



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAY 2007

JUNE CALENDAR

ESPERO CONVERSATION

Sunday, June 10, 2007
5:30 pm Channel 49

Monday, June 11, 2007
7:30 pm Channel 54

Wednesday, June 13, 2007
6:00 pm Channel 54

Saturday, June 16, 2007
7:00 am Channel 49

BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII

Sunday, June 25, 2007
Ewa Town Center
(Foodland)
7:00 am - 2:00 pm



SENATOR WILL ESPERO

20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT EWA BEACH TO LOWER WAIPAHAU

ADDRESS:
State Capitol, Rm 207
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

PH: (808) 586-6360
FAX: (808) 586-6361

E-MAIL: senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov

WEBSITE:
www.EsperoWill.com

WELCOME

Dear Constituents,

It has come to the end of a very successful legislative session. With more than \$300 million awarded to the Ewa/Kapolei region, there will be an incredible difference with the alleviation of traffic congestion, education opportunities, improved equal justice under law, enhanced crime prevention, and an overall revitalized community.

Below are the appropriations that were funded by the efforts and lobbying by the community, my colleagues and me. I am honored to service you. Your ideas and dialogue are important to me as it ensures that your needs are met. Please feel free to call my office at 586-6360.

Respectfully,



Senator Espero invited Senator Hooser to be a guest speaker on his Olelo series "Espero Conversation," to talk about some of the most important legislation passed in the 2007 session. Senator Hooser, Majority Caucus Leader is key to providing effective and responsive leadership to elected officials. For program scheduling, view the June Calendar listed to the left.

PROJECT

AWARDED (in the millions)

University of Hawaii, West Oahu	\$ 135
Ewa Makai Middle School	\$ 68
North-South Road/Kapolei Parkway	\$ 55
East-West Road	\$ 17
Fort Barrette Road Widening	\$ 20
Kapolei Court House	\$ 25
Kalaeloa Airport	\$ 6
PM Zipper Lane	\$ 5
Total	\$ 331

ORGANIZATION

AWARDED

Weed and Seed	\$ 400,000
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii, Ewalution	\$ 175,000
Hale Kipa	\$ 500,000
Total	\$ 1,075,000



West Oahu/ EWA

**BIG
Winners**

SABERS DO THE IMPAWSABLE



Waianae Kahananui was one of the awardees that were honored. "Reality Under the Smile," a film produced by fellow classmates Trankie Hagos and Desiree Agngaryngay is based on Waianae's life story.



James Campbell High School (JCHS) is esteemed with high achieving standards and the accomplishments to back it up. At a school where their Principal, Gail Awakuni was chosen as national principal of the year, it comes with no surprise that more than fifty students were honored by Senator Espero and State Representatives on Monday, May 7.



The Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Soccer team displays their pride in their accomplishments with big smiles.

The awardees include a third place winner of the Cliff Keen Reno World Championships, Lowen Tyanes-Perez, winners of the Overall Grand Prize in the Island Movie Contest, the Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Soccer Team, and thirteen Student Junior Council volunteers.



Members of JCHS's JROTC team were chosen to perform Color Guard duties at the dedication ceremony for Keone'ula Elementary School.



Democratic Senators united to speak in favor of an Ethanol tax break that restores an 11-cent-per gallon tax break on ethanol-blended gasoline.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Did you know? Matteo's was founded by Frank Sinatra's touring chef Matty Jordan

Students from JCHS's Business Education class were given a special guest lecture by Senator Espero (at left), where they learned about successful goals, strategies, and paradigms to have in order to become leaders in an ever evolving economy.



Senator Espero gave his expert advise as the former chair for the Senate Committee on Business and Economic Development, President of the Ewa Beach Business and Professional Association, and current board member of the West Oahu Economic Development Association.



All of these students when asked about their after high school plans had responded with prospects to attend college. People with Bachelor degrees take home over 98% more lifetime pay, on average, than non-college graduates.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



Advocating for pedestrian safety, Senator Espero along with Ewa Beach Elementary students waved signs and showed their support in raising awareness. At their own school, Ewa Beach Elementary students are in the peril of motorists passing their school everyday. Their school lacks a sidewalk fronting its property, displacing students to walk dangerously on the road. A request to the City and County to appropriate funds and construct a sidewalk has been submitted by our office.

Hawaii is ranked eleventh nationally in pedestrian deaths and first in deaths among pedestrians age sixty-five or older.

In this past legislative session, Senator Espero introduced two initiatives to decrease the pedestrian death rate statewide. The measure establishes a pilot project to test crosswalk safety enhancements and programs in the City and County of Honolulu around high-risk areas.

He also advocated for the establishment of a three-year pilot photo red light imaging systems program to reduce the prevalence of drivers violating Hawaii's traffic laws, particularly drivers who run red lights.

TAKE NOTE OF THEM



Young and talented students from Iroquois Point Elementary filled the State Capitol's rotunda with an ensemble of songs in honor of "Military Appreciation Month" on May 23.

Hosted by Senator Espero, band director David Utrera guided thirty-five students ranging from the third to fifth grade, to play motivational favorites including "We Will Rock You" and "Eye of the Tiger."



Recognizing the importance of developing the whole child, Iroquois Point Elementary offers different opportunities through band and is the only elementary band in the Leeward District.

AIRCRAFT NOISE



Many constituents have asked for Senator Espero's assistance to investigate the increasing airplane noises disturbing their homes at night and early-morning hours.

As a result he facilitated a meeting and gave the community an opportunity to express their concerns with the Federal Aviation Administration, the state Department of Transportation officials along with Representative Pine.

If you are experiencing disruptive aircraft noises and live within the vicinity of an airport, please contact our office and share how your health, welfare, and quality of life is being affected.



Robert Rabideau, Air Traffic Manager for the Federal Aviation Administration, explained some of the reasons loud airplane noises are disrupting the everyday lives of Ewa Beach residents.

DEE WHITE



Senator Espero with great pleasure honored Dee White (above), for her selfless acts and outstanding contributions to the community. Ms. White is a dedicated person who has committed herself to making our community a better place.

She has served the maximum number of terms as the president of the Ewa Beach Community Association, chaired the Ewa Beach Community Association/Ewa Beach Lions Club annual Christmas Parade for seven years and the Ewa Beach Lions Club annual Thanksgiving and Easter food drives, and co-chaired the annual Halloween Bash for four years.

A long-time resident of Ewa Beach, she is one of the recipients of the Kapolei Outstanding Achievement (KOA) Awards, recognized with an individual Community Service Award on Thursday, May 3.

WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY



Hilo Hattie was actually named Clarissa Haili. She was famous for doing her comic hula "When Hilo Hattie Does the Hilo Hop." Today the store is named after her stage character, Hilo Hattie.

Students from the Waipahu Elementary School gave truth to their program title "Ke Ao Nani," meaning a Beautiful World. At their May Day celebrations kindergartners to sixth graders, gave a special performance to esteemed guests, parents, faculty, and community members. It would be their first May Day festival in four years due to their balding field in the past where they held the event. The Hawaii State Legislature has since awarded the school with an appropriation to repair the grounds.

The Hawaii State Senate was privileged to present Mr. James Rumford, world-renowned local author and illustrator, a certificate for his contributions to the children of Hawaii. His latest book, *Don't Touch My Hat!* was dedicated to the children of Waipahu Elementary School. The children first met Mr. Rumford when the school purchased *The Island-below-the-Star*, his second book. For the past nine-years he has been a loyal supporter for the school, a mentor, and a great friend. He inspires students to develop a love for reading and writing and to follow their dreams. Rumford has written and illustrated more than a dozen books.



IMPORTANT LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY SENATOR ESPERO

For a full description of these bills visit: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

* Senator Espero as First Primary Sponsor

** Senator Espero Co-Sponsor

BUSINESS/TAXES

*AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT (SB 907 CD1) – Renames the Office of Space Industry to the Office of Aerospace Development. Expands the duties of the Aerospace Office to identify and promote opportunities for expanding aerospace opportunities in the state.

FOOD TAX CREDIT - (SB 1882 CD1) – Provides a sliding food and low-income tax credit of between \$25 and \$85 to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or less.

INCOME TAX CREDIT – (SB 148 CD2) – Provides a sliding tax credit of between \$70 and \$160 to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$60,000 or less. A one-time credit is required by the state Constitution after two consecutive years when the budget surplus exceeds expected revenues by 5 percent.

ETHANOL TAX BREAK – (HB 1757 CD2) – Restores an 11 per cent-per gallon tax break on ethanol-blended gasoline that expired at the end of last year.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

*CONDOMINIUM DISPUTE RESOLUTION (SB 1654 SD1 HD1) – Clarifies that the existing pilot administrative hearing dispute resolution program in Act 277 applies to condominiums created before July 1, 2006.

CRIME

*COMPREHENSIVE REENTRY SYSTEM AND OFFENDER PROGRAMS (SB 932 SD2 HD2 CD1) – Reduces recidivism by establishing a comprehensive reentry system and a one-year pilot day reporting center. Provide funding for various reintegration programs. Allows the paroling authority to parole committed person to any county where they will receive the greatest support.

*INCARCERATED PARENTS (SB 1174 SD1 HD1 CD1) – Appropriates funds for the expansion of parent-child interaction programs in state correctional facilities, institutions, and agencies servicing offender populations.

HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES

**FAMILY CAREGIVERS (SB 1916 SD2 HD3 CD1) – Provides money to expand services for care recipients and family caregivers.

*MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR COMMITTED PERSONS (SB 914 SD2 HD1 CD1) – Improves mental health services by appropriating funds for mental health services to the Department of Public Safety and requiring reports to the legislature.

**HEALTH INSURANCE RATE REGULATION (SB 12 SD2 HD2 CD1) – Prohibits health insurance rates that are excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. Require health insurers to submit rate filings for state approval.

MISCELLANEOUS

*COMPACT FLORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (SCR 53 SD1 & SR 28 SD1) – Encourages all state government facilities to use compact florescent light bulbs, substantially reducing energy costs and the emission of greenhouse gases, by January 1, 2010.

*HISTORICAL PRESERVATION (SB 1228 SD1 HD1 CD1) – Honors the memory of Hawaii's World War II (WW II) Japanese internees by establishing a process to determine the most appropriate means of memorializing their experience and appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.