



SENATOR

Ewa Beach to Lower Waipahu

# WILL ESPERO



Community Legislative Newsletter

April  
2007

Dear Constituents,

The Twenty-fourth legislative session is in its closing weeks. With a little more than two weeks left, both the House and Senate are meeting late into the night to meet many end-of-session deadlines. During this stage called "conference", legislators will refine bills and resolutions or defer them indefinitely.

For Capital Improvements Projects (CIPs), I proposed a bill requesting a large sum for over \$242 million dollars for our district, with more than \$152 million to help improve our schools and the remainder for current transportation solutions to build the necessary infrastructure to help alleviate traffic. These CIPs will be reviewed by Senator Rosalyn Baker, chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Please call me, should you have any questions or concerns.

With warm aloha,

*Will Espero*



West Oahu Little League trains baseball players to improve their game using focused team practice plans.



Senator Espero welcomed a group of individuals from Easter Seals who came to his office.

## FOR EWA



The Senate congratulated the James Campbell High School Girls Varsity Soccer team for putting Hawaii on the map. The team scored an awesome third place victory in the national championships. The unforgettable season also saw the team taking both the state Oahu Interscholastic Association and national regional White Western Division Varsity championships.

Ewa Elementary fifth graders enthusiastically show their support for the new Superferry, saying they would love to ride in it. They heard Senator Espero talk about the legislative process, and were introduced to the Senate during that day's Senate session.



Above: JV Captain, Randi Wright; JV Coach, Anna Whitfield; Senator Will Espero; Varsity Team Captain, Emily Ragasa; Varsity Coach, Michael Whitfield

**CONFIRMATION HEARING OF IVALANI WHITE  
NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

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The confirmation of the governor's nominees for directors of state departments is an important duty of the Senate. As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Department, Senator Espero was responsible for assessing nominee Iwalani White's qualifications and fitness to lead the Department of Public Safety (PSD). Ms. White is currently the Interim Director of the Department. The Committee reviewed PSD from management, professional staff, guards and correctional officers, and other staff, and from outside the department from mental health and prison advocates, and others. The Senate was inundated by written, telephone and e-mail comments as well.

The Director of the Department of Public Safety oversees the Corrections Division (state prisons and community correctional facilities) and the Law Enforcement Division (Narcotics, Protective Services and Sheriffs). The Senate carefully deliberated the extensive testimony and had concerns about her fitness and capabilities to direct the Department. In concluding that Ms. White was not the best person to head PSD, the Senate rejected Ms. White's nomination 16-9. Her term as Interim Director ends May 3, 2007. Governor Lingle now has to nominate another individual to head the Department.

(photos) *(Top left)*: Senator Espero administers the oath to Dr. Reneau Kennedy, the Department's Mental Health Services Administrator prior to hearing her testimony. *(Top right)*: State Attorney General Mark Bennett testifies, with Iwalani White in the background. *(Bottom left)*: Ed Shimoda, PSD Institutions Division Administrator testifies. *(Bottom right)*: Senator Espero conducts the confirmation hearings, which lasted ten hours and took in over 100 testimonies.



*Above: Senator Will Espero, Brenda Mopas, and Representative Rida Cabanilla.*



**WEST OAHU  
LITTLE LEAGUE**

Play hard, play fair. The Senate honored Brenda Mopas, President of the West Oahu Little League, for her dedication to our youngest baseball players. Ms. Mopas instills in Little Leaguers a strong spirit of ethics and a passion for honing their skills on the diamond.



*Senator Espero with Aloun Farms, Produce of Ewa. Aloun Farms visited the Capitol as part of the Legislative Agriculture Day.*



**GIRLS  
SCOUTS  
SCOUT  
SENATOR  
ESPERO**



On March 23, Senator Espero welcomed a troop of Girl Scouts who came to his office to learn more about the legislative process, his initiatives, and events in the community.



*Senator Espero and his staff donated needed supplies for the homeless to give to the Institute of Human Services' annual donation drive. Above staffers, from left: Marlene Uesugi, Sheryll Bonilla, and Michelle Ching*





Photos submitted by Marlena Willette



Senator Espero supports policies that strengthen support for family caregivers. More than 300 senior citizens and Mayor Hanneman heard Senator Espero advocate the need to pass legislation that addresses issues faced by our elderly population.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



*Victoriano and Paulina Espero celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Wedding Anniversary. They have two sons: Edgar and Will (Senator Espero), and 5 proud grandchildren: Sean, Jason, Nick, Noelle, and Jasmine. Paulina and Victor are currently active in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, enjoy their grandchildren, tend to their garden, and dabble in local politics every four years.*



Tired of looking at that abandoned vehicle? You can help clean our neighborhood and make it a better place.

Call the City & County's Hotline at 733-2530 to report abandoned vehicles. Have this information before you call:

1. Location: Address/Intersection
2. License Number
3. Vehicle Description/Make/Color
4. VIN# (If Available)

It may take up to 10 work days to process and complete a response to your concern. To follow up on your report e-mail the City at [complaints@honolulu.gov](mailto:complaints@honolulu.gov) or call 523-4381.





Senator Espero (above) and Senator Brian Taniguchi (below) are among the many senators who congratulated Warren Toyama.



## AMAZING GRACE

Warren Toyama (*left*), founder and current president of the Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB), was honored for his leadership, drive, and dedication in protecting and promoting equality for the blind.

HAB's fundamental philosophy is that blind people should have the same access, opportunity, and rights of participation as their sighted peers. HAB has secured equality in civil service employment rights, life insurance policy issuance, adoption, and others. The HAB recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



*Senator Espero enjoys visits from constituents. Bethany Kamakawiwo'ole, a home schooled fifth grader came to the State Capitol as part of TeenPact's curriculum.*



## HALL OF FAMER

Local legend Derek Tatsuno (*right*) was honored for his recent induction into the National College Baseball Hall of Fame, a distinction conferred by a 90 member committee. Tatsuno was the first National Collegiate Athletic Association pitcher to win 20 games in a season. His record of 234 strike outs is still unbeaten.

Tatsuno was selected as one of the three Players of the Century by Collegiate Baseball Magazine. He was also named to Baseball America's All Century Team.

Tatsuno's influence is vital to our young talent. He currently coaches Punahou's Junior Varsity team and last season helped coach at Aiea High School. His mentoring helps instill our athletically talented youngsters with a strong sense of commitment and discipline.



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