

# Community Newsletter

Dear Neighbors,

First, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative in our Hawaii State Legislature for the past four years. It is an honor and privilege to work for you and the needs of our district and state.



As the Chair on the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and a member of the Labor and Public Employment, Transportation, Education and Higher Education committees, my colleagues and I worked hard to find solutions to pressing issues we all face. In my newsletter, I will be sharing the accomplishments of the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislature including brief descriptions of some of the most significant bills passed this session. I hope this will update and provide useful information for you and your families.

As you know, the economy is still the biggest concern of Hawaii residents. Our priorities in 2012 included economic recovery, assisting new industries and creating jobs. For the first time in four years, the legislature was not faced with a revenue shortfall in excess of a billion dollars. We were able to balance the state budget without major revenue enhancements and continue to support various programs and services vital to serving Hawaii's people.

As prefaced by the last several years, this 2012 legislative session was a challenging one once again. Despite the difficulties we faced, we were able to address concerns that affect Waipahu and our regional area of the island. From increasing ambulance services due to recent hospital closures, funding crime prevention initiatives, providing protections for Hawaii homeowners, limiting out of pocket costs for cancer treatments, and improving public infrastructure, we worked diligently to better our communities.

Please keep in touch with me about your concerns. Feel free to send me an email at [repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov), a fax at 586-6521 or a call at 586-6520. If you would like to visit me at my office at the Hawaii State Capitol, I am in room 419. I look forward to working with you in the future and thank you for the privilege of serving you in the State House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry Aquino".

Henry J.C. Aquino  
State Representative

## Rep. Aquino Shares 2012 Legislative Efforts

Lawmakers hit the ground running at the start of the 2012 Legislature and the pace never let off. With the closure of Hawaii Medical Center-West, Leeward Oahu residents were faced with limited access to a full-service hospital, emergency room and long-term care services. I, along with my colleagues, worked hard to pass bills to meet the needs of the community.

The HMC closure also resulted in the shutting down of the Transplant Institute of the Pacific. In addition to being the only organ transplant center in the Pacific, HMC also provided dialysis services to many patients on Oahu. However, hope was restored for Hawaii patients who are waiting for transplants. In January, the State Legislature fast-tracked a bill to provide emergency funds to support the Queen's Medical Center launch of an organ transplant facility.

The military's presence in Hawaii is critical to the state's economy and essential to ensure the United States military readiness. As the Chair for the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I collaborated with members of both the House and Senate as well as military representatives and community advocates to introduce and pass various legislation supporting Hawaii's military, service members and their families.

As a member of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) working group, it was gratifying that the legislature recognized our work. Based on the JRI working group's recommendations, numerous bills were approved with provisions to improve Hawaii's criminal justice system and increase public safety by focusing on incarceration, supervision, treatment in a manner that most efficiently addresses the recidivism rates.

Grassroots advocacy was evident by the numerous postcards and letters in support of saving Waipahu Community School received by my office. The final approved state budget added \$3.3 million to maintain Hawaii's adult education program, ensuring the availability of critical programs such as GED, English as a second language and competency-based programs that help residents complete both an academic and a work-based phase in order to get a diploma.

Finally, I continued to focus on improving our communities and worked diligently to secure approval of funding for our schools as well as capital improvement and repair/maintenance projects. I am happy to announce that over \$71.8 million in capital improvement and repair/maintenance projects were appropriated for the Waipahu community. This includes projects for Waipahu area schools, the Filipino Community Center, Leeward Community College and University of Hawaii's West Oahu Campus. In March, \$9,320,000 in funds was released for Waipahu Elementary School's construction of a new eight-classroom building. In addition, millions more in funding were appropriated for various public projects that would benefit our Waipahu residents. (A complete list of projects and appropriations are contained in this newsletter.)

# Highlights of the 2012 Hawaii State Legislative Session

## HB2012 – The State Budget Bill.

In 2012, the legislature passed a state budget that responsibly supports the state's core functions, recognizing that while the economy is improving, normal levels are still years away.

The appropriation for operations totals \$11.2 billion in all means of financing. Of the total, \$5.6 billion is comprised of general funds.

Funding for capital improvement project appropriations amount to \$3.2 billion for all means of financing. Of that total, \$827 million is comprised of general obligation and reimbursable general obligation bonds.

In addition to giving priority to "shovel-ready" projects, the legislature considered projects that addressed critical health, safety, and code requirement needs; reduced the current repair and maintenance backlog; and provided jobs for unemployed and underemployed residents.

Highlights of the budget appropriations, capital improvements and the state's fiscal outlook can be found in the HB2012 Conference Committee report: [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/CommReports/HB2012\\_CD1\\_CCR131-12\\_.HTM](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2012/CommReports/HB2012_CD1_CCR131-12_.HTM)

## Economic Recovery

### HB2319 Venture Accelerator

**Program.** HB2319 establishes a venture accelerator funding program under the Hawaii strategic development corporation to assist the State's technology businesses to compete for investment capital.

**HB2526 and SB2236 Broadband Initiatives.** HB2526 and SB2236 are initiatives to prepare Hawaii for an upgrade of its broadband infrastructure. HB2526 requires telecommunication and cable television providers to submit to the

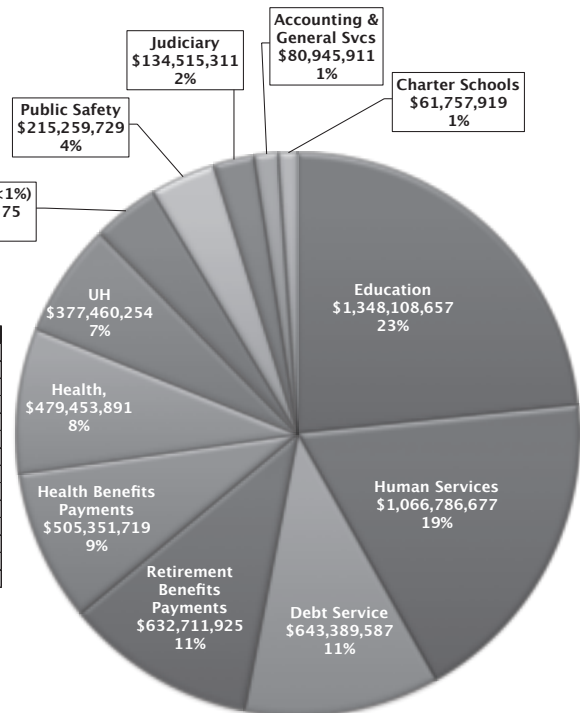


With Philippine Airlines Employee Association President Gerry Rivera.

## General Fund Appropriations Fiscal Year 2013 \$ 5,766,612,155

All Others (<1%)		
Legislature	\$ 31,831,052	0.55%
Libraries	\$ 28,070,484	0.49%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 25,738,532	0.45%
Budget & Finance	\$ 23,229,913	0.40%
Attorney General	\$ 22,816,779	0.40%
Taxation	\$ 21,711,148	0.38%
Defense	\$ 17,250,929	0.30%
Human Resources Development	\$ 14,218,165	0.25%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 12,270,160	0.21%
Agriculture	\$ 10,297,218	0.18%
Bus., Econ Dev. & Tourism	\$ 7,123,263	0.12%
Governor	\$ 2,921,286	0.05%
OHA	\$ 2,370,872	0.04%
Lt. Governor	\$ 1,020,774	0.02%

All Others (<1%)  
\$220,870,575  
4%



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs data necessary to assess and evaluate broadband infrastructure and services in the State. SB2236 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenues to a private entity for the purpose of planning, permitting, designing, constructing, equipping, and operating broadband infrastructure throughout the State.

### HB1671 and HB2265 Procurement Reform.

HB1671 and HB2265 provide more flexibility in the procurement process for state and county projects. The bills are intended to expedite the construction of such projects so that jobs are created and necessary infrastructure is built sooner.

## Health

### HB608 Kidney and Liver Transplant Facility.

One of the first bills passed this year and signed into law was HB608, which responds to the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center and appropriates emergency funds, subject to dollar-for-dollar private matching funds, to be expended by the Department of Health for grants to The Queen's Medical Center to perform kidney and liver transplants and to the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii to maintain its chronic kidney disease management program.

### HB1953 Emergency Medical Care.

HB1953 provides for the medical needs of Leeward Oahu in light of the closure of

Hawaii Medical Center's two hospitals, by appropriating \$1.0 million to increase the on-call availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services.

### HB2273 Concussion Awareness Program.

HB2273 requires the Department of Education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

### HB2275 Hospital Sustainability Fee and SB2466 Nursing Facility Sustainability Fee.

HB2275 and SB2466 enhance the financial viability of private hospitals and nursing facilities by imposing sustainability fees on them to attract more matching federal Medicaid funds. The fees were initiated and supported by the hospitals and nursing facilities themselves. Most of the fee revenues will be repaid to them, along with increased Medicaid funds from the federal government.

### SB2958 Bone Marrow Transplantation Program.

SB2958 establishes a stem cell collection program and appropriates \$500,000 to support pediatric bone marrow transplantation to serve all young children to adulthood.

## Human Services

### Appropriations for Human Services Programs.

For those in need, HB2012, the state budget bill, includes

an appropriation of \$22.8 million for Medicaid capitation payments and \$18.0 million more for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Furthermore, HB2012 includes \$6.8 million for child welfare services, \$1.5 million for domestic violence contracts, and \$390,000 for spouse and child abuse support programs.

**SB2320 Kupuna Care.** SB2320 provides essential home and community-based services for Hawaii's elderly population. It codifies the authorization for the establishment of the kupuna care program and appropriates \$4.9 million to support the needs of Hawaii's older adults and elderly individuals.

**SB2779 Aging and Disability Resource Centers.** SB2779 authorizes the establishment of and appropriates \$1.4 million for aging and disability resource centers in each county. The centers are intended to streamline access to services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers.

## Housing

**SB2740 Hula Mae.** SB2740 authorizes the issuance of \$250 million more in revenue bonds for the Hula Mae multi-family housing program. The program is intended to provide affordable rental housing for low-income families.



*Observing Waipahu High School's legislative mock sessions in the WHS library.*



*Sharing about my legislative duties with students of Waipahu Elementary in the State House chambers.*

## Agriculture

**HB1943 Invasive Species Detection Program.** HB1943 makes an appropriation of \$162,540 to match the grant provided by the federal Office of Insular Affairs to fund the plant quarantine detector-dog program. One half-time inspector/detector-dog trainer and three half-time inspector/dog handler positions will be created to inspect incoming airline baggage and small-package air cargo shipments.

**HB2244 Agriculture Inspections.** HB2244 calls for the establishment, maintenance, and enforcement of compliance agreements with federal or state departments of agriculture. It authorizes agriculture inspectors from the state of origin in the case of imports to the state, or state agricultural inspectors in the case of state exports, to monitor the growing and packing of plant commodities and any treatment procedures to ensure compliance with quarantine laws. In addition, **HB2012**, the state budget bill, includes general funding for 29 plant and pest inspection related positions after a loss in special funding due to the termination of air carrier cargo fees.

## Education

**SB2115 Charter School Reform.** SB2115 establishes a new chapter



*Students competing at the Waipahu High School Dimension U tournament. This was a mathematics competition between various classes and students.*

governing charter schools based on the recommendations of the Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority Task Force. SB2115 establishes a new charter school law that creates a solid governance structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability that will foster improved student outcomes.

**SB2545 Early learning.** SB2545 establishes the executive office on early learning and early learning advisory board. The major duty of the executive office, with the advice of the board, is to plan for the implementation of the keiki first steps program in the 2014-15 school year as a replacement for junior kindergarten.

**Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects.** HB2012 also includes the following in general obligation bond appropriations for the Department of Education:

- (1) \$116.5 million for school renovation and improvement;
- (2) \$10.0 million for electrical upgrades; and
- (3) \$30.0 million to health, safety, ADA, and special education needs.

## Higher Education

**SB809 UH Revenue Bond Authorization.** SB809, already signed into law as Act 3, authorizes the University of Hawaii to issue \$100 million in revenue bonds. The revenue bonds are intended to fund University projects that will create jobs as well as much needed facilities.

**Appropriation for Repair and Maintenance.** HB2012, the state budget bill, includes an appropriation of \$80.0 million for capital renewal, deferred maintenance, and health, safety, and code compliance.

## Transportation

**HB2030 Highway Safety.** HB2030 requires motorists to "move over" when passing a stationary emergency vehicle on a highway, and requires drivers to slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed



*Groundbreaking photo: Leeward Community College recently had a groundbreaking ceremony for an upcoming educational facility on campus.*

that is safe under the circumstances when an emergency road situation exists ahead of the driver.

#### **HB1666 Vulnerable Highway**

**Users.** HB1666 amends the offenses of negligent homicide in the first degree, negligent homicide in the second degree, and negligent injury in the first degree to include provisions for incidents in which vulnerable highway users are involved in order to promote highway safety and increase driver awareness. A vulnerable highway user includes pedestrians, bicyclists, moped riders, roadway workers, police, fire and emergency responders.

#### **Appropriation for Transportation**

**Projects.** HB2012, the state budget bill, includes revenue bond appropriations as follows:

- (1) \$1,166,998,000 million for airport projects;
- (2) \$161,650,000 million for harbor projects; and
- (3) \$48,130,000 million for highway projects.

### **Public Safety/Crime**

#### **SB2776 Justice Reinvestment**

**Initiative.** This measure has three main priorities which include increasing public safety, reduce unnecessary costs, and reducing recidivism. To work towards these priorities, three areas for improvement have been identified: pretrial process, parole, and payment of restitution for victims. This bill makes several policy changes and appropriates needed funding and positions to create a stronger, efficient, and accountable justice system.

**HB246 Appropriations to the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney.** HB246 appropriates funds to the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney for the victim witness assistance program, career criminal prosecution unit, and other law enforcement programs.

**HB2226 Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System.** HB2226 codifies and funds the statewide automated victim information and notification system.

**HB1788 Computer Crime.** HB1788 adds new definitions to computer crime, creating a third degree of computer fraud, and incorporating the element of phishing and spyware into all computer fraud offenses and unauthorized computer access offenses. In addition, **HB1777** authorizes judges to order the production of records located outside the state for criminal cases.

**SB2261 Weed and Seed.** SB2261 appropriates \$336,000 for the weed and seed program to maintain current operations in Kalihi, Waipahu, and Ewa.



*Rep. Aquino speaking with Hawaii National Guard C-17 pilots during National Guard Day at the Hawaii State Capitol*

### **Military**

#### **HB2410 Support for Military.**

HB2410 requires the Governor, on behalf of the State, to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense to enhance the State's relationship with the military and provide continued support for the military's presence in Hawaii.

#### **HB2409 Military Consumer**

**Protection.** House Bill 2409 authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to enforce existing federal laws protecting military members and their families.

**HB2258 Military Training, Professional and Vocational Licensing.** House Bill 2258 allows professional and vocational licensing authorities to accept military training, education, and service towards licensing requirements.

**HB2639 College Credits for Military Training.** House Bill 2639 authorizes the University of Hawai'i system to grant military members with college credits for military experience.

### **Consumer Protection**

#### **HB1875 Mortgage Foreclosure.**

House Bill 1875 amends the mortgage foreclosure law to provide additional protections for Hawaii's homeowners. It establishes a comprehensive lien collection and foreclosure process for condominium, homeowner, and planned community associations, which

is in harmony with Hawaii's mortgage foreclosure process. The bill also makes the dispute resolution program permanent.

#### **HB1295 Unlicensed Contractors.**

HB1295 establishes unlicensed contracting activity as a misdemeanor and habitual unlicensed contracting activity and unlicensed contractor fraud as felonies. Each day of unlicensed contracting activity is a distinct and separate offense under certain circumstances.

#### **HB1964 Cancer Treatment**

**Insurance.** HB1964 limits the out-of-pocket costs for cancer treatments under health insurance plans.

#### **HB2375 Mortgage Rescue Fraud**

**Prevention Act.** Requires the office of consumer protection to educate consumers about fraudulent activities that may be committed against homeowners who face property foreclosures, liens, or encumbrances, as appropriate. Establishes criminal penalties and a mandatory fine for certain violations of the mortgage rescue fraud prevention act.

### **Labor and Business**

#### **HB2096 Unemployment Insurance.**

HB2096 was purposefully fast-tracked to go into effect before a significant increase in employer contributions was scheduled to take place. Already signed into law as Act 6, the bill sets the employer contribution rate at schedule F for calendar year 2012. Without the bill, the employer contribution rate would have increased to schedule H, resulting in higher contribution payments by employers to the detriment of businesses. HB2096 also maintains during calendar year 2012 the maximum weekly benefit amount for an unemployed person at seventy-five per cent of average weekly wages.

#### **SB2220 Boiler and Elevator Safety.**

SB2220 establishes the boiler and elevator special fund as the depository for fees from inspections, permits, and examinations of boilers, pressure systems, elevators, kindred equipment, and amusement rides. The purpose of the bill is to address the backlog of safety inspections.



*Being briefed on the March 2011 Japan earthquake marine debris issue*

## 2012 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

### MILITARY

#### FUNDS TO RE-ESTABLISH TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DEF110)

- Added \$150,000 in general funds to re-establish a tuition assistance program, providing postsecondary education scholarship funds to army and air members of the Hawaii National Guard, which is a critical recruiting tool.

### EDUCATION

#### MEANS OF FINANCING FOR FOOD SERVICES PROGRAM (EDN400)

- Slowed the BOE approved increase in school lunch prices to an average of 40 cents per meal, down from the proposed 80 cents, to ensure families have time to adjust to price increases.

#### FUNDS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION (EDN400)

- Added \$25 million for student transportation services.

#### FUNDS FOR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM (EDN500)

- Added \$3.3 million to maintain Hawaii's adult education program, ensuring the availability of critical programs such as GED, English as a second language, and Competency-based programs that help folks complete both an academic and a work-based phase in order to get a degree. 10% of high school degrees awarded every year are GED.

### HUMAN SERVICES

#### HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS (HMS401)

- Added \$22,880,786 to fund Medicaid capitation payments, maintaining critical access to health care for those in need.

#### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- Added \$18 million for TANF, ensuring critical community services continue in work support and positive youth services programs.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

- Approved the transfer of \$3,362,759 in general funds from Non-State Facilities (PSD808) to various Public Safety programs, Judiciary and Counties for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. This partnership of PSD, JUD, and the counties is unprecedented. This reinvestment initiative makes the justice system more efficient, decreases unnecessary costs and spending, allows reinvestment of savings to needed areas, increases offender accountability and reduces out-of-state offender populations.

## Capital Improvement Projects to Benefit our District

These are projects that were approved with appropriated funds that will benefit our district. Below is a list of project descriptions and funding amounts:

### EDUCATION

#### WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Design and construction for a classroom building; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.....**\$9,320,000**  
**in funding released on March 3, 2012.**  
**Construction to start soon.**

#### AUGUST AHRENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Funding for various repair and maintenance projects.....**\$454,000**

#### HONOWAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Design and construction for the removal and replacement of the stairways for Building H; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances .....**\$190,000**

#### WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- Design for an eight classroom building; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances .....**\$800,000**

#### WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL

- Plans, design and construction for electrical upgrades in Building H, G, and Q; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances. ....**\$60,000**
- Design and construction for a retaining wall, ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances .....**\$200,000**
- Plans and design for synthetic field turf and track improvements; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances .....**\$1,000,000**

### UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

#### UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, WEST OAHU

- Added **\$26,438,828** for the continued construction of Kapolei campus, and **\$3,372,042** for a bookstore, dining and catering services, and parking lot management at the new Kapolei campus. The campus opens for Fall 2012 classes.
- Plans, design and construction and equipment for a photovoltaic panel array to generate power for the new UH West Oahu Campus in Kapolei. ....**\$2,500,000**
- Design and construction of road on the campus of UHWO to connect to Farrington Highway; project to include necessary intersection improvements.....**\$1,250,000**
- Plans, design, construction and equipment for campus-wide sitework and improvements .....**\$2,500,000**
- Plans and design for an Academy of creative media facility to be located on the campus of UHWO. Project to include ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances, and all project related costs .....**\$450,000**
- Plans and design for the Allied Health building. Project to include ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances, and all project related costs .....**\$495,000**

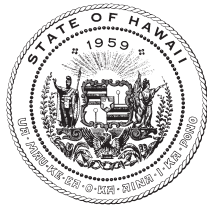
#### LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Plans, design, construction and equipment for a new Education and Innovation Instructional Facility at Leeward Community College .....**\$19,013,000**

#### ALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- Plans, design, construction and equipment for minor capital improvement program projects for campus facilities within the University of Hawaii, Community College system .....**\$15,000,000**

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**Representative  
Henry Aquino**  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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## Capital Improvement Projects to Benefit our District *continued from page 5*

- Plans, design, construction and equipment for improvements to University of Hawaii, community college facilities, Statewide. Projects to include capital renewal, reduction of maintenance backlog, major and minor renovations, modernization of facilities, reroofing, mechanical and electrical systems, resurfacing, repainting, and other repairs and project costs to upgrade facilities at all Community College campuses..... **\$10,000,000**

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

#### FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

- Construction for the installation of photovoltaic panels for the Filipino Community Center. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to Chapter 42F, HRS. Construction ..... **\$450,000**

### HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

#### HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL, REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU

- Design and construction for various repairs and improvements..... **(FY 2011-2012) \$11,614,000**  
**and (FY 2012-2013) \$2,800,000**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS, STATEWIDE

- Design and construction for repairs and improvements to health facilities, statewide..... **(FY 2011-2012) \$7,165,000**  
**and (FY 2012-2013) \$1,303,000**

### HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### WIKI WIKI SHUTTLE STATION IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU

- Construction for improvements to the two Wiki Wiki shuttle stations located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Level of the overseas terminal. This project is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement..... **\$2,700,000**

#### TERMINAL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU

- Design and construction to renovate the terminal area to incorporate the current theme of the airport to create a positive image to passengers ..... **\$27,400,000**

#### NEW MAUKA CONCOURSE IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU

- Construction for a new commuter terminal, new mauka concourse, aircraft apron, taxiways and blast fence near the Interisland Terminal, and other related improvements for the Airport Modernization Program..... **\$261,000,000**

#### INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS BUILDING CEILING REPLACEMENT

- Construction for ceiling replacement including asbestos removal and other related improvements for the Airport Modernization Program ..... **\$16,000,000**

#### REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, OAHU

- Plans, design, and construction for repair and maintenance projects throughout airport facilities at Honolulu International Airport, to include complete repairs to all restrooms..... **\$12,000,000**

### ROADS & FREEWAY

#### FREEWAY DESTINATION SIGN UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT, OAHU

- Design and construction for replacing and/or upgrading the existing freeway destination signs and sign support structures. This project is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid and financing and/or reimbursement..... **\$3,680,000**

#### KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY, WAIPAHO STREET TO WAIPHO UKA BOULEVARD, OAHU

- Design and construction for installation of graffiti resistant wall materials to match existing wall coverings..... **\$5,000,000**

**TOTAL FUNDING..... \$444,154,870**

*Contact Representative*  
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