Movie. "Yours, Mine, and Ours" show starts at 7:45 p.m. at the Church of the Pacific on the corner of Kuhio Highway and Kapa Ka Road in Princeville. Free door prizes for attending at the end of the movie. For more information, call 826-6481.

Friday, June 30 & Saturday, July 1

Kapa`a Hongwanji Bon Dance & Carnival. Starts at 7:00 p.m. At the Kapa`a Hongwanji.

Tuesday, July 18

Ka Hale Pono 4th Annual 'Ohana Night Paina. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Anahola Club House. Dinner provided. School supply pick-up for those signed up. For more information, call Brandon Flores at 820-8050 on Tuesdays/Thursdays.

Thursday, August 24 to Sunday, August 27

Kauai County Farm Fair. In Lihue at the War Memorial Center. Arts and crafts, 4H competitions, local food, games, entertainment, and more can be enjoyed.

As always, if you have questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

MINA MORITA

Hawai'i State Representative
DISTRICT 14, EAST-NORTH KAUA'I

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 314
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

From KAUA'I: 274-3141
(after dial tone, dial 6-8435#)