



SENATOR Ewa Beach to Lower Waipahu

# WILL ESPERO



Community Legislative Newsletter

March 2007

Dear Constituents,

We've reached the halfway point at the Legislature, in what we call "Crossover." This is when each chamber votes on the bills that were originally introduced there, and sends those that are approved over to the other side for their consideration. It's also when the Senate spends a fair amount of time reviewing and deciding on the Governor's nominations for various Boards and Commissions, judgeships, and directors to head the state departments.

My office provides a weekly update on all the goings-on at the Legislature during Session. Please e-mail me at [senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov), using the subject "Subscription" if you'd like us to include you in this service. My goal is to keep all of you informed about the work the Legislature and I are doing on your behalf.

Respectfully,

*Will Espero*



Throughout the year students from our schools visit Senator Espero at the Capitol to learn how our laws are made. Above are 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Kaimiloa Elementary School.



Sheryll Bonilla (at left), Staff Attorney for Senator Espero, read childrens' books to Ewa Beach Elementary School kindergarteners for the national Read Aloud America Program. Founded in Hawaii by Jed Gaines, Read Aloud America strengthens vocabulary, language, grammar and writing by promoting literacy.

Featured on "Espero Conversation" is an interview with Hawaii Superferry CEO John Garibaldi. Watch VIEW on channel 54.



3/30/07	Fri	6:30 pm
4/6/07	Fri	5:00 pm

Also tune into the same channel for an interview with City official Toru Hamayasu, who is in charge of the rail transit system effort.

3/14/07	Wed	6:30 pm
3/21/07	Wed	8:00 am



Parents, children, and residents gathered to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help church's Family Fun Fair in Ewa Beach on March 3, 2007.

## SOARING HIGH WITH SEAGULL



Seagull Schools, the latest addition to Ocean Pointe, celebrated its grand opening over the weekend. Developer Haseko Hawaii Inc., donated 1.25 acres of land and \$200,000 to cover the cost of construction for the school.

*(Clockwise from the top),*

- 1) Chuck Larson, Seagull's Executive Director accepting a check from Sharene Tam Assistant Vice President for Haseko.
- 2) The preschool's initial enrollment will be limited to 180 children.
- 3) Eileen Hirota Principal of Keoneula Elementary and Ewa Beach residents with Sharene Tam.
- 4) Seagull students danced the hula.

## MAKE HISTORY BY PRESERVATION

The Heritage Caucus and Historic Hawaii Foundation hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Awareness Day at the Capitol to educate legislators, staff and visitors on the importance of preserving what makes Hawaii unique.

In line with the event's core values, Senator Espero introduced S.B. 1228 to establish and construct the Honouliuli Internment Camp Memorial in honor of Hawaii's interned Japanese.

The internment of the Japanese remains a largely untold, tragic story of misplaced suspicion and great injustice during this sad period in our history. The Memorial will tell of the harsh, undeserved treatment suffered by these loyal Americans when our own government sent them to internment camps during World War II.

The measure has been referred to the House Finance Committee, chaired by Representative Marcus Oshiro.



## HIGH SCHOOLERS *SWEEP* MOVIE CONTEST



Photos submitted by Oscar Ramiscal

Three ecstatic James Campbell High School students captured the Grand Prize in the annual Island Movie Contest. Their award winning video, "Reality Under the Smile" drew tears from judges and viewers alike. The poignant composition told the real life story of Waianae Kahananui, who overcame a negative environment and tragic family events to become the school's current student body president.

The annual contest is open to all Hawaii's public schools, from elementary to high school. Videos may be entered in three categories: Environmental Concerns and Social Issues, Teach Me Something, and Tell Me a Story. The video, which also took first place in the "Tell Me a Story" category, can be seen at: <http://islandmovie.k12.hi.us>.



(At left), Algae continues to plague the Capitol's reflecting pool, despite many attempts to control the problem. Here, a state worker uses an enzyme spray to try to retard the algae growth.



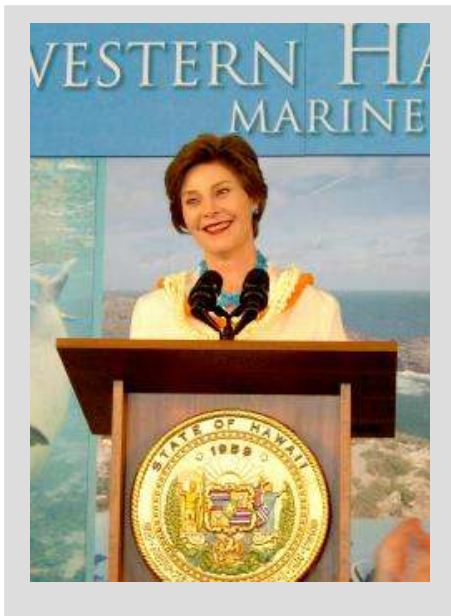
**S.B. 907 creates an Office of Aerospace Development** in the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. The proposed office will make Hawaii a leader in the aerospace industry by expanding and diversifying aerospace related industries. The office will partner with the University of Hawaii and businesses to increase Hawaii's competitiveness in national and global aerospace markets. The bill passed the Senate and has crossed over to the House.

*S.B. 907, "Relating to Aerospace Development."*



*NASA Ames Director Dr. Peter Worden and colleagues briefed legislators and other interested parties on activities and related opportunities for its upcoming partnership with Hawaii.*

**LAURA BUSH**  
**I N H A W A I I**



On March 2, 2007, First Lady Laura Bush participated in a naming ceremony in Honolulu for a national monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The First Lady named the monument Papahānaumokuākea, derived from the Hawaiian deity equivalent of Mother Earth. According to Kumu Hula Pua Kanahele, a member of the name selection committee, the name translates into four terms meaning earth, giving birth, land (particularly an island), and broad expanse of the islands. It is the largest national monument in the world, encompassing over 140,000 square miles, and home to over 7,000 marine species.

Mrs. Bush indicated that she hoped her visit to the Hawaiian Islands would focus attention on preservation.

**POHAKEA IMPROVEMENT**

Pohakea Elementary School will get new piping soon. The State awarded \$242,678 to Diversified Plumbing & Air Conditioning (dba of Douglas Luiz II) to replace old pipes.

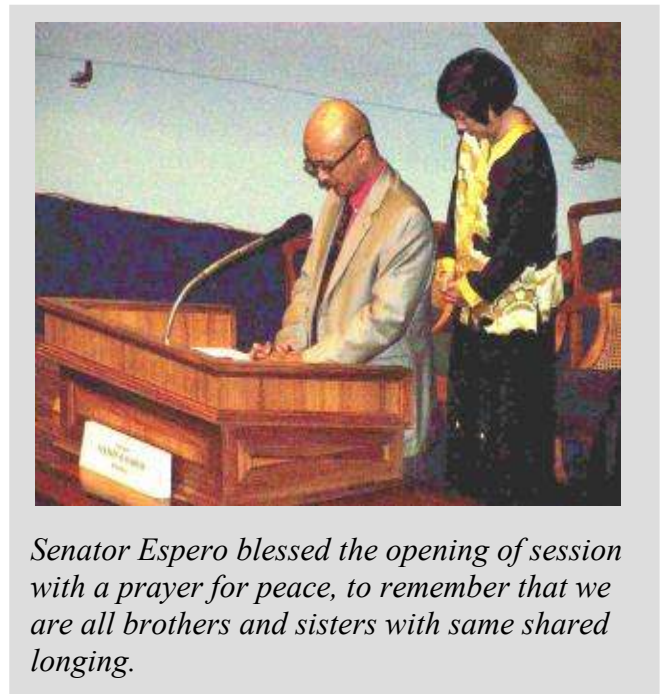
**WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

Construction for the new Solids Handling facility on Geiger Road will begin this summer. Building work for this new phase of the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant will include preventive measures to minimize dust, noise and odors. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2009.



**ON YOUR BIKE**

Go for a ride—get fit—be healthy. Bike paths give commuters an alternative means of transportation, providing bicyclists and pedestrians with a safe route. It helps relieve traffic congestion and allows for an enjoyable recreational experience as well. I introduced S.B. 152 to require that 2% of all federal transportation funds in Hawaii be spent on creating bike paths, and a reasonable amount of state funds be used for maintaining them. If you like the Ft. Weaver bikeway and want to see more of these around the island, please urge Rep. Marcus Oshiro to pass the bill out of his House Finance Committee. Rep. Oshiro can be reached at 586-6200.



*Senator Espero blessed the opening of session with a prayer for peace, to remember that we are all brothers and sisters with same shared longing.*

**Light Up Your Day**

**Sunday, April 29, 2007**  
**7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Darfur--the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. Over 400,000 innocent people slaughtered in this horrific ethnic cleansing. A candlelight vigil to call people to action will be held at the State Capitol near the Father Damien statue. Please join us to show that you care and want our U.S. government to help end the genocide in the Western Sudan.



# ***KEEPING EWA ON THE MOVE***

The Latest Transportation Updates

Two major transportation projects are underway in the Ewa Plains – the widening of Fort Weaver Road and the new North-South Road. Both are intended to help accommodate the increase in motorists due to new residential and commercial developments, government offices, and the West Oahu campus of the University of Hawaii.

## **Fort Weaver Road**

Fort Weaver Road will be widened from four lanes to six, with actual construction starting within four to five months. **Needed preparatory work is currently being done in this second phase of the expansion**, which covers the area spanning A'awa Drive to Geiger Road. This work includes confirming the location of underground utilities and the drainage system. Two lanes in either direction will be open for traffic during rush hour throughout the construction period.

Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company, Inc. (HDCC) was given the green light for Phase II on February 1, 2007. The anticipated completion date for this portion of the widening project is January, 2009.

Phase I covered A'awa Drive northward to Farrington Highway. The total cost for both phases of the Fort Weaver project is \$59.85 million.

## **North-South Road**

A new H-1 freeway exit midway between the Waipahu/Ewa/Kunia exit and the Makakilo/Kapolei exit is being built to alleviate traffic congestion for Ewa and Kapolei. The new North-South Road, joining the H-1 to Kapolei Parkway, will give residents an additional route to and from the freeway.

This six lane, 2.5 mile long road will be built in two phases. Phase I will consist of four lanes connecting Kapolei Parkway to the H-1, with completion targeted for the end of 2008. Phase II will expand North-South Road to six lanes.

### **SENATOR WILL ESPERO**

Chair - Public Safety, Vice Chair - Economic Development & Taxation  
Member of Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing and  
Transportation & International Affairs

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