

• World News •
See Pages 2 & 3

• Literacy - Kam School •
See Page 11

• I MUA Message •
See Page 14

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The Dispatch

The Newspaper of Molokai

FREE!
April 1, 2004

A Night to Remember - 2004 Senior Prom

by Valeen Hadley and Cassie Keanini



Stef & Dustin (left) and Prom Court (above)

Saturday, March 6, 2004 marked an unforgettable night for the reigning class of 2004. At the stroke of six a hundred and forty five elegant ladies and dashing gentlemen strolled into New Hope Retreat (formerly known as the Pau Hana Inn) for the first and maybe the last time of their lives to party the night away at their **2004 Senior Prom**.

Blessed with cool and serene weather with no rain in sight, the night was a grand success. "Come Away With Me" was the theme of the evening. A fun and exciting time was what everyone expected and that is what they got, the time of their lives.

All enjoyed a scrumptious dinner buffet of prime rib and sautéed shrimp. The sweet, flowing, pumping sounds of our special guests Cool Rush, Friday & Tim Eleneki, Piilani

Continued on Page 9

State Legislators: Mid-Term Review

Sen. Kalani English & Rep. Sol Kaho'ohalahala

by Edie Anderson



Lucky we were to catch Sen. Kalani English & Rep. Sol Kaho'ohalahala at the MGH Groundbreaking on March 16th during their very short midterm break. Due to time limitations, we asked our legislative representatives to update us on issues specific to Moloka'i. This they did willingly - reminding us that there is much more to come before the current session is over on May 6th. "This is just cross-over time," the duo stated

repeatedly.

High on both their list of priorities is an "Ice Package" that addresses prevention/treatment and incarceration issues related to substance abuse at all levels. "It is a huge effort and it has our full support as it moves through the process," according to Kaho'ohalahala.

Continued on Page 3

Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa

Moloka'i Specific

by Edie Anderson

Although demands on his time are many and ever-rising airfares during tight budget times weigh heavy on his mind, Mayor Alan Arakawa did actually make it to Moloka'i twice in one week. But as the events were important and especially noteworthy, Arakawa did devote considerable time meeting and greeting residents and checking out a number of new facilities.

The Mayor's first appearance was at the March 16th groundbreaking at MGH - followed just days later by a visit to Home Pumehana's new Senior Center where he helped them celebrate the 2nd Annual Seniors Fair. Thankfully for us, Arakawa found time for a chat, which we now share with you our readers.

Arakawa's first statements had to do with the importance of getting "input from the community." That said, he stressed that all his administration does is "community driven" and being pro-active in terms of providing what residents deem most important is what his job is all about. To make sure this happens he has set up two community-based councils. The first, the Kapuna Council, has district wide representation and is intended to gather information from those who know their communities best - "our kupuna." The other council is broader in scope being an advisory council with representatives from all areas, age groups, and ethnic background.



"We are trying to listen so we can serve better - be the issues having to do with the budget or services, but in order to listen --- the public has to speak up!"

In reviewing his holistic approach to governing, Arakawa mentioned several Moloka'i projects that illustrate the meaning of community driven. Among those that are currently being addressed: relocation of the fire station; affordable housing; care, maintenance and acquisition of parks; and streamlining processes and procedures.

Noting how everything the County does depends on the "money stream," he said that by bringing programs together by intertwining different areas of concern (affordable housing, homelessness, medical care, and

Continued on Page 15

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- 13 schools didn't meet AYP standards for 2 -3 years in a row."
- The Nation's Report Card" (National Assessment of Educational Progress): showed:
- Only Nevada where 8th grades tested worst than Hawai'i in writing.
- Only Nevada 8th graders scored lower than Hawai'i's 8th graders in reading.
- National Test Scores: (Public Schools 2003)
- 4th Grade Reading - 47% tested below the national average.
- 8th Grade Reading - 36% tested below the national average.
- 4th Grade Math - 32% tested below the national average.
- 8th Grade Math - 44% tested below the national average.
- An estimated 20% of students dropout of school before graduation.
- About half of all new teachers hired leave the profession within 3 years of first being hired.
- Education Week's "Quality counts 2003" Survey showed:

- 45% of Hawaii's middle schools report major physical conflict problems - over twice the percentage of the next worst ranked states (Nevada & Louisiana at 21%).
- 60% of 8th grader classrooms report classroom misbehavior - the worst in the entire nation.
- SAT tests overall are getting worse, according to the College Board - down 4% between 2002 and 2003.

Funding Information:

- In 1987 the State spend (General Funds) \$390 million on education and had 11,000 employees
- In 2003 the State spent \$1.4 billion and had 22,000 salaried employees + 10,000 "casual hires."

(A triple-increase in just 16 years)

(U. S. Dept. of Educ., College Board, & "No Child Left Behind")

Sen. Kalani English & Rep Sol Kaho'ohalahala

Continued from Page 1



State Senator English with Cruise Industry representatives & Charles Taguchi

Kaho'ohalahala also spoke of an exciting new program - QZAB - Qualified Zone Academic Bonds. What this little known Federal program is all about is "0% interest Federal loans - over 35 years that are intended for use by schools in such areas as curriculum development, teacher training, and renovation - NOT new CIP projects." Kaho'ohalahala said he discovered the funding source some 4 years ago and has been working since then to bring it to the attention of his colleagues. "It is perfect for the intended middle school Moloka'i has been wanting all these years." he said. Working with the DOE and Pat Hamamoto and others, the bill has now moved out of the house and goes to the senate.

Another of their pet projects has to do with Kalaupapa and comes in two parts: 1) a much needed audit and 2) voting registration changes for residents. In terms of the audit - the results recommended procedures regarding "direct patient costs" with more accountability and better inventories, and attention to non-patient, administrative, maintenance and travel spending.

A number of CIP projects rank high on the agenda of Maui County's delegations. Among these are road repair, maintenance projects at the county's harbors and airports and, most importantly - making sure all harbors have adequate pump-out stations.

Sen. English went into some detail by explaining Bill 3116 - SD #2 that affects cruise ships and other commercial passenger vessels. According to English, "it is a hybrid/compromise bill that was formulated with and to be in compliance with EPA standards." It allows for enforcement by the Dept. of Health and creates incentives where by fees are lowered if/when vessels exceed Federal guidelines/standards. He ended the discussion by noting that he's been meeting with members of the cruise industry for over a year and that the cooperative effort has paid off.

Befitting the day, English and Kaho'ohalahala spoke of funding measures earmarked for health programs on Moloka'i. In addition to providing operational money to MGH, the Legislature has, in the name of rural health, assisted the Lamalama Ka'ili's long-term care and hospice programs. Their next goal - a bond issue for Phase II of MGH's renovation

projects. Kaho'ohalahala said they are proud to be partners in this and other MGH projects and that it will take "many hands" to reach intended goals. English noted that he has long championed and been an advocate of rural health programs and, most especially those that touch native Hawaiians.

There is much much more to do in the weeks to come, and both of our representatives urged people to share their mana'o and not hesitate to contact them. The toll-free number is: 1-800-468-4644. Sen. English can also be reached via e-mail: senenglish@capitol.hawaii.gov. or Fax: (808) 587-7230

Rep. Kaho'ohalahala: via e-mail: rep.Kahoohalahala@capitol.hawaii.gov or FAX: 586-6779.

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| • PEDIATRICS SUB-SPECIALTIES | • GENERAL SURGERY |
| • OPTOMOLOGIST | • NEPHROLOGY |
| • ORTHOPEDIC | • GASTROENTEROLOGIST |
| • PHYSIATRIST (PAIN MANAGEMENT) | • CT |



Aha Ho`okumu

Native Hawaiian Education Island Council of Molokai presents

Ke Kukui O Molokai `aha Hanohano

"Molokai island-wide educational fair"

A **free** event showcasing diverse educational opportunities with exhibits & demonstrations by island organizations.

Homegrown entertainment, free food and special awards

to be given in the following categories:

- Kupua O Kalena (Learner of the Year)
- Mole Kumu O Molokai (Educator of the Year)
- Molokai No Ka Heke (School or Institution of the Year)
- Ko Molokai Aina Ho'opulapula (Family of the Year)
- Lei Kukui O Molokai (Community Organization of the Year)

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Lanikeha Community Center, Hoolehua

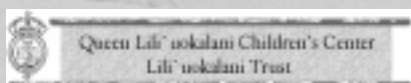
8:30 am - Pule and Hoolana

9:00 am - Fair Opens

11:00 am - Presentation and Awards

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

1:00 pm - Pau



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