



# Making Government Function Better

*Governor wants to restore critical services for business*

In a time of cutbacks and reduced staffing, businesses are finding it hard to get the basic government services they need to run their companies. It's a case of too few people to do the job, Governor Neil Abercrombie said in remarks before the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce on March 18.

His talk, which was listed as "Governor Abercrombie's First 100 Days" was "not my 100 days, but the past 100 days the state has faced," he said. It was an appraisal of what he saw as government failing to function because it had been cut down to the point where businesses can't do business, and in fact interfered with their capacity to do business.

He cited instances of how government staff cutbacks have affected his own business as governor. For example, signing the Environmental Impact Statement for the rail transit project was delayed because the staff was down from 14 to two. In another example, there was just one person who could analyze tax data needed to work on a balanced budget for the state.

**Chief Information Officer**  
"My job is to bring government back to basic function and capacity to serve you," he said. To do this, he will create a state information technology office with a Chief Information Officer who will oversee the job of upgrading the state's aging computer and technology systems to provide residents better online service, save money, and make government more efficient.

Abercrombie also believes that public employees are the least utilized resource in the state, and that they can be used more effectively to find ways to streamline government services and even prevent outsourcing of work.



**"What can I do today to help you help yourselves, help Kapolei and help the state of Hawaii? You can count on me to do it."**

### New Day Work Projects

The centerpiece of the governor's plan is \$1.3 billion in funds as part of New Day Work Projects designed to stimulate the economy, build infrastructure, and put people back to work by creating jobs. New Day Work Projects will be selected based on their social and economic utility over the next 20 to 50 years. For example, funds will go to upgrading the electric system in schools like Nanakuli Elementary, Maili Elementary, and Waianae Intermediate and High schools so that students can do basic computer work and be prepared for the workplace. School improvements are also targeted for Barbers Point Elementary, Makakilo Elementary, Kapolei Elementary and Middle schools.

### \$120 million for roads projects in Kapolei

The state has \$120 million in highway revenue bonds, and the governor will be looking to Kapolei for direction on how the State can best complement the road improvement projects like the recently completed North-South Road and the Kapolei Interchange now underway.

### "What can I do to help you?"

Noting that a successful Hawaii and its recovery depends on businesses being successful so that they can create jobs and help in the recovery, Abercrombie closed his talk with this question to the mainly business audience: "What can I do today to help you help yourselves, help Kapolei and help the state of Hawaii? You can count on me to do it."



**PUTTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK & MAKING BETTER USE OF OUR DOLLARS**



**Gemma Reyes**  
Airport Custodian

