



Vol 3.

## SENATOR WILL ESPERO & YOUR LEGISLATURE WORKING FOR YOU

The Hawaii State Senate continues to work on issues that are important to our residents and businesses. Senate committees have finished taking testimony on the bills introduced. Here's an update on some of the bills the Senate will vote on this week.

### SLOW DOWN FOR THE ELDERLY

560 pedestrians injured in Hawaii each year....28 of them die after being struck....Kupuna, ages 65+, make up the highest number of pedestrian fatalities compared to all groups. This is according to a 2004 Elderly Pedestrian Integration Report prepared by SMS Research & Marketing Services.

Are our crosswalk lights too short for our senior citizens? The Hawaii State Senate feels walk signal lights should be long enough so pedestrians do not have to rush to avoid being hit by a car. **S.B. 1191 directs the Department of Transportation to identify intersections where the timing of crosswalk signal indicators needs to be lengthened so that our even our elderly can cross the street safely.**

The bill passed the Committees on Transportation & International Affairs, chaired by Senator Kalani English, and Ways & Means, chaired by Senator Rosalyn Baker. *S.B. 1191, Relating to Pedestrian Safety.*

### WASURENAI YŌ NI – REMEMBERING HAWAII'S WORLD WAR II INTERNEES

Hawaii's Japanese proved their allegiance to America during World War II by producing the most decorated, courageous fighting unit in the United States military. The story of the 442d Unit was memorialized in the film "Go For Broke," which remains a classic tribute to these soldiers' bravery and dedication.

What is much less known is the tragic story of how our own government treated the Japanese during World War II. The internment of the Japanese remains a largely untold story of misplaced suspicion and great injustice suffered by these loyal Americans. To remember this period in our history and the harsh, undeserved treatment suffered by Japanese Americans because of the prejudices of the day, I introduced **S.B. 1228 to establish and construct the Honouliuli Internment Camp Memorial in honor of Hawaii's interned Japanese.**

There are five known internment camps in Hawaii: Honouliuli and Sand Island on Oahu; Kilauea on the Big Island; Haiku on Maui; and Kalaheo on Kauai. Many former internment camps throughout the country have already or will soon disappear. Accounts of life in these internment camps, told by former internees, has given historians an increased awareness of how Hawaii's internees fared.

I believe this information is critical to preserve Hawaii's cultural and military history, and that there is much left to do before any memorial can be established. I encourage cultural and historical organizations to work together and decide the most appropriate means of memorializing this troubling time in our national and state history. S.B. 1228 passed the Committees on Economic Development & Taxation (EDT), chaired by Senator Carol Fukunaga, and of which I am Vice Chair, and Ways & Means. *S.B. 1228, Relating to Historical Preservation.*

## CIVIL UNIONS

In case you wondered, **S.B. 1062, Relating to Civil Unions** won't be up for a vote this time around because it was not heard by the Judiciary & Labor Committee. The House bill was heard and deferred, thus defeating the measure for this year.

## ATTENTION CONDOMINIUM OWNERS

A medley of ideas for laws relating to condominiums were introduced in the Senate. **S.B. 920 limits the use of member lists to purposes specified in state law or in associations' declarations and by-laws.** Board consent or approval is needed for other uses. Permitted uses not requiring Board approval are sending association newsletters or notices of meetings or proposed declaration and by-law amendments. *S.B. 920, Relating to Condominiums.*

**S.B. 921 helps members get information they need by limiting copying charges of association records to "reasonable costs" not to exceed 50 cents per page.** *S.B. 921, Relating to Condominium Association Records.* **S.B. 923 helps condominium associations collect delinquent maintenance fees.** The bill repeals the expiration date of H.R.S. 514B-146, which spells out a reasonable and fair process to collect unpaid fees, especially where the apartment is in foreclosure. *S.B. 923, Relating to Condominiums.*

**S.B. 1654 re-establishes an alternative method of resolving condominium disputes.** The pilot project was previously established by the Legislature. The process involves mediation, followed by a hearing with the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs. *S.B. 1654, Relating to Condominium Management Dispute Resolution.*

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