



Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy



Happy Birthday!
Rep. Choy

District 24—Manoa, University, Moiliili

This is a new beginning for me. I had my first Senior-priced meal at Perkin's in Orlando, and I was offered the senior fare without even showing an ID. Is this a good thing?



The Primary Election is over and I now am focusing in on my General Election. Even with this election, since I am still in office, I think it is time to start looking at the upcoming legislative session. Most people believe the recession is over since the rest of the United States seems to be moving towards some type of economic recovery. We must remember that there is generally a lag time between Hawaii and the rest of the US, so we are probably still in a recession and hopefully will see economic growth begin.

The 26th Legislature's time will be consumed with money matters, and once again, tough decisions will have to be made. The process will be to review the Executive Budget from our new Governor, hopefully in December, but more realistically towards the beginning of our session in January. The next Governor will have to follow the Council on Revenues projections for the year. The Council on Revenues has not been as accurate in the past few years as I was hoping them to be. If the Council is on track, I am certain that the departments will again be asked to cut their expenses. This by itself will be difficult considering that over 40% of their expenditures were cut during the 25th Legislature. I believe we now have to seriously consider cutting programs. This is not going to be easy and even worse, other sources of moneys may have to be sacrificed since matching state funds may not be available. Programs that have been drastically reduced during the last two budget cuts will have to be evaluated for elimination. Federal stimulus funds and expense deferral will expire or become due. Job attrition may be a means to deal with less money even though it was not considered during the last budget reduction.

The logical process will be to determine how much expenditures will be needed, and then revenue enhancements (taxes and fee increases) considered. From past experience, most of the time will be reviewing spending priorities. Those who advocate smaller government and tax decreases must come forward with suggested program eliminations. The rhetoric that there are government inefficiencies and that these efficiencies can be eliminated to save programs will again be tested. I seriously doubt that further efficiencies can be achieved when budgets were cut by 40 percent. My business experience tells me, trying to do more with less is a great sound bite but not realistic.

An example of a paradox I have encountered during my first

term was **Public School Furloughs**. In my opinion, this was a bad choice, but it was made due to insufficient funds to operate our schools. The overwhelming response from the public was "get the kids back in school" but "don't raise taxes!" The cry was "cut something else", but "not my program!" Our solution, which was taking money from a static fund to pay for a continuing expense, will challenge us in the near future. The reality of applying political solutions to fiscal problems is not an ideal path to follow. The final compromise on the next biennium budget is not yet formulated, but, I assure you, I will give you a detailed report of what is happening or going to happen.

Other issues will come forth, although most will be difficult solve due to insufficient funds. **Homelessness** is a continuing problem and will definitely be addressed again. My position is no more studies or task forces. *First*, we must keep the homeless from putting a damper on our visitors' experience. **Tourism** is currently our number one economic driver. *Second*, we must have places and programs for the homeless to go and provide incentives for them to use these facilities. We do have these facilities, but we must insist that the homeless utilize these facilities.

Civil Unions will be on our agenda again; I prefer we put the same sex marriage issue to the voters for a final decision. This issue is too divisive to allow the legislature to decide. I will support whatever is the voice of the people.

The Revitalization of our Economy will be a high priority in the minds of most people. **Construction in the military, state and federal governments and the private sector** must be supported. This must include infrastructure repair and maintenance as well as new construction. We also must be very vigilant that moneys used for these projects benefit primarily our local people and economy. Protectionist legislation may be distasteful but supporting out-of-state residents who will eventually support their states' economies does not make sense either.

Workforce Development is the key to our economic development and diversification. Providing our best and brightest in all fields from the STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to vocational education is my vision. Perhaps principle-based education instead of standards-based education may be a way to achieve this goal. I think I have said enough for this issue.

Future issues will delve into the details of each of these initiatives. The compromises should make for interesting reading.

Mahalo & Aloha,



Neighborhood Security Watch
Informational Meeting
Mon., August 16, 2010



Manoa **Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW)** Coordinators on hand to assist in forming new NSWs in Manoa.



NSW Coordinators & Block Captains' Meeting
Mon., Sept. 13, 2010

COMMUNITY'S GOAL IS TO SATURATE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS WITH NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH GROUPS.

NEIGHBORS LOOKING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER!



Manoa **NSW** Coordinators and Block Captains join Rep. Choy, Sen. Taniguchi, Councilmember Kobayashi & District 7 Sector 1 Officer Tony Kahapea as an Agenda packed with Crime Updates, NSW Awareness in the Community, Security measures, Resources and Tools, Q & A time, Networking and Upcoming Events brings this group together as they have a common goal...

Help bring awareness of what to look out for and what to do to keep their NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND KEEP THE BAD GUYS OUT!



ALOHA AINA

7th Annual Community Clean-Up & Fundraiser
for

• Kaimuki High School • Kapahulu Center • Moiliili Community Ctr

Date: Sat., October 16, 2010
 Time: 8:00 AM—2:00 PM
 Location: Kaimuki High School Parking Lot

Flyer Attached



EARTH DAY PARTNERS:

Speaker Calvin Say, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Rep. Isaac Choy, Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Rep. Scott Saiki, Mr. Kirk Caldwell, Mr. Neil Abercrombie & Councilmember Ann Kobayashi
Call for Curbside Pickup: Rep. Scott Nishimoto, 586-8515

ANNUAL
MANOA CHRISTMAS PARADE



Sponsored by the East Manoa Lions and Manoa Jaycees

DATE: Saturday, December 11, 2010
TIME: 5:00 PM

Parade **STARTS** at Noelani Elementary School and **ENDS** at Manoa Gym Road



- Manoa Neighborhood Board Mtg → 10/6—Come early and talk story with Rep Choy.
 Weds., Oct. 6, 2010, 7pm, Noelani Elem. School Caf.
- McCully/Moiliili Neighborhood Board Mtg
 Thurs., Oct. 7, 2010, 6:30pm, Washington Middle School Caf.

Community Issues/Concerns? City/State/Govt Officials are Present.

View my newsletters on-line: <http://hawaiihouseblog.googlepages.com/repisaacchoy>
 To receive an electronic copy of *Prevailing Winds*, email c.hagihara@capitol.hawaii.gov