



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

June 2020

Aloha!

The legislature reconvened for a short two-week session in mid-May to focus on balancing the state budget. COVID-19 has impacted Hawai'i's economy dramatically and both general excise tax (GET) and transient accommodations tax (TAT) collections have declined. As a result, the state is preparing for a potential \$1 billion shortfall. The legislature has developed a tentative plan that does not enact furloughs or pay cuts to public employees. Much



of the funds will come from the state's "rainy day fund" and staff vacancies to balance the budget.

As the economy slows, it is important to focus on large-scale government



projects to help with an economic recovery. Maui is fortunate to have secured critical funds to help our community.

The legislature also passed a bill to allocate \$66.6 million to the County of Maui from the federal government for COVID-19 related expenses, and it must

be expended by Dec 31.

The plan is to return and complete the session in mid-June. The focus will be on time-sensitive legislation along with final amendments to the budget.

The capitol is currently closed to the public, but written testimony is still being accepted on measures. These are uncertain times. **Stay safe and know that I will always work hard on your behalf.**

If you have any questions or concerns, my office remains open and I am here to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out at (808) 586-9444 or by email at RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,

Maui County continues reopening

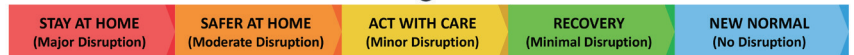
The phased reopening of Maui County continues. On May 16, Mayor Michael Victorino reopened an additional sixty **parks and beach parks**, along with a select number of **tennis and pickleball courts**, including the courts located at the War Memorial complex. Beaches are open for **passive activities** such as lounging, sunbathing and reading. These activities must follow social distancing along with health and safety modifications. Reopening of **drive-in religious services** began on May 22, **hair and nail salons** on May 25, and **dine-in restaurant service** on June 5. The Maui County **Division of Motor Vehicles** began modified services on May 18.

Guidance is being updated on a weekly basis. To stay updated on reopenings and guidelines, please visit www.mauicounty.gov.

Governor Ige signed an 8th proclamation **extending the 14 day quarantine** for interisland travelers and those arriving in the State of Hawai'i, along with extending the eviction moratorium. Both are planned up to June 30.

The governor also announced the state's recovery plan, "Beyond Recovery: Reopening Hawai'i," which includes four phases - we are currently in Phase 2.

State roadmap to recovery and resilience



Impact levels informed by health, economic, and community-based indicators.
Impact level may vary by county. Phase durations not to scale.

Legislature balances state budget

The Hawaii State Legislature passed a series of budgetary measures to meet a projected \$1 billion shortfall because of COVID-19 without furloughs or pay reductions. A balanced budget was achieved by passing a flat budget over the last fiscal year and by removing all of the governor's supplemental requests. Additional dollars were then pulled from various sources, including:

- >>> **\$395 million** from the state's rainy-day fund.
- >>> **\$270 million** by replacing cash with general obligation (GO) bonds for housing construction projects and the construction of a new Aloha Stadium.
- >>> **\$311 million** from staff vacancies and unspent funds from all state departments for Fiscal Year 2020.
- >>> **\$71 million** from staff vacancies for Fiscal Year 2021.
- >>> **\$33 million** from unspent and excess funds from various special funds

Additional adjustments will be made when the legislature returns in June after the Council on Revenues makes an updated tax revenue projection. Depending on congressional action, federal funds may also be available to assist with budgetary shortfalls.

Federal CARES funding seeks to aid our community

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocates \$1.25 billion to the State of Hawai‘i for COVID-19 related expenses. The City and County of Honolulu automatically received \$387 million by a federal formula because of their population. In order to allocate funds to the neighbor islands and various state departments, the legislature passed SB 75. The measure allocates \$80 million to Hawai‘i County, **\$66.6 million to Maui County**, and \$29 million to Kauai County.

Appropriations to state departments include, **\$40 million** for the state Department of Defense for front-line COVID-19 response and future preparations, **\$36 million** for thermal screening of passengers at all Hawai‘i airports, and **\$14 million** to the Department of Health for testing and tracing of COVID-19 cases. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations will receive **\$8.1 million** to help with technology upgrades and staffing for unemployment and **\$1.3 million** to administer the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for self-employed workers.

A total of **\$635.9 million** will be held in the state’s rainy-day fund for possible appropriation in June. One area of needed assistance is helping to relieve the state unemployment fund. Since unemployment is solely funded by employer contributions, a large assessment to replenish the fund in the near future will become a huge burden at a time when the economy is struggling.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The legislature passed HB 2725 funding Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for FY 2020 and 2021 totaling more than \$5.1 billion statewide. Most CIP projects are paid for with borrowed bond funds and to qualify, it must be a large scale renovation or repair to existing facilities, landscape improvements, new construction, land acquisition, or utility modifications. This allocation also includes **\$10 million** to upgrade the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations unemployment computer systems. *Notable projects for Central Maui include:*

- » **\$7 million** for design and construction of a boys athletic locker room, including a weight room and dance floor for **H.P. Baldwin High School**.
- » **\$500,000** for a perimeter fence at **Iao Intermediate School**.
- » **\$4 million** to renovate Building C to provide additional classrooms at **Iao Intermediate**.
- » **\$3 million** for planning and design of a new middle school in **Central Maui**.
- » **\$450,000** for a new parking lot at **Wailuku Elementary**.
- » **\$270,000** for ADA accessibility at **Wailuku Elementary**.
- » **\$150,000** for replacement of playground equipment at **Waihe‘e Elementary**.
- » **\$420,000** for drainage improvements at **Waihe‘e Elementary**.
- » **\$6 million** for **Maui Health Systems** improvements and renovations.
- » **\$3 million** for planning and design of a parking facility for **Maui Health Systems**.
- » **\$5 million** to acquire **Nā Wai ‘Ehā watershed**, with the County of Maui providing matching funds.
- » **\$5 million** to plan for the **Maui regional public safety complex**.
- » **\$4 million** for the widening of **Puunene Avenue** from Kamehameha Avenue to Kuihelani Highway from two to four lanes.

Hurricane season begins in June... Be safe, be prepared

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

Courtesy of
Rep. Troy Hashimoto

Disasters or emergencies can strike at a moments notice. Hurricane season is from June through November. It is important to be ready with a plan and basic supplies to help you and your family stay safe! Be sure to have an emergency kit that can last for 14 days.

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WATER (one gallon per person per day for 14 days) <input type="checkbox"/> WATER TREATMENT SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PERISHABLE FOOD (14 day supply) <input type="checkbox"/> CAN OPENER <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST AID KIT <input type="checkbox"/> BATTERY-POWERED RADIO <input type="checkbox"/> EXTRA CLOTHING <input type="checkbox"/> RAIN GEAR <input type="checkbox"/> FLASHLIGHT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> EXTRA BATTERIES <input type="checkbox"/> MATCHES (in a waterproof container) <input type="checkbox"/> SANITATION SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> CASH OR TRAVELER’S CHECKS <input type="checkbox"/> PET SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS (in a waterproof container) <input type="checkbox"/> REFERENCE MATERIALS (e.g. first aid books, manuals) <input type="checkbox"/> MASKS AND HAND SANITIZER |
|---|--|

Helpful Reminders

- Family plan:** create a family evacuation plan and make sure everyone in your family is informed of the plan.
- Family communication:** Identify a family member who lives out-of-state that everyone can notify when they are safe.
- Meeting place:** Choose a physical location to meet in case you must leave home or work and communication devices are out of service.
- Plan escape routes:** Map out two escape routes for each room of your home. Do drills with family members.

MAKA‘ALA

Be vigilant, be alert.)))

MAUI COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Get alerts about Maui County specific emergencies by signing up for the Maka`ala emergency alert system at www.mauicounty.gov/emergency
Maui County Emergency Management Agency: (808) 270-7285

Congratulations Class of 2020!

A note from Rep. Hashimoto:

As we celebrate the Class of 2020, these students represent the many accomplishments and achievements of their entire class. I wish every graduate the best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

Noah Murata **H.P. Baldwin H.S.**

Cleaning house, playing guitar, working out, and sleeping in has become the new normal for Noah Murata. An active band student and Japanese Club member, Murata



was a bit sad not being able to spend time with friends for the last quarter of the school year. "This lockdown has definitely affected our school year, but I try to make the most of it," he said.

In the fall, Murata is planning on attending the University of Hawai'i Maui College to begin his pursuits in the engineering or medical field. His plans have not changed, as his classes can be offered all online, if necessary. However, he is keeping an optimistic outlook when it comes to graduation, "I wish we could of had a real graduation, maybe if they pushed it back to June or July, but I'm not too sure how bad the virus will be at that time," he said.

When asked for any advice in coping with staying at home, Murata said, "wake up early, don't waste daylight, and stay productive. This lockdown is the perfect time to clean, find a new hobby or spend time with your family, don't waste your time on your phone all day."

Heather Osterstock **H.P. Baldwin H.S.**

Future plans for Heather Osterstock have not changed greatly, but like many others, COVID-19 has impacted her family financially. Osterstock however, is intent on working harder to make ends meet to attend the University of Washington in Seattle, where she plans on majoring in biochemistry.

The co-drum major and flute section leader in the Bear Pride Marching Band and a member of the Symphonic Band for four years, she has also been the president of Baldwin's Book Club since her sophomore year. "Facetime



has been my saving grace. This extra time has given me the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, and that is a small silver lining in this terrible situation," she said.

Despite the trying times, she understands a broader perspective. "Our high school careers were never dependent on having a traditional graduation. We were still lucky enough to have had the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to spend (almost) four years of our lives together. I am just trying to focus on those memories."

Pono Akiona **H.P. Baldwin H.S.**

Keeping a sense of normalcy has been important to Pono Akiona and his family. They have maintained a schedule to remain productive. "Every day, I wake up at about 7 a.m. and I have breakfast with my family. Then from 8-10 we work on schoolwork, for me that's mostly my portfolio for AP art," he said.

COVID-19 has made him think about his future a little differently. "Originally, I wanted to go to either Hawai'i Institute of Hair Design or University of Hawai'i at Manoa, but they have both become a bit more complicated with the new circumstances, so it's most



likely going to be University of Hawai'i at Maui College," he said.

Akiona aspires to become a barber, though he says it may not pay the best, so he is exploring his options before making a decision.

It may include a pivot to video editing since he took a few college classes and is something he enjoys.

In looking forward, he has very practical advice for the community. "I would say that it's especially important that we not be selfish. I know it's been said, but it's true, we are all in this together. It's going to take a team effort and just a few people could ruin it for us."

Raelynn Lihau Yoshida **Kamehameha Schools-Maui**

Raelynn Lihau Yoshida of Waiehu, planned ahead and was accepted early action back in January to attend Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Although heading to the East Coast has been on the books for some time, COVID-19 has changed her perspective. "Pennsylvania is very far away and if my first semester of college were to go online, there is no point to pay a large amount of money to stay home and do online classes. If online classes becomes the reality of the fall

semester, I may end up enrolling in a cheaper, closer to home, school," she said.

This aspiring physical therapist or athletic trainer loves helping people and served as a student athletic trainer. She helped athletes overcome injuries and loved every moment. Yoshida also ran cross country and was on the track and field team during her junior and senior year.



Throughout lockdown, she has had time to pick up her 'ukulele more along with baking and cooking. Her advice is to focus on the positives, "it may seem hard but something that helps me is to write things down. If you write down the positive things you experience every day, your brain is forced to focus on those things."

Daniel Tongson **St. Anthony H.S.**

Daniel Tongson of Oceanview Estates was keeping busy at St. Anthony H.S., participating in Marching and Jazz Band, Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, LIFE Team, Land Judging/Dirt Club, Swimming, Cross Country, Track and Field, and reached the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 49 based at St. Anthony Church. Since COVID-19 everything has stopped.

Now Tongson's life has turned to "working out and connecting with friends online. I also have been taking a lot of naps, which isn't good because it makes me feel lazy," he said.

Tongson takes life as it comes and



although he is bummed about his adjusted senior year, "I'd much rather be safe than sorry. I tend to look at it as "it is what it is" and I just try to make the most of the memories I already made,"

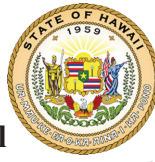
he said.

His plans after graduation have not changed and will attend Seattle University with the hope of eventually becoming an infectious disease doctor working on Maui.

His advice is to "just be safe and keep your wits about you. If we all do our part, we can go back to being the great community we are, and continue to spend our time in our Island Paradise."



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If you would like to be added to my email list, please email me, and I will gladly add you.

/rephashimoto

Food donations needed

The Maui Food Bank is the community's primary safety net for providing hunger relief to those in need. Due to COVID-19, the Maui Food Bank is in need of donations. There are many ways to help.



MAUI FOOD BANK
Helping the Hungry

Ways to donate include:

★ **Food donations**

You can drop off donations at the Maui Food Bank Warehouse at **760 Kolu Street, Wailuku**. The warehouse is open from Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.

★ **Participate in a virtual food drive**

Review the list of products to donate online at: mauifoodbank.org/virtual-food-drive/

★ **Monetary donations**

By phone at (808) 243-9500.

By mail: donations can be made out to **The Maui Food Bank** and mailed to the warehouse.

Online: mauifoodbank.org

Top seven needs

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ★ Financial contributions | ★ Canned meals and soups |
| ★ Canned meat and tuna | ★ Cereal |
| ★ Canned fruits and vegetables | ★ Pasta |
| | ★ Rice |

Assisting our community

Thank you to every member of our community, from our frontline workers and health care professionals, to those making masks, or those just volunteering in any capacity to assist those in need. It will take each of us working together to get through these unprecedented times.

Rep Hashimoto was able to assist at the County of Maui's May 7 food distribution where nearly 1000 bags were given to families (right). On May 5, free masks were distributed with the help of Everyone Hawaii, Maui United Way and the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (below).



(L-R) Mayor Victoria A. Figa, Sara Keith-Agaran, Rep Hashimoto, Ian Walsh, and Kai Espinoza