



STATE OF HAWAII

Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.

e-NEWSLETTER

Aloha and Welcome from the Lt. Governor's Office in Hawai'i

It is with pleasure we send you this e-newsletter

December 5, 2007

Quote of the Week

"We must do all we can to give our residents access to quality health insurance programs."

- Lt. Governor Aiona, on distributing federal funds to hospitals for charity care. Learn more on Lt. Governor Aiona's [website](#).

Fact of the Week

Approximately 91.2 percent of Hawai'i residents have health insurance.

- Learn more on Lt. Governor Aiona's [website](#).

Upcoming Events

December 6

Lt. Governor Aiona receives the 2007 Friend of the Family Award for his significant contributions to strengthen Hawai'i families.

December 7

Lt. Governor Aiona visits Kaua'i to participate in the annual Lights on Rice Parade, featuring nearly 40 spectacular entries from across the island.

December 8

Lt. Governor Aiona speaks at the "2007 Live and Let Live Traffic Safety Awareness Campaign," which aims to reduce car crashes during the holiday season.

December 8

TOP STORY THIS WEEK

Administration Reduces Burden on Hospitals for Charity Care



The Lt. Governor announces the distribution of federal funds for charity care

Lt. Governor Aiona and Human Services Director Lillian Koller distributed \$14,432,000 in new federal funding on Tuesday to public and private hospitals across the state to help ease their financial burden of treating uninsured patients.

"Our Administration remains committed to providing uninsured residents with access to quality healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

The Lingle-Aiona Administration has secured approximately \$55 million for Hawai'i hospitals over the past three years. Prior to 2005, Hawai'i hospitals had not received federal funds for charity healthcare since 1994.

"We continue to secure new federal dollars that help our hospitals remain financially viable, as well as expand the state's Medicaid programs so even more of our residents have access to quality health insurance," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

On the Big Island, Lt. Governor and Mrs. Aiona participate in the 4th annual Kea`au Christmas Parade.

View the Lt. Governor's Public Schedule [here](#).

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An estimated 91.2 percent of Hawai`i residents have insurance, according to the United Health Foundation. Conversely, 8.8 percent of residents do not have insurance.

"While this money does provide much-needed help for our hospitals, we all know we must do more," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

. Read the KHNL-8 News story [here](#).

Professional Soccer Tournament to Debut in Hawai`i



The Lt. Governor welcomes the Pan Pacific Championship, a new international soccer tournament, to Hawai`i.

Lt. Governor Aiona participated in a news conference on Thursday to announce plans for Hawai`i to host a new international soccer tournament in 2008, broadening the state's appeal for major sporting events.

The Lt. Governor was joined by officials from Japan, Australia and Major League Soccer during the announcement of the inaugural Pan-Pacific Championship, which will crown the top club from Asian and North American soccer confederations.

"This event will bring premier soccer players to the state and help us showcase Hawai`i as an ideal location for major international sporting events," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "Hawai`i's Pacific location, resources and fan base are uniquely situated to meet the growing needs of professional sports organizations."

Reigning MLS Cup champion Houston Dynamo, Yamazaki Nabisco Cup champion Gamba Osaka, SuperLiga finalist Los Angeles Galaxy and a Hyundai A-League Final Series team will compete in double-header matches on Feb. 20 and Feb.

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23 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

Haleiwa's Brian Ching and British superstar David Beckham will be among those vying for the Pan-Pacific title.

- Read the Honolulu Advertiser story [here](#).

Civic Responsibility Urged at Student Conference



The Lt. Governor meets with students at the 2007 Hawai'i Secondary Student Conference

Lt. Governor Aiona told students gathered for a conference last Friday that civic responsibility is largely about addressing social problems in an informed, committed and positive manner.

"If you don't get involved, you will not have a voice in the decision making process," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "Your level of involvement will help dictate the quality of life for all of us in the future."

The Lt. Governor's remarks came during the 2007 Hawai'i Secondary Student Conference at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus.

"I encourage all of you to better understand your community and its institutions, develop decision-making and analytical skills, learn about public policy, and know the value of service," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

"As students, you must learn how to participate in a democracy. The expectation is for today's students to become tomorrow's responsible citizens."

Students Honored at Capitol Ceremony



The Lt. Governor speaks to teachers, parents and students about civic responsibility

Continuing his efforts to get young people involved in the democratic process, the Lt. Governor hosted students who participated in the Make a Difference Poster Contest during a recognition ceremony held at the State Capitol last week.

"These students are getting involved and making a difference in our communities," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

More than 6,800 students from more than 100 public schools submitted entries in the contest, which was designed to support and encourage good deeds performed by students.

Cash prizes were awarded to winning students and schools with the highest level of participation. The contest was organized by Castle and Cooke Hawai`i and the state Department of Education.

Lt. Governor Talks Story with Rotary Club of Hilo



The Lt. Governor with Dylan Nonaka, New Generations Director for the Hilo Rotary Club

Education, affordable housing and an interisland ferry service were among the issues discussed at a question-and-answer session Lt. Governor Aiona held with the Rotary Club of Hilo on the Big Island last week.

The Lt. Governor fielded a series of questions during the hour-long session from Rotarians who represent various businesses on the Big Island.

During the discussion, Lt. Governor Aiona highlighted the Hawai`i Innovation Initiative's goal of graduating more students with marketable skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

"Our Administration is working to provide students with a first-class education that will help them, and our state, succeed," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

The Lt. Governor said the policy initiative is bringing science to life through project-based learning in areas such as robotics and helping to develop career opportunities for Hilo students.

Additionally, the Lt. Governor explained that affordable housing continues to be one of the Administration's "key obligations and top priorities."

The Administration is planning to add 4,000 rental and for-sale affordable housing units in the next five-to-six years, Lt. Governor Aiona said.

In providing the public with an interisland ferry service, the Lt. Governor said that the critics who called the special legislative session unusual and unprecedented were incorrect. Special sessions were held for similar reasons in the past.

"Under the state Constitution, these sessions are within the Legislature's ability and responsibility," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "The special session was an essential part of our democracy."



Fukunaga is new chief of staff

A top senator praises him as hardworking and straightforward

By B.A. Reynolds

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State Transportation Director Barry Fukunaga, who has been at the center of harsh criticism and questioning over his agency's handling of the Hawaii Superferry, has been named the new chief of staff for Gov. Linda Lingle.

Lingle announced Fukunaga's promotion yesterday, effective immediately.

"There is a person who has tremendous respect among our entire Cabinet," Lingle said yesterday at a news conference in her office.

Fukunaga replaces Rob Awata, who resigned from the post earlier this year after it was learned he was the target of an extortion plot linked to some of his travel in Asia.

"I certainly look forward to my new role and working with our Cabinet and all the members in it," Fukunaga said.

The appointment does not require Senate confirmation.

Senate President Colleen Hanabusa praised Fukunaga, calling him "hard-working and straightforward."

Fukunaga was confirmed as

FACTS ON FUKUNAGA

Barry Fukunaga was appointed yesterday as Gov. Linda Lingle's chief of staff, effective immediately.

Previous jobs: Director, state Department of Transportation (confirmed March 2007)

Education: Master's degree in public administration, Bachelor's degree in business administration, University of Hawaii

Previous experience: Deputy director, state Department of Transportation (appointed October 2004); director of city Department of Enterprise Services, deputy director of city Department of Environmental Services. Served in various capacities for 25 years with the state Department of Transportation, Airports Division, including airports manager, airports operations manager and airports services supervisor.

transportation director by the Senate 24-6 in March, succeeding Rod Staraga, who was not asked back to his post of Lingle's Cabinet in her second term.

The Transportation Department came under fire after the state Supreme Court ruled in August that an environmental assessment should have been performed before the state proceeded with \$60 million in harbor improvements to accommodate the Hawaii Superferry.

Fukunaga and Lingle had said the assessment was waived because they saw no need to subject the ferry to additional steps that are not required of other harbor users.

The issue ultimately was settled in a special session last month, when the Legislature changed the law to allow the ferry to sail.

Brendon Morioka, deputy transportation director in charge of highways, was named acting transportation director.

Lingle's next appointee as permanent director will be subject to Senate confirmation.

Lingle's next appointee as permanent director will be subject to Senate confirmation. Joy Watari, who had been serving as acting chief of staff since Awata's resignation in June, will return to her post as deputy chief of staff, Lingle said.

Star-Bulletin reporter Richard Sorensen contributed to this report.

[Fukunaga is new chief of staff](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, December 4, 2007

600 crosswalks to get timers

State will spend \$2M as part of plan to cut down on pedestrian fatalities

By Tom Ichniowski
The state has announced it will spend \$2 million to install 600

new countdown crosswalk timers on intersections around Oahu for as far as 100 feet, 10 out of the state's 60 traffic locations have been pedestrian. There were 10 pedestrian deaths last year.

The project is part of \$2.7 million to state and federal money that the department has budgeted for pedestrian safety over the

past two years.

The timers will guide pedestrians across part of the state's dangerous intersections in Honolulu. Between 2001 and 2006, there were 12 pedestrian accidents along Ala Moana Boulevard.

Some of the traditional bus-

proving an intersection will see numbers counting down to zero. According to the DOT and the city Department of Transportation Services, pedestrians are not to cross the crosswalk

ing hand signal, pedestrians approaching an intersection will see numbers counting down to zero. According to the DOT and the city Department of Transportation Services, pedestrians are not to cross the crosswalk

[600 crosswalks to get timers](#)

Honolulu Advertiser, December 4, 2007

Star's dust could indicate planets

By Paul Thompson

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WELL -- Astronomers using the Gemini North telescope in Mauna Kea believe they have found the oldest sign of rocky, Earth-like planets around a star like our star about 400 light years away in the Pleiades star cluster.

Their evidence comes in the form of a "signature" star with the designation HD 187510.

"Advances" in this case means about 100 million years old, 40 times younger than our sun, which is 4.5 billion years old. Only one other star in the neighborhood is thought to have been so young.

Both stars were discovered and investigated by a team including Joseph Buzi and Benjamin Zuckerman of the University of California at Los Angeles and Keith Heng of the Space Science Center.

Large, gaseous planets, like Jupiter, are believed to have been detected around distant stars by the way they wobble from stars. The wobble by Buzi and his colleagues are the first that indicate rocky, Earth-like planets.

They young stars, perhaps 10 million years old, have lots of dust, but it takes away. Change the planets as they form the star by the time the star becomes an adolescent. The dust is lost in a big burst of increased power, then



Astronomers find fossil evidence for the formation of young rocky planets around the star HD 187510, located in the Pleiades star cluster, which is visible in the upper evening sky.

Since HD 187510 is an adolescent, it should have developed planets and lost its dust, like theory goes. The theory says that dust is still present because two rocky planets

collided into each other relatively recently and left a lot of dust.

This is the outer process that is thought to have taken place between the Earth and the moon, but in the far more distant past, more than 4 billion years ago.

Indeed, the authors also generated the dust over a comparable mass of debris into interplanetary orbits as it now observed in HD 187510,"

Doberman said. Scouring out the materials to the possible stage of our own solar system is the last

that the dust around HD 187510 is about the same distance from that star as the distance from the sun of our rocky planets from Mercury to Mars.

She believes that the process of their dust is so brief that among our rocky stars to rocky planets there are probably many more that have passed the dust stage.

[Star's dust could indicate planets](#)

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