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Aloha,

With the completion of the State’s Reapportionment plan, South/West Kaua’i and Ni’ihau will now be House District 17 and no longer 16. A portion of Ōma’o will now fall into our new district.

Twelve years ago, I had no idea what possibilities would be afforded to our district and what role I would have to make a difference. Seeing what has been accomplished and looking forward to what’s to come, gives me a heart full of gratefulness and appreciation for your confidence in my service.

As you will see in this newsletter, there are many Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for HD 17 and the entire island. One significant appropriation in this year’s supplemental budget bill is \$6,000,000 for an agricultural innovation center in Kekaha. Waimea High School Principal Mahina Anguay, has been a strong advocate for this program and her proposal helped to justify this funding. The idea of an innovation center is an opportunity for Kaua’i schools to establish a wellness center, a partnership with other organizations to teach our next generation about food sovereignty and entrepreneurship, enter into agreements with business and community partners, create classrooms where teachers and students learn and work alongside industrial professionals and to get local food into our schools.

Moreover, \$4,100,000 was appropriated for a new boat ramp at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor to address the increased use of this facility. The naming of the pavilion located at this boat harbor to “Paddy Boy Malama Pavilion” makes the improvements of this Boat Harbor so appropriate. He would have wanted us to take care of it. It was an honor working with Senate President Kouchi’s office to make this appropriation and the many other CIP’s possible.

There were also monumental bills that passed this year. The Legislature’s approval of HB 2511, HD2, SD2, CD1 - a \$600 million appropriation to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) was one of them. These funds provide the Native Hawaiian community an opportunity to begin to heal from the injustices of the past. Additionally, \$10,000,000 has been appropriated for homestead and \$20,000,000 for DHHL lot development. On Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School it was a heartwarming experience to witness families on the DHHL waitlist being offered residential vacant lots within its Pi’ilani Mai Ke Kai Subdivision in Anahola. This huge appropriation will help the development of Hanapepe Hawaiian Homesteads become a reality sooner than expected.

In addition, the Legislature passed a minimum wage bill. It is an all-encompassing bill that took into account the multi-faceted needs of the working families and businesses in Hawai’i. The bill is a balanced proposal that will increase wages in a more phased in approach while also making the earned income tax credit permanent. Both of these factors will greatly help working families during these unprecedented times of economic hardship. A tax refund of \$300 or \$100, depending on income, will be sent to tax filers this year. More detail of these bills are in this newsletter.

As always, I am very fortunate to work alongside our Kaua’i delegation – Senate President Ron Kouchi, Representative Nadine Nakamura, and Representative James Tokioka. We are one ‘ohana. We are Kaua’i.

Mahalo,



Landmark Legislation that passed the Legislature

HB2510 HD2, SD1, CD1 - RELATING TO INCOME - Minimum Wage; Tip Credit

Making the earned income tax credit refundable and permanent and provide a carry forward of nonrefundable credits previously claimed. Increases the State's minimum wage incrementally to \$12.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2022; \$14.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2024; and \$16.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2026; and \$18.00 per hour beginning January 2028. The hourly wage of a tipped employee may be deemed to be increased on account of tips if the employee is paid no less than \$1.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2022; \$1.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2024; and \$1.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2028.

SB514 SD1, HD1, CD2 - RELATING TO THE GENERAL FUND.

Provides a tax refund to the taxpayers of the State and makes deposits to the emergency and budget reserve fund and pension accumulation fund pursuant to article VII, section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution. \$300 for individuals earning less than \$100,000 and couples earning less than \$200,000; or \$100 for individuals earning \$100,000 or more and couples earning \$200,000 or more.

HB2511 HD2, SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

Provides \$600,000,000 to the department of Hawaiian home lands to pursue a multi-pronged approach to eliminating its waitlist. Requires the department of Hawaiian home lands to develop a strategic plan to address applicant preferences.

HB1768 HD2 SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF WATER RIGHTS.

Exempts the instream use of water for traditional and customary kalo cultivation practices from the existing process for disposition of water rights. Recognizes, confirms, and protects traditional and customary and kuleana rights to water, including rights of use, access, delivery, and quality of water.

HB2021, HD1, SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO INCREASING THE PAYMENT AMOUNT FOR THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS' PRO RATA SHARE OF THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

Provides a one-time payment of \$64 million to address the underpayments from 2021 - 2022 and increases the annual payment to \$21.5 million.

SB3289, SD2, HD2, CD1 - RELATING TO RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Establishes the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program, administered by the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Budget and Finance, 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 beginning on an implementation date to be determined by the board. Authorizes an implementation and evaluation study, followed by an implementation strategy and timetable, prior to implementation of the program. Provides a state match of up to \$500 to the accounts of the first 50,000 covered employees who participate in the program for twelve consecutive months after initial enrollment.

HB2512 HD2, SD2, CD2 - RELATING TO 'OHANA ZONES

Extends the 'Ohana Zones Pilot program to 2026; Appropriates \$15,000,000 for temporary shelter, permanent transitional housing, and services for homeless. Services can include medical, social support, and transportation.

SB2862 SD1, HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Department of Education to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

HB2233 HD1, SD2 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

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 who are participating in the First-To-Work program.



Representative Sylvia Luke has been my mentor and colleague the past 12 years. I will miss her dearly and I am forever grateful for all she has taught me and all she has done for our district.



Llewellyn Kaohelauli'i of Poipu was confirmed by the Senate as a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Also pictured is Ms. Terrie Hayes.



The Malama 'Ohana at the Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor monument honoring Paddy Boy Malama - Pictured are Pinky, Taelynn Remata, Lolly and Jackie

The State Budget

Although this year is a supplemental budget year, it has been a very significant year. **HB1600 HD1, SD2, CD1**, adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2021-2023 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of executive branch agencies and programs - \$16.9 billion operating, \$6 billion capital improvement projects and \$50 million in grants-in-aid. Some of the programs in HB1600 HD1, SD2, CD1 are highlighted below:

- \$500,000,000 back into the rainy-day fund, total funds now up to \$750,000,000
- \$4,021,809 annually to increase Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) program allotment level for assistance per family
- \$6,000,000 for the TANF program to procure innovative afterschool service
- \$23,094,000 to fund additional housing subsidies of up to \$500 per month to TANF and TAONF program participants who are participating in the First-to-Work Program
- \$32,500,000 to address several areas including: hard to staff concerns in certain geographical locations, to retain and recruit teachers for special education, and provide Hawaiian language immersion for students.
- \$1,635,000 to revitalize the statewide-career criminal and victim witness program; \$114,500 to establish a victim witness support team to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking
- \$5,000,000 for affordable homeownership
- Restoration of \$5,000,000 major disaster fund

The following projects are just a snapshot of the many CIP's approved by the Legislature for Kaua'i.

Capital Improvement Projects for House District 17 approved by the Legislature

Kekaha Ditch Irrigation System Modification.....	FY23 \$3,500,000
Kekaha Agriculture Innovation Center	FY23 \$6,000,000
Port Allen Harbor Improvements.....	FY23 \$5,000,000
Waimea Canyon Drive/ Kōke'e Road Improvements.....	FY23 \$5,000,000
Polihale State Park.....	FY23 \$3,350,000
Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor new boat ramp.....	FY23 \$4,100,000
Hanapēpē Stadium Improvements.....	FY23 \$3,766,000
Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital.....	FY23 \$1,100,000
Kōloa Elementary School.....	FY23 \$250,000
'Ele'ele Elementary School – Air Conditioning ..	FY23 \$1,500,000
Portable Radio Repeaters for Na Pali	FY23 \$50,000

Other Notable CIP's approved for the Island of Kaua'i

Lihu'e Airport Terminal Improvements.....	FY23 \$10,000,000
Kaumuali'i Highway Improvements, Lihu'e to West of Maluhia Road.....	FY23 \$1,000,000
Guardrail and Shoulder Improvements on State Highways.....	FY23 \$2,000,000
Traffic Operational Improvements to Existing Intersections and Highways	FY23 \$4,300,000
Lump Sum Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation - Kaua'i Region	FY23 \$5,000,000



Newly appointed Land Use Commissioner Michael Yamane with volunteer Ken Morikawa and Rep. Morikawa.



Candid moment with Rep. Nadine Nakamura before the start of Floor Session



Reviewing bills with Leadership – Speaker Scott Saiki, Vice Speaker John Mizuno, and Majority Floor Leader Della Au Belatti

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Grant in Aid Funds and CIP Releases

Grant-In-Aid (GIA) as defined in §42F-101 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes means "an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities." Below are GIA's that were awarded to organizations for the benefit of all Kaua'i.

Homestead Community Development Corporation	\$200,000
Kamāwaelualani Corp.	\$25,000
Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Incorporated	\$327,000
Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Incorporated	\$260,000
Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	\$250,000
Kaua'i Housing Development Corporation	\$150,000
Kaua'i Humane Society	\$223,000
Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance, Inc.	\$240,000
Kuamano I Ke Ala O Makaweli	\$200,000
Mālama Kaua'i	\$300,000
Mālama Pono Health Services	\$200,000
'Ohana Pacific Foundation	\$250,000

The list below highlights *previously approved CIP funds by the Legislature* in recent years for House District 17 and other important island wide projects. The monies for these projects have since been released by Governor Ige in 2021 and 2022 and projects will now be able to commence.

Hanapēpē Health Center	\$1,786,000
State Parks Hazard Mitigation Improvements, Statewide	\$500,000
Kalāheo-Lāwa'i-Ōma'o Water System	\$10,200,000
Waimea-Kekaha Water System	\$1,200,000
Lump Sum Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Improvements And Renovations (CT scan room additional funding)	\$1,197,348
Lump Sum Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Improvements and Renovations (ER department additional funds)	\$605,487
Nursery and Facility Renovations - Lihu'e and Kōke'e	\$150,000
'Aha Hui E Kala, Kaua'i Grant in Aid (GIA)	\$250,000
Rockfall and Flood Mitigation, Statewide (Ko Road)	\$500,000