

Hawaii State Representative  
**Adrian K. Tam**  
House District 24



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

Summer 2025



Aloha Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you and our community at the state legislature. Over the course the 2025 Legislative Session my colleagues and I worked to introduce, debate and advocate for measures that address the many pressing needs of our community and state. Amid the tenuous climate of Federal funding, here in Hawaii we worked on mitigating impacts of climate change, expanding services for mental health care, and addressing the State's housing and insurances crisis, enhanced enforcement for illegal fireworks and much more. The Legislature adjourned Sine Die on May 2, 2025, this newsletter serves as a brief overview and district highlights for the 2025 session, which I hope you find informative. I look forward to hearing from you over the interim with your ideas for future legislation.

## Contact us

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Rep Adrian Tam's Office

(808) 586-8520  
 reptam@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Hawaii State Capitol, #402  
 @repadriantam

## Public Access Room

(808) 587-0478  
 par@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Hawaii State Capitol, #401  
 Interim: M-F 8am - 4:30pm

## Legislative Reference Bureau

(808) 587-0690  
 lrb@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Hawaii State Capitol, #005



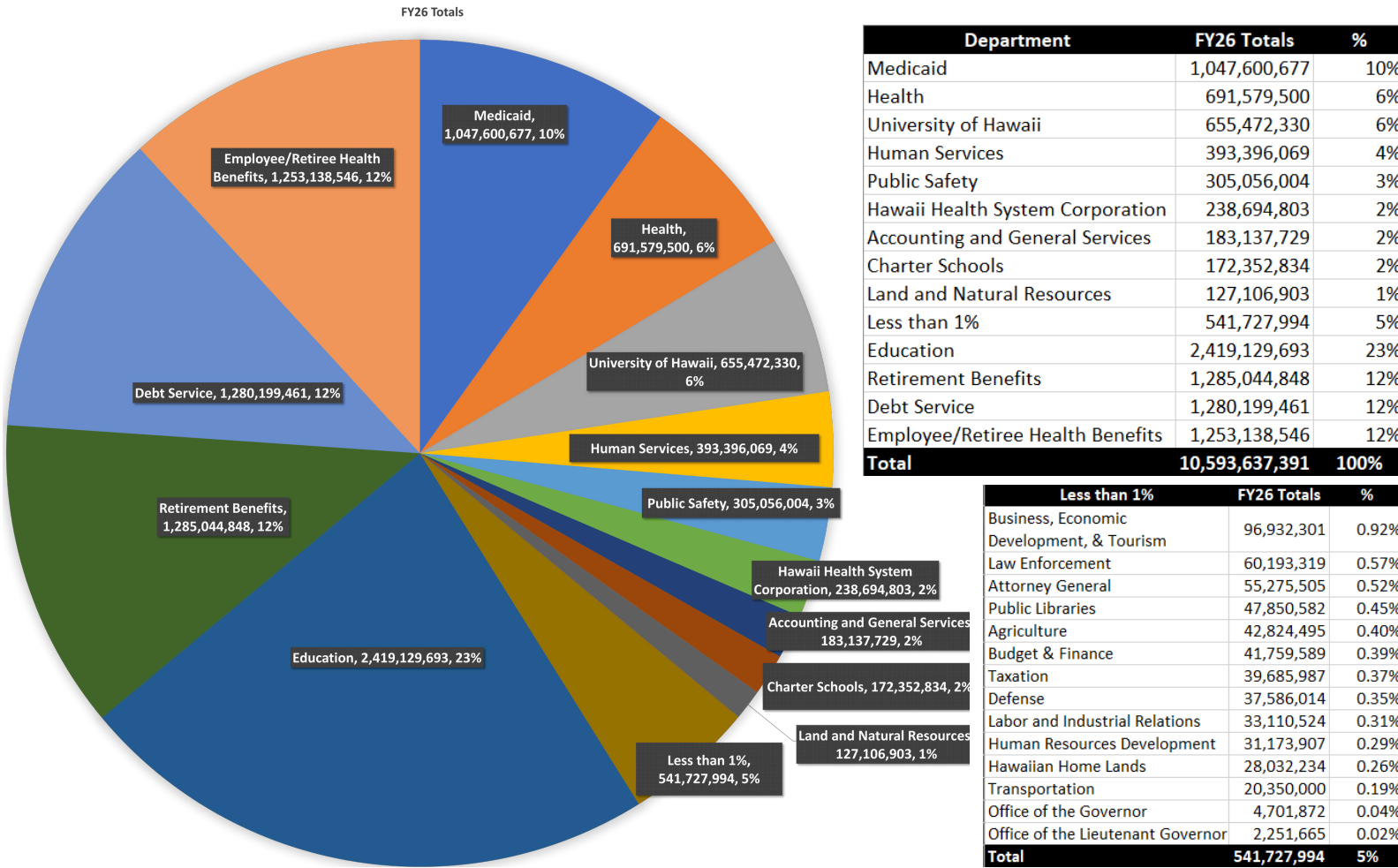
Class of 2020 House Reps Kapela, Ilagan, Tam, Speaker Nakamura (center), Sayama and Marten adjourn their 5<sup>th</sup> session on May 2, 2025 Sine Die.

## 2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The most important bill passed this year is the State Budget (HB 300). Here are some highlights:

- \$3,200,000 for Cybersecurity Risk Mitigation
- \$2,000,000 for the Hawai'i Small Business Innovation Research Phase II & III
- \$13,264,299 and 108 positions for Public Pre-Kindergarten Expansion
- \$22,000,000 for Hawai'i Health Systems Corporations 'Oahu Region (Leahi & Maluhia)
- \$27,000,000 for Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- \$7,500,00 for the Rapid Re-Housing Program
- \$230,000 for Youth Violence Prevention
- \$8,200,000 to Provide Reentry Services to Help Connect Offenders with Community-Based Resources, Including Replacement Vital Documents, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment and Transitional Housing.
- \$5,000,000 for Highways Property Storage and Debris Removal Services from Homeless Encampments.

# 2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN



## 2025 CIP/GIA FOR THE DISTRICT

This year, my fellow legislators and I were able to secure major funding for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and Grants-In-Aid (GIA). These funds provide critical funding to support projects and organizations in our community and directly help out neighborhood. Here is a breakdown of that funding for our district:

### Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

#### Waikiki Resilience and Sea Level Rise Adaptation

\$5,000,000 for plans and design for the Waikiki Resilience and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project.



#### Ala Wai Canal Wall Repair

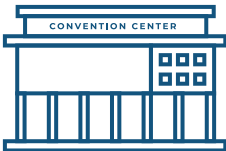
\$5,000,000 for plans, design and construction for Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor Canal wall repair and haul-out removal; equipment and appurtenances.

#### Ala Wai Canal and Waterways

\$750,000 for design and implement pilot project for Ala Wai canal and waterways to prevent from flowing into the harbor and ocean.

#### Hawai'i Convention Center

\$36,400,000 for plans, design, construction, and equipment for improvements to the Hawai'i Convention Center.



### Community Grants-In-Aid (GIA)

- \$375k – Moiliili Community Center
- \$400k – Waikiki Business Improvement District
- \$75k – Waikiki Community Center
- \$200k – Surfrider Spirit Sessions



#### McKinley Community School

\$1,395,472 and 4 positions for the McKinley Community School for Adults



#### Kaimuki High School

\$1,715,000 for design and construction for deferred maintenance including auditorium reroofing and sewer line relocation; ground and site improvements; equipment and maintenance

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



Below is a selection of bill highlights that will have significant impacts on our district and community. Many of the measures included in this publication are pending (approval or potential veto) by the Governor. For an up-to-date status of the bill please check the Capitol Website Bill Status: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

**SB1044 RELATING TO STABILIZATION OF PROPERTY INSURANCE.** Expands the powers of the Hawai'i Property Insurance Association and reactivates the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund to help stabilize the property insurance market in the State. Establishes the Condominium Loan Program and the Condominium Loan Revolving Fund, for the purpose of providing financing for essential repairs and deferred maintenance to condominium associations. Establishes the Condominium Loan Loss Reserves Program to incentivize lenders to provide loans at competitive rates and terms to allow condominium associations to make necessary maintenance and repairs. Requires the Insurance Commissioner to conduct a study to develop long-term solutions to help stabilize the property insurance market in the State. Requires reports to the Legislature. Authorizes the issuance of reimbursable general obligation bonds to facilitate the initial issuance of policies to condominium associations. Appropriates funds.

**HB958 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION: Electric Bicycles.** Establishes safe riding behaviors for electric bicycles. Prohibits the operation of high-speed electric devices in certain locations. Establishes labeling and signage requirements for electric bicycles. Prohibits the operation of a moped or electric motorcycle in certain locations. Prohibits a person under the age of sixteen from operating a class 3 electric bicycle. Authorizes a person under the age of fourteen to operate class 2 electric bicycles under supervision. Prohibits a person from riding a class 3 electric bicycle on a sidewalk. Authorizes a person to ride a class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle on a sidewalk under certain circumstances. Prohibits a person from operating a bicycle or electric foot scooter under the age of eighteen without a helmet. Repeals the requirement that moped drivers use bicycle lanes.

**SB1146 RELATING TO ALA WAI CANAL.** Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the development of an action plan and pre-engineering concept plan to help with debris management and water quality control in the Ala Wai watershed and establishment of two graduate assistant positions to assist with the action plan and pre-engineering concept plan.

**HB943 RELATING HOMELESS TRIAGE AND TREATMENT CENTER.** Expands existing crisis intervention programs by requiring, and appropriating funds for, the Department of Health to establish a Homeless Triage and Treatment Center Program within its Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division to serve homeless individuals and individuals at risk of homelessness with substance abuse issues or mental illness. Requires the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to redirect certain homeless persons to the appropriate health care system and services. Authorizes the program to include intensive mobile outreach services. Requires appropriations for the program to be used only for services contracted directly between the Department of Health and the service provider.

**SB1216 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION: Mufflers.** Conditions the issuance of a certificate of inspection upon a vehicle or moped not being equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system. Requires rules regarding safety check inspections to ensure that a vehicle or moped is not equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system. Suspends, revokes, or refuses renewal of a permit for an official inspection station for repeatedly violating any rule regarding inspecting a noisy muffler or exhaust system within a certain period. Clarifies the types of mufflers that are prohibited. Increases the maximum fine for motor vehicle owners that violate noisy muffler laws. Includes repairing or installing a noisy muffler or exhaust system as a prohibited practice for motor vehicle repair laws.

**SB1300 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.** Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, expands free school meal coverage to students who currently qualify for reduced-price lunch. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, expands free school meal coverage to students whose family income is not more than three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level. Appropriates funds

**HB613 RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH .** Makes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program permanent within the Office of Youth Services. Requires the program to collaborate with certain state and county departments. Authorizes the Office of Youth Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth or young adults. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

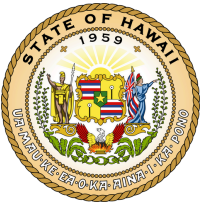
**HB427 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.** Part I: Renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) and the Board of Agriculture as the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Part II: Establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity. Part III: Authorizes and specifies conditions under which the Department may declare a biosecurity emergency, during which the Department and Governor may take certain actions to prevent the establishment or spread of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms. Broadens the objectives and general actions of the Biosecurity Program. Part IV: Authorizes the Department to establish transitional facilities. Requires the Department to certify and train biosecurity compliance auditors to inspect imported plants and animals. Requires inspection of various items transported interisland. Increases penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms. Part V: Authorizes the Department to enter into government-industry agreements for readiness and response to unwanted organisms in the State. Authorizes biosecurity and pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests. Requires the Department to establish a pest dashboard by 12/1/2025. Part VI: Authorizes the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program. Authorizes the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the Plant Care Component Program. Part VII: Transfers the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department. Part VIII: Appropriates funds.

**SB1396 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Beginning 7/1/2025, requires the Governor to request in the executive budget or supplemental budget that an amount of general funds that approximates the additional Transient Accommodations Tax revenue generated by this Act be expended to advance certain climate change mitigation and tourism projects. Increases the Transient Accommodations Tax rate beginning on 1/1/2026. Assesses the Transient Accommodations Tax on gross rental proceeds derived from cruise fares. Amends the amount of Transient Accommodation Tax that shall be deposited into the Mass Transit Special Fund. Amends the allowable uses of the Special Land and Development Fund and the portion of Transient Accommodations Tax collections that are allocated to the Special Land and Development Fund. Effective 1/1/2026.

**SB385 RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS.** Requires condominium associations to provide electronic copies of their governing documents, as amended or restated, to unit owners or their authorized agents, upon request, at no cost. Repeals the authority of condominium associations to charge a reasonable fee for administrative costs associated with the handling of a request for association documents.

**HB70 RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS.** Requires budget summaries to contain all required information without referring the reader to other portions of the budget. Clarifies a unit owner's ability to enforce compliance with budget summary and replacement reserves requirements.





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Rep Tam speaks in support of SB1396 on the House Floor.



Rep Tam in the House Chamber Gallery with third grade students from Ala Wai Elementary.



Rep Tam gavels-in for a conference hearing for SB1571.

# 2025 END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER



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