

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 4, 2009

Aloha,

We are writing about the opening of the 2010 Legislative Session on January 20, 2010. Many challenges confront our State as we find ourselves in the grip of a severe economic crisis requiring significant sacrifice from families, individuals, and businesses across our community. This year, with so much at stake, and with so much work needing to be done, the House and Senate have decided to refrain from its customary activities and ceremony in order to get straight down to business from the very start.

As a result, your Legislature will hold an abbreviated Opening Day with both chambers running concurrent opening sessions. There will be no entertainment, no flowers, no festivities or subsequent receptions, as has been the tradition in years past. Speeches will be abbreviated, and instead of being platforms for caucus agendas, will be focused on the joint effort required of us all, working together. Committee Chairs will use the additional time to hold hearings and informational briefings focused on the most pressing issues facing our State: the economy, education, health care, and public safety.

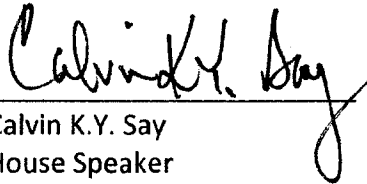
We are providing our past honored guests, like yourself, this advanced notice because we have been traditionally blessed with your attendance in both chambers on opening day. However, based on these changes to the 2010 Opening Day, we will not be having any special arrangements, seating or placement for invited guests on our Chamber floors.

As is the case for our daily floor sessions, seating in the Chamber gallery for the public will be available on a first come, first served basis. However, again, we intend for the 2010 Opening Day floor session to be conducted as strictly business with no ceremony whatsoever.

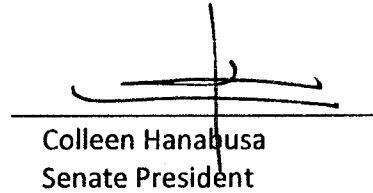
Further, in years past we have been fortunate recipients of generous gifts of Aloha or well wishes. This year, we ask that in lieu of giving gifts, if you still feel compelled to give anything, please donate funds to your favorite charity, to help mitigate some of the hardship that these economic struggles have caused.

Your understanding and cooperation as we move into what will surely be a challenging 2010 Session is most appreciated. As always, please do not hesitate to contact either of us if we can be of further assistance. We look forward to working with you as we move forward into a new year.

Best wishes,



Calvin K.Y. Say
House Speaker



Colleen Hanabusa
Senate President