



SENATOR NORMAN SAKAMOTO

Senator 15 District

Kalihi • Moanalua Gardens • Salt Lake • Aliamanu • Foster Village • Hickam
Pearl Harbor • Pearl Ridge • Aiea

February 2006

MABUHAY!

From January 3-12, 2006 Senator Sakamoto toured the Philippines with Governor Lingle and other officials in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Filipino immigration to Hawaii. One of the highlights of the trip was their journey to Port Salomague in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. It was here in 1946 that the last group of sakadas (Filipino plantation workers) boarded a ship to Hawaii. A statue was unveiled as a tribute to the historic journey. The sakadas came to Hawaii to seek a better life for their families and descendants. The sakadas could not have imagined their achievements of their descendants and the valuable contributions they would make to Hawaii.

Other highlights of the trip included:

- Inauguration of a new mango-processing plant in Ilocos Norte. The plant is a partnership between Hawaii and Filipino entrepreneurs that is a result of our Hawaii-Ilocos Norte Sister-State/Province Agreement. Officials also meet to explore partnership opportunities in agricultural technology, pest control, research and trade.
- Kapiolani Community College signed a cooperative agreement with three universities - Mariano Marcos University in Ilocos Norte, University of Northern Philippines in Ilocos Sur and Vigen Milagrosa University in Pangasinan - to promote nursing education initiatives and exchange programs. The agreements will help address Hawaii's nursing shortage by helping nurses who are trained and educated in the Philippines pass licensing exams when they immigrate to Hawaii.
- Visitation with Kaling a Ng Ama Shelter for Children Inc. This organization is based in Bonuan Dagupan City. Kaling a Ng Ama Shelter for Children Inc. extends their generosity to the less fortunate and distressed children.

Right: Senator Sakamoto at the unveiling of the statue in Port Salomague in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. The statue shows a sakada with his back bent over, holding a bolo knife to cut cane. It represents the hard work and strength of the workers.

2006 Legislative Update

Our legislative session is in full swing. The Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs hears many bills. As part of our Educational Initiatives we proposed a plan for reducing the \$525 Repairs and Maintenance (R & M) backlog to a more manageable level of \$250 million in three years. Eliminating the R & M backlog is crucial to improving education in Hawaii.

Some of the other areas in which we are working to bring about positive change include:

- Ensuring fair distribution of Capital Improvement Project (CIP).
- Increasing the support for students by providing more teachers and support for teachers at the elementary school level. Supportive resource teachers in special motivation, vocational, technology, and non-core classes are needed to reach all of our children's abilities at the secondary level.
- Providing additional funds to the Department of Education to aid schools adversely affected by the current weighted student formula.
- Continue to support efforts to attract and retain highly qualified teachers.



Schedule of Community Meetings

February & March 2006

Neighborhood Board Meetings

Aiea NB No. 20

Monday, February 13, 7:30 PM

Monday, March 13, 7:30 PM

Aiea Library Conference Room

Aliamanu/ Salt Lake/ Foster Village NB No. 18

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 PM

Aliamanu Middle School Cafeteria

Kalihi-Palama NB No.15

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 PM

Kapalama Elem. School Cafeteria

Community Associations

Moanalua Gardens Community Association

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 PM

Moanalua Middle, Room B1

Aiea-Pearl City Town Hall Meeting

HOUSING

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 PM

Pearl Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria

EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 PM

Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria

Kamehameha Highway Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 PM

Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria



District Information

- A message from the State Department of Transportation and the City Department of Transportation: It is now the law. Stop for pedestrians when the pedestrian is on your half of the road or if you put the pedestrian in immediate danger.
- The Department of Human Services will be implementing the State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP). The SPAP is a State-Funded program that will pay for Medicare Part D co-payments for certain Hawaii residents. If you qualify, each time you get your prescription drugs from your Medicare Prescription D Plan (PDP) pharmacy, you may not have to pay the \$1 or \$3 co-payment for each drug. For more information, please contact the Department of Human Services (808) 692-7999. DHS office hours are from Monday through Friday, 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM.
- The Trust for Public Land is interested in acquiring 3,700 acres in Moanalua Valley from the Estate of Samuel Mills Damon. The Trust for Public Land had had preliminary discussions with the Damon Estate and will likely submit a proposal to acquire the land.



Left: Senator Sakamoto, **Representative Pono Chong**, and **Representative Ken Ito** join **Kazuo Kono**, a resident of Moanalua Gardens, at the Recognition and Dedication Ceremony of the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

Top: 9th Graders in **Ms. Shauna Tanaka's Participation in Democracy class and Project Citizen participants** visited the Capitol to testify for bills that they were instrumental in drafting.

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs
Senator 15th District

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