



Volume 1, Issue 12
December 20, 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tue. 12/29/09 5pm and 6:30pm	"An Evening with Michael Medved"- A fundraiser for Lt., Governor Duke Aiona 5pm- Reception, \$150 6:30pm- Private Dinner, \$500
Thur. 1/7/10 5:30-6:30pm	HRP Toastmasters Club Meeting HRP Headquarters
Thur. 1/21/10 5:30-6:30pm	HRP Toastmasters Club Meeting HRP Headquarters
Mon. 1/25/10- Sun. 2/7/10	Republican Caucuses Dates, times and locations TBD
Tue. 1/26/10 9am-4:30pm	RNC Island Summit-FREE EVENT Hosted by RNC Co-Chairman Jan Larimer and the Hawai'i Republican Party Hilton Hawaiian Village, click here to register
Thur. 2/4/10 5:30-6:30pm	HRP Toastmasters Club Meeting HRP Headquarters
Thur. 2/18/10 5:30-6:30pm	HRP Toastmasters Club Meeting HRP Headquarters
Fri. 2/26/09 5:30-10pm	HRP's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner Hilton Hawaiian Village Special Keynote Speaker to be announced soon! For more information or to purchase tickets, click here .

The Importance of the Upcoming Special Election By Charles K. Djou

As you know, Congressman Neil Abercrombie has announced that he will soon resign from Congress, which will trigger a special election for his Congressional seat. This is very exciting news for our campaign and I need your support more than ever.

I will be a candidate in the special election early next year and I look forward to sharing my views on fiscal responsibility, a strong national defense, and responsible stewardship of our environment with the people of Hawaii.

We have been working hard for months preparing for the campaign next year and my team is ready for the shortened campaign season. Because of the intense pace of a special election, I will need your help. Please consider visiting my website, www.Djou.com to sign up to volunteer or make a contribution.

This race will attract national attention and your grassroots support is absolutely necessary for us to succeed. The status quo in Hawai'i and Washington D.C. will spend heavily to insure that business as usual continues in our congressional delegation. In a few months, we will have a unique opportunity to bring positive change to our congressional delegation for the first time in a generation.

I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail and thank you for all your support. Now let's get to work!



WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

In the upcoming weeks, many of you will receive phone calls or a postcard reminding you to attend your local Republican caucus. These meetings are essential in organizing our grassroots organizations and adopting the Hawai'i Republican Party platform as we move into the 2010 election year.

The one-two hour long meetings take place within your house district or precinct and elect delegates to the State Convention (Saturday, May 15, 2010) as well as representatives to the Platform Committee. All of these positions are essential to the organization of the Party and we encourage all of you to take part in your local caucuses to get involved in preparation for the 2010 elections.

To vote during caucuses, one must be (1) a resident of the respective precinct and district, (2) on the HRP membership rolls ten days prior to the caucus meeting and (3) present at the caucus meeting. Check your mail or our website, gophawaii.com for more information on dates and locations.

HRP Gains Four Days of News Coverage following Abercrombie's Resignation

The Hawai'i Republican Party capitalized on the unexpected resignation of Rep. Neil Abercrombie and the announcement by Republican candidate Charles K. Djou that he would be running in the special election to replace Abercrombie.

For four straight days, media featured commentary by HRP Chairman Jonah Ka'auwai on Abercrombie's resignation, the Democrat political games being played as the primary for Governor heats up and the implications of a special election on the state. See below media highlights:

12/11/09 "[Republican Party Says Resignation is Move to 'Steal Election' from Djou.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*

12/11/09 "[Abercrombie to resign seat; Case, Djou and Hanabusa to run in special election.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*

12/12/09 "[Election may have to wait.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*

12/12/09 "[Abercrombie to stay through critical votes.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*

12/12/09 "[Abercrombie's stunning ploy.](#)" *Maui News*

12/13/09 Hawaii News Now at 10pm: "Why Are You Running?"

12/14/09 "[No resignation timetable, but Abercrombie says he will finish work.](#)" *Honolulu Star Bulletin*

12/14/09 "[Hawaii's Rep. Abercrombie says he'll resign seat after key votes.](#)" *Honolulu Advertiser*

One Year Later: Democrats on Defense

By Pete Sessions, Chairman, National Republican Congressional Committee

What a difference a year makes. Nearly twelve months ago, Democrats were at the peak of their political power following a sweeping and historic election. Since then, Speaker Pelosi has successfully steered her party into a political abyss so daunting that senior members of her caucus would rather throw in the towel than face a disgruntled electorate back home.

Remember what Democrats and political prognosticators were saying about the so-called demise of the Republican Party in November of 2008?

"Thumped convincingly in consecutive election cycles, the Republican Party now finds itself in its worse straits since the rise of the conservative coalition." (Jonathan Martin, "GOP in dire straits," Politico, 11/06/08).

Republican gubernatorial wins in Virginia and New Jersey, the political discussion has changed markedly:

"We already knew Democrats had problems. Tuesday just confirmed it." (Charlie Cook, "Democrats' Woes Confirmed," National Journal, 11/07/09).

The writing on the wall is clear - Congressional Democrats today are left with a mandate for defeat in 2010. With trillions of new debt, devastating unemployment numbers, a failed stimulus, and massive new spending bills stalled with congressional inaction, Democrats have officially sacrificed their control of the Majority in order to force a reckless and unpopular agenda on American families. [Read the entire memo on NRCC.org](http://www.NRCC.org)

Shame On Us If Students Suffer By Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Honolulu Star Bulletin

The aftermath of the collective bargaining agreement between the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, the state Board of Education, the state Department of Education and the state was a disaster.

We now have the fewest instruction days in the nation, a true black eye for Hawai'i. Meanwhile, the federal government set aside competitive grant moneys for public education called "Race to the Top Funds." Ironically, it appears that we are racing for the bottom.

The situation represents symptoms of deeper problems that have sat unaddressed for years: education reform. See professor Randy Roth's new essay, "[Public Education in Hawaii: Past, Present & Future.](#)" in which he states:

"Changing the status quo will necessarily involve a shift of power. The parties who currently wield that power -- primarily union leaders and elected officials who enjoy union support -- are not going to give up that power simply because it's the 'right thing to do.' As Governor Cayetano has said, 'The people with power will not give it up unless they get something in return -- there will have to be a negotiation of some kind.'"

Ultimately, the success of any real reform falls not only on legislators and those within the DOE, but on those outside the DOE as well.

Where do we go from here? Many sets of circumstances over the years led every governor, Republican and Democrat, down this path. And while some ideas are familiar, some have come to the surface as a result of the furlough situation.

First, in agreeing on furloughing instruction days to close the budget gap, it became clear during the collective bargaining process that no party represents the children. Children are the most important, and weakest, stakeholders in the public education system. They have no direct voice in the process, no direct means to hold anyone accountable. But if anyone deserves a voice at the bargaining table, it's the children because they are the *only* reason we have a public education system to begin with. Therefore, we should mandate in law exactly that -- a representative for the children at the collective bargaining table with a vote and say in the process.

Second, when the dust settled and the agreement was ratified by HSTA, we had the least amount of instructional days in the nation, yet another black eye for a DOE consistently ranking near the bottom in every nationally accepted means of comparison for student performance. If Hawaii hopes to provide public school students with an education on par with the average state, it cannot do so with the least number of instructional days. Therefore, we should mandate in law a baseline number of instructional days equal to the state with the highest amount of teaching days as well as a baseline number of instructional hours within those days.

Finally, it comes as little surprise that in the wake of this agreement, and the troubles caused by it, stakeholders are pointing fingers at each other. That is the way the system was created ... with a total lack of accountability. A financial, management, and performance audit of the DOE would highlight all of the areas legislators need to address to create an accountable system and to provide the means for those within the DOE to succeed, and we should pass a resolution calling for this audit in the 2010 session.

Each of the three ideas will be introduced as legislation in January.

These are common sense solutions in uncommonly difficult times, but as professor Roth pointed out, the only way change happens is if we hold ourselves accountable and do something about it, because history shows the stakeholders won't.

Rep. Ching Hosts 3rd Annual Liliha Gingerbread Festival and Snow Day

By Leanne Cardwell

December 5, 2009 proved to be another beautiful day in Liliha. Local families gathered at Lanakila Elementary School for the 3rd Annual Gingerbread Festival and Snow Day, sponsored by Rep. Corinne Ching.

Parents watched as their youngsters' tiny mitten-less hands (who owns mittens in Hawai'i?) kneaded the ton of snow dumped onto the field into snowballs and miniature snowmen. Families enjoyed the comforts of a white Christmas, including with hot chocolate and marshmallows.

The gingerbread house competition challenged participants to construct and adorn a house with candy to reflect the beautiful plantation-style homes of the Liliha neighborhood. Guest project architect and Liliha resident, Hiram Pajo served as a judge along with Rep. Ching.

After two hours of sugar-coated concentration later, families lay their homes side-by-side on a single table. Guest architects and Representative Ching evaluated the momentous success. Houses held enough candy porches and icing covered walls to give anyone a mouthful of cavities. In the end, after much deliberation, the judges honored a few elaborate, prize-worthy designs before all of the houses were declared the winners.



Finnegan Named Amongst Most Influential Woman In U.S.

By Jessica Goolsby, Midweek West Oahu News

State Rep. Lynn Finnegan was recently honored as one of 42 policymakers and visionaries recognized by the Filipina Women's Network as part of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the United States.

"It's just a good group to be a part of," said Finnegan. "I'm happy to be a part of this group of 100 because culturally, if this award helps some young Filipino teenager to realize that there are a lot of Filipina women who have been able to aspire and reach their goals on their own merit, I think it will serve an even greater purpose."

The Republican represents the 32nd District, which encompasses Lower Pearlridge, Aiea, Halawa, Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Foster Village and Moanalua Gardens.

A graduate of University of Hawai'i, Finnegan was elected to the House in 2002. And though she previously worked as a senior loan originator with Primary Residential Mortgage and as an entertainer on the *Al Harrington Show*, she said her greatest role has been as a wife and mother. She is married to HFD Capt. Peter Finnegan and has two children, son Luke, 10, and daughter Piikea, 14.

"When I shared the news with my daughter, she gave me a smile and said 'Good job, Mom!'" Finnegan said of the honor. "It helps her to operate without thinking she can't break through that glass ceiling.

"In this day and age, it is so important for her and other young women to really realize things like this are attainable. I was very surprised, though, myself. Though I love my job and the role I play here in Hawai'i, you just never see yourself being recognized on a national scale like this."

Finnegan is a member of many community groups and organizations, including the Imago Dei Community Church, Aiea/Pearl City Business Association, Cagayan Valley Association of Hawai'i, Moanalua Lions Club, the House Education, Health and Higher Education committees, the Interim Task Force on Standards of Conduct and the Legislative Management Committee.

In addition, she served on the board for Voyager Public Charter School in 2002, as an advisory board member for the Minority Organ Tissue and Transplant Education Program and as first vice chairwoman for the 2001-2003 Hawai'i Republican Party Executive Committee.

On the national level, Finnegan was state officer for Women In Government from 2002 to 2005; a member of the National Foundation of Women Legislators from 2002 to 2004; a member of the Council for State Government-West Leadership Academy Class of 2004; is on the Education Commission of the States; and is a State Committee member as the governor's representative.

Her key issues include charter school funding, crime reduction, drug-use prevention, education reform, health issues, improving good business climates and senior/elder issues. She also has been elected by her colleagues to serve as minority leader for the state House of Representatives for the past five years.

"A lot of it is awareness and making sure that people understand education reform - like getting the dollar down into the classroom - and other issues I focus on, like looking at different policies that are introduced here in terms of senior care, healthcare, crime reduction and drug prevention.

Also, this past 2008 legislative session the state Legislature passed a resolution on the sister state relationship for economic benefit and cultural ties between Hawai'i and the Philippines.

"We are now working on finalizing an agreement to bring the Tuguerao People's Hospital in the Philippines about half a million dollars' worth of medical equipment to help them out and to strengthen our ties there.

"We just want to boost community involvement and understanding," Finnegan said.



State Rep. Lynn Finnegan (right) and former state Sen. Loraine Inouye accept their Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S. award during a recent ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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HRP In The News

See Page 1 for more 'HRP in the news' regarding Abercrombie's resignation

"Hawai'i abuzz about Obama's expected holiday return" by Herb Sample
[Associated Press, 12/12/09](#)

"Hawai'i's Furlough 'Failure' Fridays" by Jonah-Kuhio Ka'auwai
[Hawai'i Reporter, 12/7/09](#)

Hawai'i Republicans In The News
"Ms. Hirono goes to Washington," by Trevor Nedd
[Honolulu Weekly, 12/16/09](#)

Hawai'i Special Election Rules Give GOP Hope
By Sean J. Miller
[The Hill, 12/15/09](#)

"Entrepreneurship: Build a more prosperous future right here" By James 'Duke' Aiona
[The Garden Island, 12/15/09](#)

"Rating Change: GOP Says Aloha to Hawai'i Special Election"
[CQ/Roll Call, 12/15/09](#)

"Charles Djou filling paperwork for special election" By Advertiser Staff
[Honolulu Advertiser, 12/11/09](#)

"Abercrombie's Early Exit Sets Up Special Election Headache for Dems" By Shira Toeplitz
[CQ Politics, 12/11/09](#)

POTUS Politics: Obama's War Strategy
[Hawai'i News Now, 12/2/09](#)

"Why I Love Kailua" By Sen. Fred Hemmings
[Honolulu Weekly Magazine, 12/1/09](#)

Local News/Hot Topics

"There's no such thing as 'manini' in ethics"
By David Shapiro
[Honolulu Advertiser, 12/14/09](#)

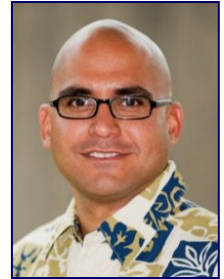
"Donations flow in from beneficiaries of earmark funds" By Richard Borreca
[Honolulu Star Bulletin, 12/13/09](#)

"HSTA Can't Expect to Sacrifice Nothing"
By David Shapiro
[Honolulu Advertiser, 12/9/09](#)

OPPORTUNITY OF A GENERATION

By HRP Chairman Jonah-Kuhio Ka'auwai

I want to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. We Republicans received a wonderful Christmas gift this year. In just one year, the Democrats have lost significant momentum because of their tax and spend policies and reckless political tactics. On the other side of the aisle, Republicans are invigorated by recent gubernatorial wins in Virginia and New Jersey and the growing disapproval of a Democrat Congress and president.



Here in Hawai'i, Republicans are also feeling the excitement and getting behind candidates who will uphold our values of liberty, limited government, individual responsibility, fiscal accountability and equality of opportunity. In late January, the Republican National Committee will be coming to Hawai'i for the first time ever to hold their annual winter meeting. They will also host a free one-day event at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, which will provide a unique opportunity to meet some national leaders in the Republican Party. We also have our state caucuses coming up in late January and early February, which are excellent opportunities to grow our grassroots organization across the state and elect key leadership positions within the state Party. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these two events and get active with the Party

Most exciting, however, is the pending special election for Hawai'i's first Congressional district and the chance to elect Republican Charles Djou, the first Republican to represent Hawai'i in Congress in more than 20 years. This pending special election has already gained attention because of the implications of adding another Republican vote to Congress. We have the opportunity to show we are unified across the state and that we are serious about winning. Best of all, we can build on the momentum of this special election to carry us to victory in November 2010.

Already I see the lively spirit of the Republican Party in the islands. I see our over 27 candidates honing their skills to be master communicators at our Toastmasters meetings every other week (we still have spots available if you are interested in joining). I see two dozen potential candidates getting active in the Party as they consider running for office. I see campaigns working hard, candidates making phone calls, and volunteers donating their time and thought into planning January's state caucus meetings and Republican Party fundraisers.

So this holiday season as we enjoy the company of your friends and family, let's also look forward to what we can do to preserve our values and the family we treasure. Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men do nothing." Simply put, if we don't do something to help Republicans to victory this upcoming year, Democrats will continue to win elections. Let's get excited, let's get motivated and let's get going.

From the Republican National Committee

RNC Releases New Web Video "Listen to Me" and "Time to Listen"
WASHINGTON – The Republican National Committee announced two new web videos today on the Democrats' failure to listen to the American public's concerns over health care reform. Watch "[Listen To Me](#)" and "[Time to Listen.](#)"

RNC Launches "Health Care Libs" Web Game
WASHINGTON – The Republican National Committee today launched "Health Care Libs," to help Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid put the finishing touches on his secret government-run health care experiment. In the spirit of bipartisanship, Republican activists can help bring the light of day to Harry Reid's final health care plan. With blanks to fill in on new taxes, fees, cuts and rationing, Americans can use "Health Care Libs" to make Harry Reid aware they know he's not listening to them. [Click here](#) to play the game.

"Democrats' Blues Grow Deeper in New Poll" By Peter Wallsten
[Wall Street Journal, 12/17/09](#)