



# State Senator Sam Slom

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**Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board #1 • Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria • 7:00 PM • Thursday, October 30, 2007.**

## Superferry on Way to Legislative Approval

The resumption of **Hawaii Superferry** service between the islands of Kauai, Oahu and Maui looms large as 2 bills are making their way through the process at this week's special session of the Hawaii State Legislature. The State House of Representatives passed a largely non-restrictive bill (**HB1**) that will allow Hawaii Superferry to resume inter-island service while the State conducts a lengthy Environmental Impact Statement survey.

The Senate's version of the Superferry bill (**SB1 SD1**) passed a floor vote yesterday by a margin of 20 – 5. This bill places restrictions on Superferry that include requiring them to place an NOAA approved whale watching observer onboard each voyage; prohibiting items such as fishing nets, rocks and dirt to be transported and requiring stricter vehicle inspections for cleanliness.

SB1 SD1 passed the Senate Judiciary/Labor, Transportation and Energy & Environment committees by a narrow vote margin with several senators voting "with reservations" with 4 of them voting "no". Hearings in both the Senate and House lasted for more than 8 hours each.

Hawaii Superferry service to Maui was stopped in late August by the Hawaii State Supreme Court and a Maui Circuit Court injunction which was granted to Superferry opponents on Tuesday, October 9. Service to Kauai, while not directly affected by the court ruling, was suspended by Hawaii Superferry due to security concerns, which have now supposedly been ironed out.

After the October 9 court injunction, Hawaii Superferry was forced to lay off 80% of its 300+ member work force. Many of the specially trained employees were officially put on "furlough" pending the outcome of the special session. Hawaii Superferry chose not to appeal the Maui court's injunction.

Since the court decision, my office has received more than 5,000 emails of which about 80% of them are in support of the Hawaii Superferry. A nearly equal amount of testimony in support of the Superferry was sent in by the public for the various hearings. Several polls have indicated strong support for the Superferry over the course of the past weeks.

Besides the Superferry issue, the legislature is in the process of hearing **HB 2** that will fix Hawaii's extended sentencing law. Earlier this year the Hawaii Supreme Court declared Hawaii's extended sentencing law unconstitutional. The bill is needed to allow both judges or juries to deter-



**More than 5,000 people sent in email and testimony on the Superferry issue. The support for the service far outweighed those who opposed it as I presented it during the floor vote on the Senate floor yesterday.**

mine facts necessary to impose an extended sentence of imprisonment. The bill was passed yesterday in the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee by a vote of 4 – 0.

Final reading and decisions on all bills is expected to be done by this Wednesday, October 31.



**Hawaii Superferry employees and supporters held a sign waving rally on opening day of special session last week (above). Yesterday the Senate met in floor session to pass the Superferry bill on 3rd Reading. (top photo)**



Circuit Court Judge Randal Lee's appointment to the Hawaii State Intermediate Court of Appeals was denied by the State Senate with a vote of 9 in favor and 16 against in today's Senate session.

### Appointments to Various Cabinet and Board Positions Approved by the Senate

Cabinet level interim directors as well as numerous appointees to various boards and commissions are all up for Senate Confirmation during this year's 2nd special legislative session which began on October 24.

Circuit Court Judge **Randal Lee** was denied confirmation by the Senate today to the Hawaii State Intermediate Court of Appeals. Dept. of Labor Director **Darwin Ching** is expected to be confirmed this week along with Interim Dept. of Land & Natural Resources Director **Laura Theilen** who passed her confirmation hearing late yesterday afternoon.

Other appointees include the following:

- **Clayton Frank**, Interim Director, Dept. of Public Safety
- **Ronald Terry**, State Health Planning & Development Agency
- **Kyle Chock** – State Land Use Commission
- **Normand Lezy** – State Land Use Commission
- **Les Kondo** – Public Utilities Commission
- **Avery Chumbley**—HHSC Statewide Board
- **Barry Taniguchi**—HHSC Statewide Board
- **Roger Godfrey**—HHSC Statewide Board
- **Shawn Cannon** —HHSC Statewide Board
- **Joseph Dwight**—Community Development Authority
- **Donna Fay Kiyosaki**—Water Resource Mgt. Comm.
- **Gary Y.K. Chock**—Hurricane Relief Fund Board
- **Danton Wong**—Strategic Development Corporation
- Dozens of others to HHSC state & regional boards

#### SENATE COMMITTEES

Judiciary and Labor (JDL)  
Education (EDU)  
Economic Development & Taxation (EDT)  
Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs (AHW)

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Veteran's Day – November 11 /12 (State Holiday)  
Hawaii Kai Christmas Parade – Saturday, Nov. 24 – 10:00 a.m.

## Trash Recycling Test Begins

The City's Curbside Recycling pilot project started this week. Hawaii Kai residents should have already received their color coded recycling bins that will have to be used for separation of trash and recyclable items.

The new recycling program will reduce twice weekly trash pick-ups down to once a week starting in January after the initial test period has been initiated. Hawaii Kai residents will not have the option to opt into a fee based second pickup for regular trash.

As a reminder, residents who leave beverage containers for curbside recycling will lose their **5¢** per bottle tax refund, and instead give that amount all to the city.

More information on the City's Curbside Recycling program can be found at:

[http://envhonolulu.org/solid\\_waste/curbside.htm](http://envhonolulu.org/solid_waste/curbside.htm)

## New Committee Appointments

Due to Sen. Gabbard's departure from the minority party, committee changes among the 4 Republicans have been announced. Senator **Gordon Trimble** has been appointed to the Commerce Consumer Protection & Housing Committee and Transportation Committee. Senator **Paul Whalen** has been added to the Water and Land committee. I was appointed to the Judiciary & Labor Committee, the Education Committee and the Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, which broke off from the old Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee. I continue to be on the Economic Development and Taxation Committee.

## Senator Slom on KHVH Radio

Listen to Senator **Sam Slom** with Senate President **Colleen Hanabusa** each Thursday morning on the **Rick Hamada** radio show from 7 to 8 am. The hot issues of the day are discussed. The conversation can go down to some serious "trash talk" too. Tune into KHVH AM 830 and call in with your questions at 521-8383.

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