



SENATOR WILL ESPERO & YOUR LEGISLATURE WORKING FOR YOU

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COPPER, ANYONE?

Let's catch the people stealing the copper. **S.B. 1229, which I introduced, will help law enforcement agencies tackle the spate of copper thefts on Oahu.** The bill requires scrap dealers to take a thumbprint and photo identification of all persons selling copper and to provide complete information regarding all copper transactions to the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs (DCCA). DCCA will turn over incoming copper sale information to law enforcement agencies. The bill also bans scrap dealers from accepting copper from anyone who cannot supply the required ID or is under age 18.

Residents, public utility companies, private companies and state entities are paying hefty costs to replace the stolen copper and repair the damages caused by the thefts. S.B. 1229, passed the Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing, chaired by Senator Brian Taniguchi, and Judiciary & Labor, chaired by Senator Clayton Hee. The Ways & Means Committee, chaired by Senator Roslyn Baker, held a public hearing on February 22, and will decide on the measure February 28, 2007. *S.B. 1229, Relating to Scrap Dealers.*

SAVE \$\$ ON PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions can be a big expense for many people. To help residents save on their medication purchases, **S.B. 817 directs the Governor to establish Hawaii's participation in the I-Save Program.** I-Save is a program that allows consumers to refill brand name prescription drugs at affordable prices from pharmacies in Canada and the United Kingdom. The program covers the most common brand name prescription drugs used to treat chronic illnesses. Program participants are expected to save 25% - 50% on the cost of medications purchased through I-Save.

I-Save was developed by the State of Illinois. Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Vermont have also joined the program. Participants have access through an internet website and a toll-free 24 hour telephone number. The program's manager, Pegasus Health Services, has extensive experience with licensed pharmacies in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. S.B. 817 passed the Human Services & Public Housing Committee, chaired by Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, and the Health Committee, chaired by Senator David Ige. The bill is now in the Judiciary & Labor

Committee, chaired by Senator Clayton Hee, awaiting a hearing. *S.B. 817, Relating to the I-SaveRx Prescription Drug Program.*

THE 3 R'S...THE 3 T'S

Maui's Lahainaluna High School has reason to be proud. One year after adopting the nationally acclaimed Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) program, which promotes student confidence in emerging technologies, Lahainaluna was named the best EAST project nationwide. The achievement is all the more laudable since Lahainaluna ranked as one of the state's least technologically proficient schools. Hawaii students have won extensive honors at each of the national EAST competitions since then.

The Hawaii State Senate is excited about the success of Project EAST. **S.B. 897 will appropriate \$1 million to expand the program statewide.** Originating in Arkansas in 1995, the program focuses on rural area schools. Its goal is to shape life-long thinkers, learners and problem solvers, regardless of students' socio-economic backgrounds or prior academic achievement. Students learn real world application of computer aided design, computer generated animation, database design, webpage design, software programming, office automation, global positioning systems and geographical information systems.

The innovative program costs about \$100,000 per school, outside of industry donations. Businesses provide technology by donating technical assistance, hardware, and software. Schools work with the community, businesses and higher education to create and implement a curriculum and teaching methods for Gr. K - age 16.

Project EAST is now in five schools on Maui, and one each on Molokai, Kauai and the Big Island, with 600 students enrolled in the 2006-2007 school year. Over the last four years, about 2,400 students have enjoyed Project EAST's invigorating hands-on teaching in science, engineering, math and technology. Eighty percent of former Project EAST students are studying high tech at the university level.

S.B. 897 passed the Economic Development & Taxation Committee, chaired by Senator Carol Fukunaga, and the Ways & Means Committee, chaired by Senator Roslyn Baker. The full Senate will vote on it next month. *S.B. 897, Relating to Technology Training.*

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