

# State Senator Sam Slom

Senate District 9 • Waialae-Kahala — Aina Haina — Kuliouou— Niu — Hawaii Kai  
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Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board #1 • Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria • 7:00 pm • Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

## Budget is Broken, Minimum Wage Hike Becomes Law

The Governor, Budget Director and Attorney General held a press conference on Monday June 9 to say the recently passed \$23.7 billion State Supplemental Budget (**HB 1700**) and an accompanying bond authorization bill were in trouble because the totals, subject to a State Constitutional limit, did not match up.

This information was known prior to the final floor vote on the budget at the end of April. The legislature rushed to pass the budget bill, which included funding for the Turtle Bay land acquisition at the last minute.

I had raised these and other issues on the senate floor and voted no on the budget because it was over the limit. The Governor will now use his line item veto to strike money from the budget. Instead of cutting pork, it looks like there will be more borrowing and debt to make up the difference.

The Governor has so far enacted 121 bills into law. He intends to veto 10 bills. The deadline to take action on all remaining bills is July 8. Bills signed into law include:

**SB 2609 (Act 82):** I voted against the minimum wage bill. This law will hurt business and employment opportunities and is not

meant to be a living wage but rather a training wage. The new law will increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next 4 years.

**HB 1866 (Act 61):** HCDA requirements for hearing notices and Kaka'ako area building height limits. I voted "aye" on this.

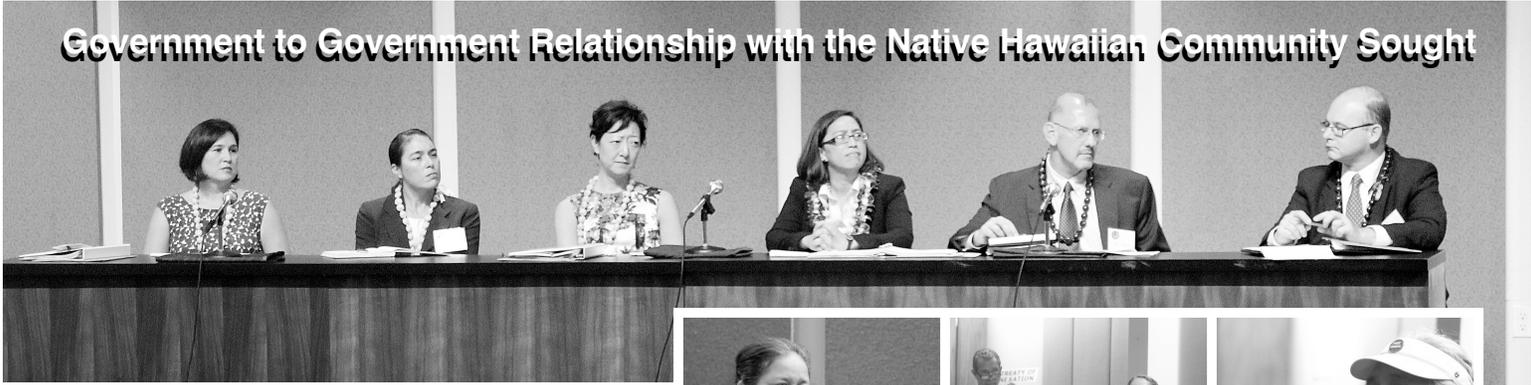
**HB 1714 (Act 83):** Climate change adaptation planning and creation of a climate change adaptation committee. I voted "no" on this bill.

**HB 2246 (Act 87):** Gun control; mental illness prohibition. Voted "aye" on this bill.

**HB 737 (Act 103):** Special purpose revenue bonds for agricultural enterprises. Vote "aye" with reservations.

**HB 849 (Act 111):** Updating the State's emergency management statutes that includes changing the name of the State Civil Defense office to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

More information on bills signed into law and those that are pending action are at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).



## Government to Government Relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community Sought

The U.S. Department of Interior started a series of public hearings as it considers establishing a government to government relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community. In other words they are seeking comments on whether or not the community wants to establish a sovereign government for the State of Hawaii.

More than 200 people came to the public hearing held yesterday (June 23) in the State Capitol Auditorium. More than 100 people were allowed to testify for or against the creation of a Hawaiian government which many opposed by having the United States set things up. I too oppose a proposed D.O.I. rule change.





### Student Graduates Visit Capitol

Eight high school senior students from Klondike High School in Texas and their chaperones Mr. & Mrs. Andrew and Tiffany Tijerina visited the State Capitol and my office on Wed. June 4. They financed their own trip with personal funds and are taking in the sights and learning about Hawaii.

### Kalaniana'ole Highway Resurfacing

#### Project Expected to Last to Feb. 2016

The Hawaii Department of Transportation Highways Division began work yesterday on the Kalaniana'ole Highway Resurfacing Project, that will provide a safe and smooth driving route for East Honolulu motorists from West Hind Drive to the vicinity of Hanauma Bay Road. The \$14 million project will also include utility maintenance and upgrades, road marking installations, guardrail repairs, and landscaping and irrigation improvements. It is being funded with 80 percent federal and 20 percent state funds. The project is anticipated to be completed by February 2016.



### Next on 'A Better Day'

Senator Slom's special guest on the next installment of "A Better Day" is **Jonathan Young**, President of Associated Builders and Contractors. They discuss the legislature and the impact on business, construction and employment. The current episode as well as archived broadcasts can be found on YouTube and linked at our Senate Minority website: [www.hawaiisenateminority.org](http://www.hawaiisenateminority.org). The show also airs on Olelo Channel 54. Consult your TV guide for showtimes.

## Minority NewsBytes & More

- Governor Abercrombie appointed **George Okuda** to the vacant State House of Representatives District 48 seat after incumbent State Rep. **Jessica Wooley** stepped down to accept an appointment to the directorship of the State Office of Environmental Quality Control, effective July 1. Okuda was a legislative aide for State Rep. Ken Ito since 2000. His term expires on November 4, 2014.
- The University of Hawaii Board of Regents by a vote of 11 to 2 appointed **David Lassner** as the next President of the University of Hawaii System at a board meeting on June 2. Lassner has been serving for more than a year as Acting President of the U.H. system after MRC Greenwood resigned. Lassner's appointment becomes effective on July 1 and he will get a \$375,000 annual salary.
- I re-appointed Ms. **Patricia Berg** to the State Elections Commission as a commissioner for the County of Kauai to another 4 year term that expires on June 30, 2018. The State Elections commission is a 9-member board that oversees several aspects of the Hawaii elections process. More information at [www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections).
- The Governor has appointed the following individuals to various boards: **Wesley Furtado** to the State Board of Land & Natural Resources (BLNR) and **Sean Dee** to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). Both are interim appointees and a subject to State Senate approval.
- State Public Schools Superintendent **Kathryn Matayoshi** has will get a 30% salary increase which will boost her pay from \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year starting on July 1. I voted "no" on the salary increase bill.
- State Librarian **Richard Burns** announced his retirement effective December 31. He has been the State Librarian for the past 7 years, completing a 30-year career.
- The 67th Annual **Friends of the Library** Honolulu book is being held now at McKinley High School Cafeteria to June 29. Details @ [www.friendsofthelibraryofhawaii.org/](http://www.friendsofthelibraryofhawaii.org/).

#### SENATE COMMITTEES

- WAM—Ways & Means | JDL—Judiciary & Labor
- CPN—Commerce & Consumer Protection
- AGL—Agriculture | ART — Arts & Technology
- EDH—Economic Development & Housing | EDU—Education
- ENE—Energy & Environment | HRE — Higher Education
- HWN—Hawaiian Affairs | HTH—Health | HMS—Human Services
- PSG—Public Safety & Military Affairs | TSM—Tourism & Government Operations | TIA—Transportation & International Affairs
- WLH—Water, Land & Housing | HSH - Investigative Committee

July 4, 2014 - Independence Day (Holiday)  
 August 9, 2014 - Primary Election Day  
 August 15, 2014 - Statehood Day

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 Hawaii Senate Informer [facebook.com/hawaiis.senate.informer](https://www.facebook.com/hawaiis.senate.informer)  
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