

REPRESENTATIVE

Troy N. Hashimoto

News & Updates

MESSAGE FROM TROY

The 2022 legislative session concluded, sine die, on May 5 with a bang. Lawmakers had a **\$2 billion general fund surplus** this year - an amazing rebound from the challenges caused by the pandemic. The additional tax revenues allowed legislators to fund several programs to bolster affordable housing programs and issue tax rebates of \$100 to \$300 (SB 514).

The surplus also allowed us to save for a rainy day. The Legislature allocated almost **\$1 billion** for the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund and the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to ensure program continuity in times of hardships outside of our control.

One of the noteworthy bills I would like to highlight from this session is the **\$130 million** earmarked to address the **wage "compression" for teachers**, which was a result of pay "step" increases that were deferred due to economic challenges over the years. It is now up to Gov. David Ige to negotiate an agreement with the union on how the money will be distributed.

I hope you enjoy reading updates with this newsletter. As the election season approaches, House Rules do not allow members to mail constituent communications after June 7. Therefore, **this will be the last newsletter until after the election season.** I hope we can continue to keep in-touch online, so make sure to follow me on social media. Scan the code below to get the links.

My office continues to be here to assist you, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,



With Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Rep. Nadine Nakamura and Sen. Stanley Chang after our last conference committee to agree on SB 2370 which will create a permanent statewide Office on Homelessness.

THE FINISH LINE: BILLS HEADING TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

More than three hundred bills will be heading to Governor Ige's desk for his approval. The Governor has until July 12 to sign into law, veto, or allow bills to become law without his signature. He is expected to share his intent with the Legislature by June 27. To view any of this bills that are listed below, please visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov

ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

• **HB 1837** - "Yes In My Backyard Act."

The measure will create a working group to foster inter-agency coordination on housing and zoning issues, and raise public awareness of ongoing state and county efforts. The goal is to reduce barriers to affordable housing development, and propose legislation. Making sure everyone is at the table when decisions are discussed is central to this legislation.

• **HB 2511** - Provides \$600 million to the department of Hawaiian home lands to pursue a multi-pronged approach to eliminating the long standing housing waitlist.

• **SB 2370** - Establishes the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions within the Department of Human Services to be headed by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Appropriates funds for the office and positions.

• **HB 1752** - Appropriates \$1.5 million to establish incentives for landlords to participate in the tenant-based Assistance Housing Choice Voucher Program and cover property damage expenses that exceed a tenant's security deposit up to one month of rent.

• **HB 2512** - Extends the Ohana Zone program to June 2026. The program provides assistance for homeless individuals and families to access permanent housing on state and county land. Allows individuals in the program to obtain an extension of services.

• **HB 2233** - Authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide additional housing assistance subsidies of up to \$500 per month to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) program participants.



With Senator Rosalyn "Roz" Baker on sine die. Sen. Baker is retiring after 30 years in the legislature and has been instrumental in bettering Maui County. Her leadership will be missed and I wish her a happy retirement. Best wishes, Sen Roz!



BILLS CONTINUED...



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MORE ON HOUSING & RENTALS

- **SB 206** - Beginning May 1, 2023, prohibits discrimination, including in advertisements for rental property, in rental transactions based on participation in a section 8 housing choice program or any permanent supportive housing program.

ON SENIORS & HEALTHCARE

- **SB 3113** - Incorporates the kupuna caregivers program which provides support for working caregivers into the kupuna care program which provides long-term services and supports to help keep kupuna in their home. This will help to streamline services for those who need it most.

- **SB 2679** - Extends the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy-two years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age.

ON THE MINIMUM WAGE

- **HB 2510** - Increases the State's minimum wage incrementally to \$12 per hour beginning October 1, 2022; \$15.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2024; and \$18.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2026. Increases the tip credit incrementally to \$1 per hour beginning October 1, 2022; \$1.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2024; and \$1.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2028. The bill will also make state earned income tax credit refundable and permanent.

ON GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

- **SB 3089** - Clarifies the Governors authority during a state of emergency. Specifies that any suspension of law will be no broader and last no longer than the Governor or a mayor deems necessary for the execution of emergency management functions. Requires that any suspension identify the section of law suspended and justify the suspension. Authorizes the Legislature, by vote of two-thirds of the members of each house, to terminate a state of emergency, in part or in whole.

ON TEACHERS & EDUCATION

- **SB 2359** - Requires the University of Hawai'i to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

- **SB 2657** - Appropriates \$2.7 million to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Bill for a creation of additional medical residency and training opportunities on the neighbor islands.

- **SB 2821** - Requires the Department of Education to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students on all public school campuses.

- **SB 2862** - Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

- **SB 3098** - Makes an emergency appropriation for lead abatement measures at Department of Education elementary schools.

ON CESSPOOLS

- **HB 2195** - Establishes a cesspool compliance pilot grant project to assist low- and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with the costs of upgrading, converting, or connecting certain cesspools.

- **HB 1806** - Requires cesspools in the State to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system approved by the Director of Health before 1/1/2050. The original requirement only permits two types of allowed systems.

ON RETIREMENT

- **SB 3289** - Establishes the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program, administered by the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board, to provide a state-facilitated payroll-deduction individual retirement savings plan to private sector employees who do not have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: CENTRAL MAUI HIGHLIGHTS

The following schools, health institutions and roads will receive funding for facility improvements, equipment upgrade and renovations. Most CIP projects are paid for with borrowed bond funds and it must be a large scale renovation, repair, or new construction.

- **\$200,000** - Iao Intermediate School, security cameras
- **\$800,000** - Iao Intermediate School, land acquisition to help expand the school
- **\$20,000,000** - Central Maui, New Elementary and Middle School, masterplanning
- **\$9,150,000** - Maui Memorial Medical Center, upgrades to angioplasty suite, cardiac catheterization lab, neurovascular center
- **\$15,000,000** - Maui Memorial Medical Center, parking lot upgrade
- **\$25,000,000** - Puunene Ave. improvements, widening from two lanes to four lanes
- **\$4,000,000** - UH Maui College Vocational Technology Center

Continuation of on-going projects:

- **\$5,830,000** - Baldwin High School, P.E./Athletic facilities
- **\$5,200,000** - Baldwin High School, electrical upgrades and campus wide air conditioning
- **\$4,850,000** - Wailuku Elementary School, electrical upgrades and campus wide air conditioning
- **\$250,000** - Waihee Elementary School, covered walkways and drainage improvements

GRANTS-IN-AID CENTRAL MAUI HIGHLIGHTS

The following nonprofits will receive a grant from the State for facility improvements or operating expenses, based on a competitive application process.

- **\$190,000** - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
- **\$125,000** - Kaahumanu Church
- **\$450,000** - J. Walter Cameron Center
- **\$600,000** - Maui Academy of Performing Arts
- **\$650,000** - Maui Arts & Cultural Center
- **\$1,010,000** - Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
- **\$335,000** - Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

THE FINISH LINE: HB 1600 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



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Due to this being the second year of the fiscal biennium, the budget bill supplements to what was passed in last year's budget.

\$39,460,000

Department of Education:

- **\$32,500,000** to address staff shortages in hard to staff geographical locations, retain and recruit teachers for special education and the Hawaiian language immersion program.
- **\$6,360,000** to furnish and equip new classrooms and school buildings across the state.
- **\$600,000** for "Grow Our Own" Teacher program. A partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) and University of Hawai'i to provide stipends for Hawai'i residents who would like to pursue higher education and meet the requirements to teach in the HIDOE.

\$5,000,000

Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation: Loans to nonprofit community development financial institutions and nonprofit housing development organizations for the development of affordable homeownership housing projects.

\$25,952,297

Department of Human Services: To provide adult dental benefits to MedQuest patients under "Option 2," including both cleaning and treatment services.

\$33,333,334

Department of Budget and Finance: Funds to expand broadband deployment.

\$8,923,000

Department of Health:

- **\$1,600,000** for Maui and Kauai emergency medical services.
- **\$1,500,000** for Aging and Disability Resource Centers across all counties. The centers help older adults, individuals with disabilities, and family caregivers find options for long term supports and services available to them.
- **\$8,923,000** for an operating subsidy for Maui Health Systems
- **5 positions** for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program which identifies, investigates, and resolves complaints by or for a resident of a long term care facility.

\$1,200,000

Department of Land and Natural Resources: three positions for Axis Deer mitigation.

\$1,043,548

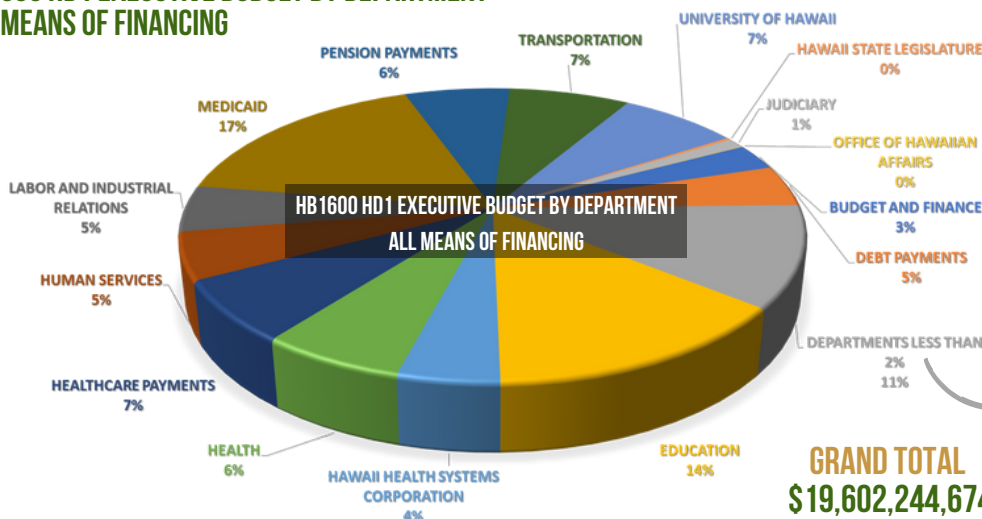
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands: Twenty positions to assist with administration, including \$600 million appropriation, which will help with land leases, loans, and fiscal services.

\$3,063,097

University of Hawai'i:

- **\$1,670,000** to expand JABSOM's graduate residency program for neighbor island rotations
- **\$557,097** and four positions to address the teacher shortage in Hawai'i.
- **\$836,000** and three positions for the Maui Food Innovation Center.

HOW FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED HB 1600 HD1 EXECUTIVE BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT ALL MEANS OF FINANCING



**GRAND TOTAL
\$19,602,244,674**

DEPARTMENT/COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT
BUDGET AND FINANCE	501,672,010
DEBT PAYMENTS	790,391,243
DEPARTMENTS LESS THAN 2%	1,929,002,378
EDUCATION	2,394,084,391
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION	770,643,895
HEALTH	1,097,007,726
HEALTHCARE PAYMENTS	1,169,794,022
HUMAN SERVICES	895,263,104
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	884,728,463

DEPARTMENT/COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	884,728,463
MEDICAID	2,948,618,068
PENSION PAYMENTS	1,120,736,284
TRANSPORTATION	1,293,060,049
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII	1,273,221,818
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE	43,919,103
JUDICIARY	182,203,682
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS	8,684,104



Reviewing Maui projects with the House Finance Committee Chair Sylvia Luke. Rep. Luke will be departing the House and I thank her for her commitment to assisting Maui County.

DEPARTMENT/COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT
ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES	307,501,478
AGRICULTURE	83,487,260
ATTORNEY GENERAL	117,402,818
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM	274,414,935
CHARTER SCHOOLS	131,902,739
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	92,897,084
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	99,678,986
DEFENSE	178,794,336
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES	212,972,223
LIBRARIES	47,508,960
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	99,678,986
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	982,793
PUBLIC SAFETY	320,718,528
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	26,320,323
TAXATION	30,537,950



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**THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE
SESSION IS ADJOURNED.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Zahra Bhattacharya
H. P. Baldwin High School

Note from Rep. Hashimoto: *Zahra has a special connection to my office and has been working as an intern for the last two legislative sessions. I am so proud of her accomplishments and cannot wait to see what is in store for her as she attends the University of Southern California in the fall with plans to major in Business Administration.*

Zahra Bhattacharya has been very active throughout her high school career and had no problem adjusting to the problems that COVID brought along. Zahra said, "I benefited from the possibility of doing virtual internships with other students from different islands and states and greatly value the experience I have developed."

She is proud to represent her classmates as the Class President for her Sophomore, Junior and now Senior Year. She noticed within her own classmates a strong class pride which she attributes to missing out on events pivotal moments like junior prom or homecoming, "because we all wanted to make the best of our last year in high school." Through her leadership, she has been able to make this a special year for so many of her classmates.

When asked about any advice on life after the pandemic, she offered, "opportunities are endless and to take action is up to us." No doubt, Zahra will be making the most in her college years as she looks to study abroad and learn as much as she can and from whomever.



Kanoë Mitnick
H. P. Baldwin High School

Kanoë Mitnick of Waikapu Gardens is truly enjoying his last full year back in high school - making up for the lost time because of the pandemic. He took advantage of opportunities that he never thought he would have done in the past. One of them was taking a leap and serving on the homecoming court. "All around it was just a great experience and a good high school memory," he said.

On his free time, this former paddler tries to keep active and fit. One positive result of staying home is that Kanoë developed a deeper passion for fitness, which he used as an outlet to keep him away from playing video games all day. It created a strong foundation and he continues his fitness regime these days by attending All Kine Crossfit.

In the fall he will be attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa, with no exact plan for a degree, but is leaning toward studying business, with future plans of possibly doing marketing or even starting his own fitness enterprise.

Kanoë offered some words of advice after a few tough years as a pandemic high school student, "I've in the moment and count your blessings for the opportunity of getting to see others in person," he said.