



State Senator Sam Slom



Senate District 8 • Waialae-Kahala — Aina Haina — Niu — Hawaii Kai
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808) 586-8420 or 586-8424 • Fax 586-8426 • Cell 349-5438
Email: senslom@capitol.hawaii.gov • Website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board #1 • Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria • 7:00 PM • Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Governor May Veto Up To 52 Bills by July 8

52 bills are on the veto list released by Governor **Linda Lingle** in a message sent out yesterday. Bills relating to workers comp, trauma care surcharges, permanent absentee voting, school closures and electronic recycling are all up for a potential veto. The Governor has a deadline of July 8 to follow-up on these bills. The Legislature can go to special session for the purpose of overriding a veto “at or before noon on the 45th day after adjournment.”

The Senate and House Republicans met with the Governor on Tuesday, June 17 to review various bills. Here are some of the bills pending a veto, all of which I have voted against.

HB 1412 — Establishes a new special fund for the tax department and implements electronic filing requirements and “streamlined sales & use taxes” (internet taxation).

HB 2250 — I am against regulation of inter-island airline travel. Airline industry fares are best left as a de-regulated business as it now is.

HB 2704 — Purchase of Haiku Valley.
Governor Lingle signed the Turtle Bay land acquisition bill into law earlier this month (**Act 140**) and will allow the purchase of the Galbraith Estate lands to go through (**HB 2293**).

HB 2972 — This bill if passed would force the closure of small schools such as Wailupe Elementary.

SB 156 — Allows for permanent absentee voting.

SB 1804 — This bill would create many surcharges for trauma care.

SB 2262 — The VEBA Trust Fund program would be extended to July 2010 if this bill becomes law.

SB 2365 — Increases the tax on motor vehicle rentals.

SB 2843 — Will impose a \$5,000 annual tax on electronics manufacturers for electronics recycling. The tax will be passed on to consumers if this becomes law.

SB 2933 — Mandates that solar energy clotheslines can be set up in any residential property regardless of established house rules against such lines.

A complete list of all the potential bill vetoes can be found at the Hawaii State Legislature’s website (**GM 843**):

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/bills/GM843_.pdf



A firm called Alt-E Venture wants to build a “ZipRider” down the side of Koko Head mountain (see big arrow). Like other commercial proposals for the area, Hawaii Kai residents will probably oppose this one.

“Zip Rider” Proposed for Koko Head Park

In what certainly will be a controversial proposal, a private firm called Alt-E Venture wants to build a “Zip Rider” attraction that will glide hikers down the 1200 ft. high Koko Head mountain and regional park. The proposed ride will be 3,000 feet long built on a 34% grade that will zip riders down Koko Head at 55 mph at the cost of at least \$20 per ride. The firm also proposes to sell merchandise such as T-shirts, caps, souvenirs and beverages in conjunction with the attraction.

Allowing this venture to operate in the park will open the door to more commercial development. Residents have clearly opposed commercial development in the area as noted in the opposition to the Ka Iwi Cabins development and plans for the makai shoreline. The area should be kept in open space as it is with its hiking trail maintained for the community to enjoy. I will oppose this venture.

Hui Nalu Canoe Club Clean Up Day

Hui Nalu Canoe Club is holding its 3rd annual Community Recycling & Clean-Up project day this coming Saturday, **June 28 from 8 am to 2 pm** at the **Maunalua Bay** boat ramp. This is your chance to properly dispose of old materials such as newspapers, cardboard, drink containers, tires, cooking oil, green waste, batteries, cell phones, old clothes and other items. A number of recycle firms will be helping with the project. Questions? Call Rep. **Gene Ward** 586-6240 or **Rene Mansho** at 306-1876 for more information.

Bertha Leong: An Inspiration to us All

The news last week of the death of **Bertha Leong** was staggering. The former beloved educator (Aina Haina School), three term State Representative, church volunteer, Realtor® and community leader is a tremendous loss to East O'ahu and all of Hawaii. Bertha had it all including a ready and winning smile-and was always willing to share. Bertha was an inspiration to all.

I first met Bertha when she chaired Kuliouou Neighborhood Board #2. She was a no-nonsense leader, but with a twinkle in her eye. I was among those who later cajoled her to run for public office. She was not a politician but loved people and reluctantly agreed to run. She was a hard worker in the State House and a clear thinker.

During her legislative tenure, she led efforts to improve education, save Wailupe Valley School, reform Hawaii's business climate, get relief from the area flood plain and to help the less fortunate among us. Her heart was as big as her smile. I last talked with Bertha at the Kuliouou Neighborhood Board two weeks ago. She never lost her smile or her determination to do good. God must have needed Bertha now for some work above. Mahalo Bertha.

Planned Power Outages Close Capitol

The Hawaii State Capitol survived the first of four planned power outages set for consecutive weekends this month and next. Power to the big square building was turned off Friday night and did not come back until early yesterday morning. Additional outages will occur on the weekends of **June 27, July 4 and July 11**. The power will be turned off **starting at 6:00 pm each Friday night** and will not return until **6:00 a.m.** the following Monday morning.

The power outages are being implemented to allow for the upgrade of aging electrical switchgear in the building. The new equipment is supposed to improve system reliability.

Offices will be closed and no access by the public or employees is allowed. The power outage also impacts the Hawaii State Legislature website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) making it unavailable during the blackout weekends.

Celebrate America at Hawaii Kai

Independence Day is one of my favorite holidays as we celebrate everything about being freedom loving United States citizens throughout the country. This year, Hawaii Kai will be lucky enough to have its own fireworks show and 4th of July festival on the shores of Maunaloa Bay.

The free event will feature a line-up of music, entertainment, food, civic and informational booths as well as games for the children. At 8:00 pm that night Hawaii Kai will get its first ever 4th of July fireworks show.



A room of more than 50 high school students from around the state participated in this years Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership day at the capitol. I am always honored to speak before this enthusiastic group of future leaders. This year Senators Jill Tokuda, Norman Sakamoto and I presented our views and answered questions on a number of current and often controversial topics. The students were quite bright and enthusiastic once the session started.

Neighborhood Board Bill Is Law

Governor Lingle signed the Neighborhood Board procedures bill into law on June 9 as **Act 153**. The new law prescribes the procedures to be followed at certain neighborhood board meetings, such as written public notice, quorum requirements, discussion and the decision-making process. The bill (HB2730) passed the Senate 25-0.

News & Announcements in Brief

- Condolences to the family of Kauai Mayor **Bryan Baptiste** who died suddenly this past Sunday after successful heart bypass surgery on June 13. The people of Kauai have lost a cherished and accomplished leader.
- Come to our **Legislative Wrap Up Town Hall** on Thursday night, **June 26 from 7 to 8:30 pm** at **Kuapa Isle Club House**. State Rep. **Gene Ward**, Sen. **Fred Hemmings** and I will give you an updated report on the past session and answer your questions.
- Don't forget the **Hawaii Kai Dog Park Grand Opening** this coming **Sunday, June 29** starting at 9:00 a.m.
- With the demise of Aloha Airlines, inter-island airfares have risen dramatically due to lack of competition and higher fuel costs. Most seats go for \$89 or higher. People traveling to Maui have the Hawaii Superferry as an option where seats currently sell for \$49.

SENATE COMMITTEES

Judiciary and Labor (JDL) • Education (EDU)
Economic Development & Taxation (EDT)
Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs (AHW)
Hydrogen Special Fund Investigative Committee

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 26 – Town Hall Meeting @ Kuapa Isle 7–8:30 pm
July 4 – Independence Day: Celebrate America!
Hawaii Kai Fireworks Show 8:00 p.m.

Sen. Slom & Sen. Hanabusa on Rick Hamada Radio Show
Thursday mornings 7:AM | KHVH AM 830 Radio