



Senator Joy San Buenaventura

Senate District 2, Puna

Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services • Vice Chair, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
• Committee on Government Affairs • Committee on the Judiciary

  @sensenbuenaventura

July 2025 E-Newsletter

2025 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Aloha:

The Governor recently announced that he will be finalizing his decision to issue eight vetoes of the twenty bills on his Intent-to-Veto list. After careful review of the bills intended for veto by the Governor and taking into consideration the many important bills that have already been signed into law, the Senate has decided that the cost of convening a special session to override the Governor's vetoes is not in the best interest of the state at this time. With that said, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, I will continue to work with the Departments and community advocates, to prepare legislation for the 2026 legislative session.

During the interim, I will be sending out a print newsletter to recap some of the highlights of the 2025 legislative session. The information to be included in the print newsletter is also covered in my e-newsletters, so if you are currently subscribed to my e-newsletter and would like to help us reduce paper waste, please email j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov. Please include your name, mailing address, and a short note confirming that you would like to opt out of the print newsletters.

Joy San Buenaventura



POHOIKI BOAT RAMP UPDATE

On June 10th contractors began dredging work at Pohoiki. Restoring access to the Pohoiki Boat Ramp has been one of my most important priorities since the devastating 2018 Kilauea eruption. For generations, the Pohoiki Boat Ramp has been an important economic driver for Puna and a source of sustenance for many local families. The dredging project is currently expected to be completed in November. A big thank you to the community for their steadfast support for this important project.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

Speaking at the bill signing ceremony for HB692, relating to early childhood learning. HB692 expands eligibility for the State's Preschool Open Doors program and increases child care capacity by removing burdensome accreditation requirements for providers. By making early learning more accessible to local families, we are able to support the development of our keiki while also alleviating the financial stress for those parents, who, would otherwise struggle to keep up with the costs of childcare. In addition to the immediate benefit to Hawaii families, programs such as these boost the state's long-term economic position by allowing parents to remain in the workforce.



DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH: SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING AGREEMENTS - HB320

HB320 allows qualified adults, including adults with a disability, mentally ill adults, and adults sixty-five years of age or older, to enter into supported decision-making agreements with members of a supportive community. By establishing a framework to allow individuals to enter into supported decision-making agreements, HB320 affirms the autonomy, dignity, and self-determination of individuals who may require support in decision-making but do not need or want a restrictive guardianship or conservatorship.





Judiciary bill signing ceremony with Governor Green and Chief Justice Recktenwald.



Met with Early childhood graduates from UH Manoa. Where educators are in short supply in Hawaii, we need to support them because increasing access to early education means quality teachers.



Discussing priorities and ideas with Board of Education Hawaii County member Sylvia Lee. Sylvia has over 30 years of experience working as a Vice Principle in the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Office.



At a time of healthcare provider shortages, I am proud to have introduced legislation that will help out pharmacists in our state. Especially helpful to UH/Hilo Daniel K. Inouye Pharmacy School graduates.



At Kahua Kahe Malie, the second behavioral health/supportive housing partnership by Hope Services, Hilo Benioff Center, Ohana Plans and Kaiser. I am glad that my urging of then Hilo Medical Center to create more psych beds in 2020 resulted in partnerships that have yielded more than the 9 beds envisioned. Next supportive housing from this partnership will be in Honokaa. These public/private partnerships supplement the Care homes run by Dept. of Health.



Honoring the Legal Clinic for their work providing legal services to low-income immigrants.



With the Hawaii Island delegation congratulating Circuit Court Judge of the Third Circuit, Kauaʻe A. D. Jackson on her confirmation.



Celebrating Anniversary of Philippine Independence with Counsel General Arman and former Governor Cayetano - the first Filipino- American US Governor.



With newly appointed State Fire Marshal Dori Booth and Hawaii Fire Department Chief Kazuo Todd.



With County council members Hustace, Galimba, and Kagiwada, congratulating the 2025 Graduates of the Hawaii Job Challenge Academy.

GRANT IN AID AWARDS

PUNA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

\$400,000 for construction of Medical Campus. Medical Campus will provide much needed quality medical services in the Puna district.



HAWAII VOLCANO CIRCUS

\$100,000 awarded to Hawaii Volcano Circus to support sustainable development, arts, and education.



HO`OULU LĀHUI

\$500,000 awarded to Ho`oulu Lāhui for Kua O Ka Lā campus improvements and land acquisition.



HAWAII ISLAND HUMANE SOCIETY

\$100,000 operating grant awarded to the Hawaii Island Humane Society to support free Spay and Neuter program



HAWAII ISLAND YMCA

\$300,000 awarded to the Island of Hawaii YMCA for parking lot repairs and entrance/exit upgrades to the Hilo facility.



HAWAII ISLAND VETERANS MEMORIAL

\$175,000 awarded to Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial for water line to service planned community medical center.



HOSPICE OF HILO

\$75,000 awarded to Hospice of Hilo for training, upgrades, and outreach for implementation of the MedQUEST Palliative Care Services Benefit



TO VIEW THE COMPLETE LIST OF THE FINAL 2025 GRANT-IN-AID APPROPRIATIONS, PLEASE
VISIT: WWW.CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: HEALTHCARE



\$80,000,000

SPRB for a new 10,000 sq. ft. primary healthcare facility to serve the residents of Pahoa and Keaau.



\$25,000,000

New ambulatory care center in Keaau.



\$248,257,800

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Hospitals - biggest benefit to Hawaii Island hospitals



\$3,100,000

Family Assessment Center in Puna and Waianae.



GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION RELEASES FUNDING FOR PĀHOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

✓ AMOUNT RELEASED:

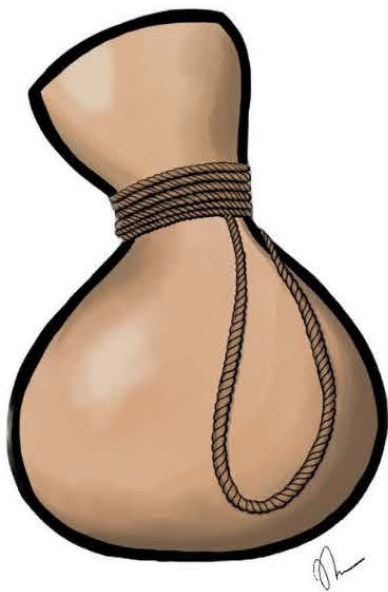
\$2,000,000

✓ PĀHOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

✓ TO FINANCE THE DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION FOR
UPGRADES TO CLASSROOMS
AND SUPPORT FACILITIES.



SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA
SENATE DISTRICT 2



LAULIMA

Shaping Hawai'i Island's Future, Together

The County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development is conducting a brief resident sentiment survey that will be repeated every four years.

Why this Survey is Important

This is the first time there has been a coordinated effort to regularly collect and document resident sentiments and values. The survey results will be shared online, and will be used by agencies, service providers, legislators, and funders to make policies and investment that will meet the needs of our communities.

*Please share with your family, co-workers,
friends, and neighbors.*



Scan this QR Code to take the survey.

This survey is anonymous,
No personal information will be collected or shared.
This survey closes July 31, 2025

Your 'Āina, Your 'Ohana, Your Voice.

Visit www.hawaiicounty.gov/laulima



Department of Research and Development
25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301, Hilo, HI 96720
Phone (808) 961-8366 | Email: chresdev@hawaiicounty.gov | www.rd.hawaiicounty.gov
The County of Hawai'i is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

BEWARE OF TEXT SCAM INVOLVING BOGUS UNPAID TRAFFIC CITATIONS



The Hawai'i State Judiciary is warning the public about a scam that threatens drivers over nonexistent traffic citations. People statewide are receiving text messages alleging to be from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The texts say that unless payment is made for unpaid traffic citations, the recipients driving privileges and vehicle registration will be suspended, they will be assessed a "service fee," and their credit score will be affected.

Please know, you will not get texts, calls, or emails about unpaid traffic citations from the state courts or DMV unless you contacted them first either in person, in writing or via phone with a specific question. Generally, all communication from the Judiciary regarding unpaid citations is handled through the U.S. mail.

Anyone unsure whether they have an unpaid traffic citation should search by first and last name and also by license plate number in eCourt Kokua, the Judiciary's public online case look-up system. People who have been issued citations can check the status of those citations by using the "case search" function in eCourt Kokua.

Participate

in a short survey on
well-being in the
United States.



Takes only
4 minutes
to complete.

bit.ly/wbe2025

For questions, contact Dr Kai Ruggeri
kai.ruggeri@columbia.edu

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

988

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE
VIDEOPHONE
NOW AVAILABLE

ASL Videophone.
Text. Chat

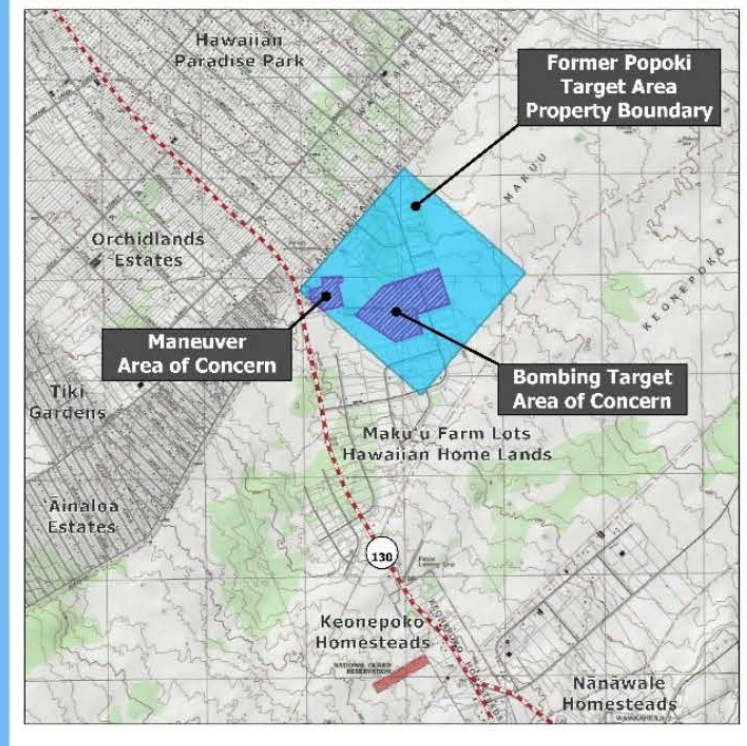


Pohiki Target Area Info Booth

- **Sunday, July 20, 2025**
- **11am-2pm**
- **Makuu Farmer's Market**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be present at a public information booth regarding unexploded ordnance at the Pohiki Target Area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 20, at the Maku'u Farmer's Market on Highway 130 near Pahoa.

The booth will be used for a public meeting about the Pohiki Target Area, an area adjacent to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' Maku'u Farm Lots, and in close proximity to Hawaiian Paradise Park, Orchidland Estates and Ainaloa Estates.



Legislative Reference Bureau: Public Access Room



The Public Access Room (PAR) provides the public with information, facilities, and services to assist them as they engage and participate in the State legislative process. PAR's website includes guides on how to track measures, submit testimony, and subscribe to hearing notices.

To learn more, please visit: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>