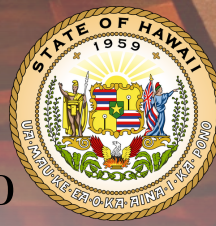




REPRESENTATIVE

Troy N. Hashimoto



News & Updates

HOUSE DISTRICT 10 OF WAIHEHU, PAUKUKALO, WAILUKU, WAILUKU HEIGHTS, WAIKAPU, SAND HILLS

JUNE/JULY 2023



MESSAGE FROM TROY

The 2023 legislative session concluded, sine die, on May 5. There were many new faces this year with 18 new House members, new committee chairs, and a new governor. As we embarked in our new roles, coupled with a short 60 day legislative session, it took a bit of an adjustment to acclimate to our new normal. However, I was confident in our ability to rise to the challenge and I believe that we did.

Lingering concerns persist over economic growth slowing and tax collections. In fact, the state's projected budget surplus has been reduced by approximately \$646 million by the Council on Revenues just over the last six months. Despite this, tax relief for families was a priority to help reduce the escalating cost of living. Legislation was passed that will assist Hawaii's working families see millions in cumulative tax relief through an increase in the household and dependent care tax credit, the refundable earned income tax credit, and food excise tax credit. A few other legislative highlights are included in this newsletter.

Although the session has ended, please do not hesitate to call my office at (808) 586-9444 or email at rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,



In May, LG Sylvia Luke announced 11 new Pre-Kindergarten classrooms including one at Wailuku Elementary School. This classroom will create 20 new Pre-K seats.

If you would like information on how to enroll your keiki in preschool, please go to the newly created website readykeiki.org. The site also features an interactive map to locate preschools and childcare centers, a live tracker for Ready Keiki funding and classroom status. Plans are to expand 465 classrooms in the next 9 years.

Early learning investments:

- Adding \$38.8M in FY25 for the expansion of Preschool Open Doors Programs to include 3-year-olds.
- Adding \$660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend program.
- Adding 36.00 permanent positions and \$3.9M in FY24 and 126.00 permanent positions and \$7.6M in FY25 for early learning classrooms.

BILLS HEADING TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

More than 250 bills were sent in May to Governor Josh Green for his approval from the Legislature. The Governor has until July 11 to sign into law, veto, or allow bills to become law without his signature. He is expected to share his intent to veto with the Legislature by June 26. To view any of this bills that are listed below, please visit capitol.hawaii.gov.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HB 677-Establishes a five-year **Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Equity Program** in Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) to purchase equity in for-sale developments to lower the amount paid by buyers. HHFDC's equity will be allocated to specific units, and the price paid by the buyer is reduced. HHFDC's equity share is paid back upon resale of the unit along with a portion of the appreciation in equity.

HB 1363- Extends when a county can adopt a **general excise tax surcharge** from March 31, 2019, to December 31, 2023. Authorizes the use of the surcharge revenues for housing infrastructure in counties having a population of 500,000 or less.

SB930-Beginning May 1, 2024:

- Caps an **application screening fee** for a dwelling unit rental to the actual cost of screening applicants.

The Office of Consumer Protection will produce informational materials for landlords and applications.

SB941-Authorizes the School Facilities Authority to **develop housing** on or off campus **for teachers, educators, and staff** along with the ability to develop classrooms. Appropriates funds \$170M for construction of housing prioritized for teachers, educators, and staff, including \$20M for Maui County.

FIREWORKS

SB821-Establishes a two-year **Illegal Fireworks Task Force** within the Department of Law Enforcement to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into the State, promote compliance with state fireworks control laws, and ensure the safety and security of facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives. Appropriates \$1.25M for the task force.



During conference committee week members met to discuss differences in bills between the House and Senate until a compromise version was reached.



BILLS CONTINUED...

SENIORS

SB898-Temporarily establishes the **State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna** to provide up to \$500 in rent assistance, housing counseling and other supportive services to qualified kupuna who are 62 years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

HB278-Appropriates \$1M for the Executive Office on Aging to create and implement an **Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign**.

SB900-Appropriates \$186,228 for three program specialist positions within the Executive Office on Aging for the **Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program** which works to assist kupuna to understand and access Medicare benefits.

SB1592-Appropriates \$378,696 for three program specialist positions within the Executive Office on Aging for the State's **Senior Medicare Patrol Program** which works to educate, assist, and refer residents to the proper authorities, and be a reliable source for accurate information and responsive assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, and other health-related scams, fraud, or abuse.

HB 650-While all safeguards and eligibility requirements remain in place, a few barriers to **medical aid in dying** have been removed:

- Hawaii's mandatory waiting period between a patient's first and second oral requests from 20 days to 5 days;
- Attending provider can waive the waiting period if the patient will not survive;
- Qualified Advanced Practice Registered Nurses can now serve as attending, consulting, and/or mental health provider, and;
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists can now serve as mental health provider.

HOMELESSNESS

HB1366-Requires the Department of Human Services to coordinate a three-year voluntary homeless assistance pilot program, the **Return-to-Home Pilot Program**, to provide eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with family and friends in their home state. Appropriates \$100K to implement pilot program.

PROJECTED TO GENERATE \$15M PER YEAR IN REVENUE AND DISINCENTIVIZE USE AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS.

HEALTH

SB 975-Beginning 1/1/2024, imposes an **excise tax on each electronic smoking device or e-liquid** sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer.

TEACHERS & EDUCATION

HB353-Appropriates \$200K for instructional costs and student aid for the **expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program** at the University of Hawaii Maui College.

HB960- Includes **prekindergarten facilities** within the scope of authority of the School Facilities Authority (SFA). Appropriates \$200K for the SFA to expand access to eligible children for pre-kindergarten.

HB1329-Requires the Department of Education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an **active shooter training program** in all public and charter schools.

TRANSPORTATION

HB600-Establishes a **Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee** to develop a comprehensive statewide Safe Routes to School Plan to ensure that each child in the State is able to safely bike, walk, or roll to school. Appropriates \$10M for the committee and to match federal funds related to the plan.

SB1166-Beginning July 1, 2025, allows for the **renewal of driver's licenses** online, in addition to by mail.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: CENTRAL MAUI HIGHLIGHTS

The following schools, health institutions and roads will receive funding for facility improvements, equipment upgrade and renovations for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025. Most CIP projects are paid for with borrowed bond funds and it must be a large scale renovation, repair, or new construction.

- **\$12,500,000** - H.P. Baldwin High School, design and construction of an all weather athletic track and field.
- **\$300,000** - Puu Kukui Elementary School, plans and design for newly acquired property.
- **\$27,000,000** - Maui Memorial Medical Center, improvements, repairs, renovations.
- **\$1,000,000** - Wailuku Civic Center, plans and design for redevelopment.
- **\$23,500,000** - Waikapu Wastewater Treatment Facility, requires a county match of funds to build the new facility.

Continuation of on-going projects:

- **\$12,500,000** - H.P. Baldwin High School, construction of P.E./Athletic facilities.
- **\$150,000** - Iao Intermediate School, demolition and due diligence for land adjacent to help expand the school
- **\$10,000,000** - Central Maui, New Elementary and Middle School, masterplanning.

CIP Projects released by Gov. Green:

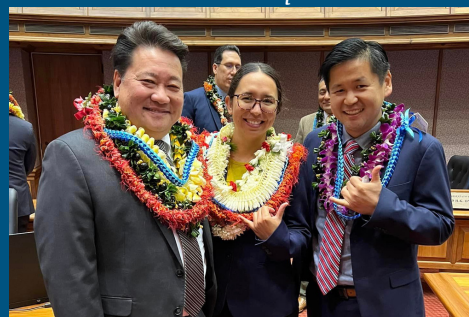
- **\$4,280,000** - Kahekili Terrace, Electrical Upgrade and Interior Repairs.
- **\$600,000** - H.P. Baldwin High School, design of P.E./Athletic facilities.

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.

- **\$300,000** - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
- **\$140,000** - Hale Makua Health Services
- **\$700,000** - J. Walter Cameron Center
- **\$200,000** - Maui Family YMCA
- **\$600,000** - Maui Arts & Cultural Center
- **\$150,000** - Maui Humane Society
- **\$400,000** - Maui Academy of Performing Arts
- **\$400,000** - Maui Economic Development Board

The last day of the sixty day session, *Sine Die* with Rep. Kyle Yamashita and Rep. Mahina Poepoe.



Visit from students of Iao Intermediate School who are running the student operated credit union with Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union.

HB 300 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

\$460.3 MILLION FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES

- **\$100M** in FY24 and **\$180M** in FY25 to be deposited to Rental Housing Revolving Fund. For rental projects less than 60% of the Area Median Income
- **\$50M** in FY24 and FY25 be deposited into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.
- **\$15M** in FY24 and **\$33M** in FY25 for Kauhale Projects which are projects that are designed to provide housing for families experiencing homelessness or on the verge of becoming homeless.
- **\$6.5M** for the State Rent Supplement Program, which offers up to \$500 in shallow subsidies.
- **\$10.8M** towards Homelessness Programs: Housing First Program, Rapid Re-Housing Program, Homeless Outreach Services and Family Assessment Centers which is transitional housing and assistance to finding permanent housing
- **\$15M** for Ohana Zones Program. 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.

This is the first year of the biennium where funding for the next two fiscal years are set. The budget totals for both years is **\$37,728,984,021** with all means of financing. This budget provides appropriations of **\$11.3 billion** in FY24 and **\$10.4 billion** in FY25 in general funds for operating costs.

Additionally, the bill includes a CIP budget of **\$2.9 billion** in FY24 and **\$1.3 billion** in FY25. **\$40 million** (\$20 million in operating funds and \$20 million in capital improvement funds) were appropriated for grant-in-aid requests in FY24.

\$172.8 MILLION FOR HEALTHCARE

- **\$22M** for Maui Health System's operating subsidy
- **\$10M** in FY24 and **\$20M** in FY25 for the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program for Healthcare Professionals.
- **\$5.6M** general and **\$7.1M** federal funds in both fiscal years for increased payments to nursing facilities.
- **\$15.7M** in FY24 and **\$20.4M** in FY25 for the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service Waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$30M** in general funds and **\$42M** in federal funds in both years to increase medicaid reimbursements to 100 percent of the current medicaid fee schedule.

With my Senate housing counterpart, Sen. Stanley Chang on the last day of conference.



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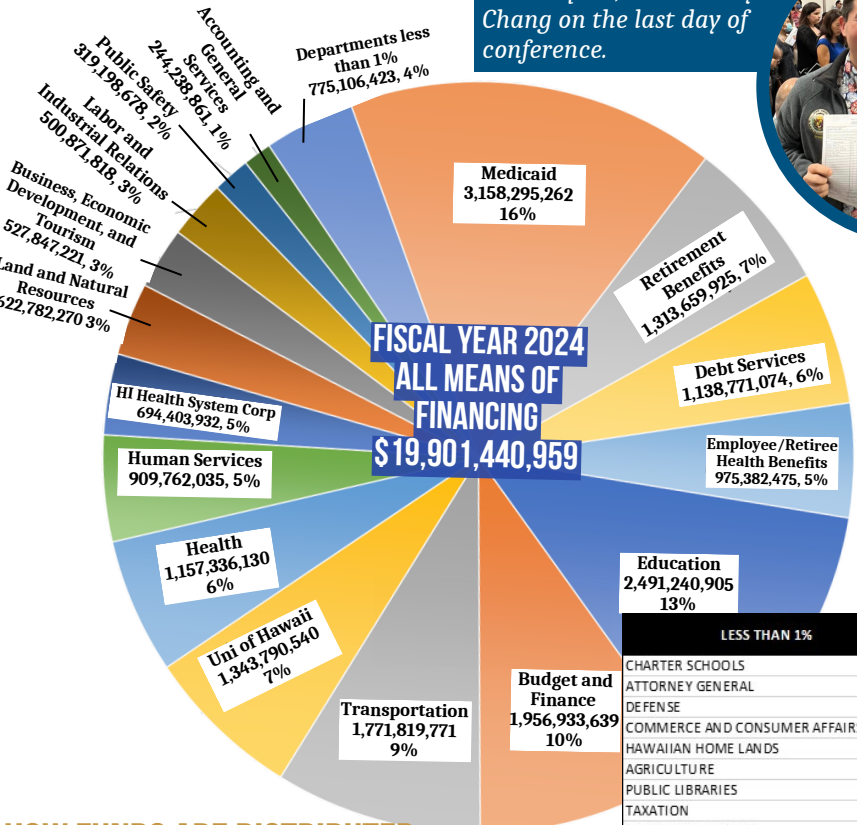
2023 Maui Obon

DANCE SCHEDULE

- July 1: Lahaina Jodo Mission
 - 6:30 p.m. service and 8 p.m. dance
- July 7 & 8: Mantokuji Mission of Paia
 - 6 p.m. service and 7 p.m. dance on July 8
- July 15: Kahului Hongwanji Mission
 - 6 p.m. service and 7:30 p.m. dance
- July 21 & 22: Makawao Hongwanji Mission
 - 6 p.m. service and 7 p.m. dance
- July 28 & 29: Wailuku Hongwanji Mission
 - 6 p.m. service and 7:45 p.m. dance
- August 11 & 12: Lahaina Hongwanji Mission
 - 6 p.m. service and 7:30 p.m. dance
- August 26: Kula Shofukuji Mission
 - 5 p.m. service and 7 p.m. dance



Attending Pu'u Kukui's Ho'ike Day and Wailuku Elementary's Lokahi Day in May. Sen. Keith-Agaran and I toured with David Kuraya, Sharon Nakama and Edgar Yoshida of the H.P. Baldwin High School band room and auditorium.



HOW FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED HB300 HD1 EXECUTIVE BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT ALL MEANS OF FINANCING

LESS THAN 1%	FY2024 TOTALS	%
CHARTER SCHOOLS	138,568,855	0.696%
ATTORNEY GENERAL	121,487,865	0.610%
DEFENSE	121,325,977	0.610%
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	105,491,391	0.530%
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	65,311,961	0.328%
AGRICULTURE	54,299,852	0.273%
PUBLIC LIBRARIES	49,484,931	0.249%
TAXATION	44,493,374	0.224%
LAW ENFORCEMENT	36,370,840	0.183%
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	30,740,254	0.154%
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	5,211,155	0.026%
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	2,319,967	0.012%
SUBSIDIES	1	0.000%
TOTAL	775,106,423	3.89%



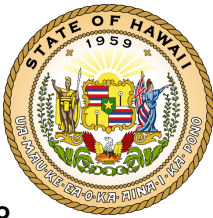


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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!!



On the left, attending the H.P. Baldwin graduation with U.S. Rep. Jill Tokuda, Deputy Managing Director Joshtia Nishita, Sen. Keith-Agaran and Principal Keoni Wilhelm. On the right, attending the UH Maui College graduation with Sen. Keith-Agaran, Councilmember Sugimura, Chancellor Lui Hakaana, IG Luke and Mayor Bissen.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Xia Ota H.P. BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL



A student leader, Xia Ota of Waikapu served as the student body president of Baldwin and led a busy schedule with

sports, clubs, and 4-H throughout her high school career. She plans on attending California Polytechnic State University and will be majoring in architecture. Her long term goal is return back to Maui and open her own firm.

Xia finds her support and guidance from her parents, Ken and Saedene. "They pushed me to do my best without making me feel pressured. I look up to both of them as role models for who I want to be in the future," she said. Though she faced the typical teenage issues along with COVID disrupting her high school years, she took those obstacles and used it as a learning experience to help her grow as a person.

Her advice to other students is to be involved at school. "I was fortunate enough to be involved with a lot of the school events which made it really fun," she said. Xia found that being active, having school spirit, and working with the great teachers at Baldwin really made a huge impact as a student and made her experience enjoyable.

Karissa Ginoza MAUI HIGH SCHOOL



Karissa Ginoza of Kealahani is a Maui High school shining star. A member of the National Honor Society, a National Merit Scholar finalist, a U.S. Presidential Scholar finalist, and valedictorian, all while balancing her other school activities, competitive swimming, and her volunteer work.

A student athlete, she ended her 12 year swimming career being recognized as the Maui Interscholastic League Girl Swimmer of the Year in 2023 and a qualification time for the USA Swimming Futures Championships.

Karissa plans on attending the University of Southern California majoring in mechanical engineering with a pre-med combination. "Through the years, she found her biggest stress-reliever and motivator to be competitive swimming. "Swim practice was an environment where I could transform the frustration and stress of my outside into hunger and ambition. I improved my mental fortitude and built everlasting relationships with my swim mates simultaneously," she said.

Her advice to other students is, "too many people participate in activities solely for their college resumes and fail to take part in activities that they truly enjoy." Instead, Karissa believes in maintaining a balance and following through on passions.