



REPRESENTATIVE
DeeMORIKAWA
 District 17 * Niihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea



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Aloha,

The 2023 Legislative session has been interesting, yet rewarding. This year, residents expected more transparency policies to evolve. We have a number of initiatives that have passed and for those that did not pass, they were well discussed and we are aware of the solutions needed to address them. We have learned a lot about ethical behavior, and WE need to lead by example to maintain the trust and respect of our constituents.

With 18 freshmen House Representatives, the environment has evolved, and these new individuals bring a wealth of different perspectives and ideas. Working together, we, the veteran legislators, help to guide them through the process in order to bring out the best legislation possible for the residents of Hawai'i. Of utmost importance for our freshmen is protection of our natural resources, food sustainability, and mental health services and facilities. I believe we successfully addressed some of these issues this session.

Being assigned to the House Finance Committee again after 9 years has reminded me of the intricacies of the State Budget. No matter how long I have been here it is still a very complex process, and I am very appreciative of having a team of experienced leaders to guide us through the journey. I'm happy to share that Kaua'i did extremely well with Capital Improvement Projects, which are highlighted in this newsletter. Every year has been rewarding and we are proud to bring improvements that have benefited all of Kaua'i. Waimea Canyon Middle School got their covered playcourt, Waimea High School is in the plan and design process of their new gym, many other backlogged maintenance projects at schools have been addressed with many more to come, our boat harbor facilities have been improved, and our KVMH hospital is visibly being renovated.

Recently released by Governor Josh Green was \$4.1 million to add a new boat ramp at Kikiaola Small Boat

Harbor to help relieve the demand for launch space. We were successful with obtaining funding for the repair and renovation of the Waimea High School perimeter wall, fencing and tennis courts. Additionally, Kekaha School, which is situated in the hottest area of our island, will get their covered play court. This will add to the protection and health of our keiki.

Although there was a surplus of revenue this year, appropriations were carefully reviewed to ensure the ability to remain fiscally sound. We have put aside \$1 billion into the Budget Reserve Fund "Rainy Day Fund" in addition to funding many critical issues dealing with housing, homelessness, mental health and policies to address Hawai'i's high cost of living. There are a lot of State facilities that need major maintenance and repair work and this budget, addresses many of them.

Adjusting to life after a major pandemic, which affected our work force, has shown that we have a lot to do with filling vacancies in order to keep up with the daily maintenance of government facilities and roadways. I ask for your patience and understanding, as we do our best to get the manpower necessary to effectively and efficiently serve the public.

My priority moving forward will be assisting the county with the expansion of the sewer system and solid waste disposal. Too many residents have expressed their need for sewer hookups because the cost for a septic system is very expensive, and that septic is still only a temporary one. As we care about our environment, all of us need to be diligent in protecting our resources.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need assistance, want to share a concern or have any questions.

Mahalo,



The State Budget

HB300, HD1, SD1, CD1 Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. 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 2023 Legislature

Kekaha Elementary School, Kaua'i.....FY24 \$4,400,000
Plans, design, and construction for a covered play court; ground site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

Captain Cook Memorial Park, Kaua'i.....FY24 \$3,250,000
Plans, design, and construction to repair retaining walls, replace fencing and rehabilitate tennis courts at Captain Cook Memorial Park, (A.K.A Waimea H.S. Field), provided that partial matching funds be provided by the County of Kaua'i (\$650,000 S Funds); equipment and appurtenances.

Hanapēpē Chinese, Filipino, and Portuguese Cemetery, Kaua'i.....FY24 \$125,000
Construction for miscellaneous improvements and signage at the Hanapēpē Chinese, Filipino, and Portuguese Cemetery.

Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor, Kaua'iFY24 \$2,100,000
Construction for sand bypassing at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor.

Waimea Canyon Drive/ Kōke'e Road Improvements, Kaua'iFY24 \$16,000,000
Design and construction for paved shoulders, installing guardrails, pavement markings and signs, and other improvements in the vicinity of Mile Post 0 to Mile Post 14. This project is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing and/or reimbursement (E Funds and N Funds).

State Parks Hazard Mitigation Improvements, Lump Sum, ..FY24 \$1,000,000

Waimea Canyon Lookouts, Kaua'iFY25 \$1,000,000
Plans, design, and construction of Waimea Canyon Lookouts, lump sum, hazard mitigation improvements for health and safety (Waimea Canyon Lookout, Pu'u Ka Pele, Pu'u Hinahina)

Lehua Facilities Restoration, Kaua'iY24 \$100,000
Plans, land acquisition, design, and construction to upgrade water system, remove dangerous metals, and install solar panel and battery.

Alakai Swamp Boardwalk Repair, Kaua'iFY24 \$200,000
Construction to finish repair of the Alakai Swamp Boardwalk, equipment, and appurtenances.

Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital, Kaua'iFY25 \$3,000,000
Construction and equipment for the ICU and Medical Surgical Unit expansion.



Fortunate to be back on the House Finance Committee. Also in the photo are Representatives Bertrand Kobayashi and Micah P.K. Aiu.



So nice to see Micah Mizukami, Associate Director of the Center for Oral History, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, along with Ken Morikawa.



House Leadership – Representatives Nadine Nakamura – Majority Leader, Greggor Ilagan – Vice Speaker, Scott Saiki – Speaker of the House



National Conference of State Legislatures Opioid Policy Fellows Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Honored to be part of this esteemed group.



House Leadership and the Freshman Legislators



Great to see Ka'aina Hull, Planning Department Director of the County of Kaua'i and his hardworking staff



House and Senate Leadership certificate signing with delegates from Fukuoka, Japan

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

Lihu'e Airport Improvements, Kaua'i.....FY24 \$56,451,000
Land acquisition, and construction for improvements to terminals, systems, facilities and land acquisition at the Airport (other funds from customer facility charges).

Kaua'i Community College, Kaua'iFY24 \$15,250,000
Design and construction for PV rooftops/canopies, storage batteries, and various energy efficient projects; Plans for due diligence study for student dorms and faculty and staff housing.

Kapa'a Public Housing Project, Kaua'iFY24 \$2,000,000
Plans and design for 114 housing units at the Kapa'a Housing Project.

Kawaikini Charter School, Kaua'i FY24 \$340,000

Samuel Mahelona Hospital, Kaua'i FY24-25 \$20,200,000
Clinical and emergency department expansion, infrastructure, planning and design for master plan, and plans design and construction of a psychiatric unit.

**Notable Bills -
Rep. Morikawa as First Primary Introducer**

HB 884, HD1, SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO TRAVELING TEAM PHYSICIANS.

Traveling Team Physicians; Sports Teams; Licensure; Exemption. Exempts from state licensure requirements out-of-state traveling team physicians who accompany a sports team to Hawai'i, under certain conditions. Effective upon approval.

HB 1359, HD2, SD2 CD1 – RELATING TO HEMP. Repeals redundant regulations on hemp production to reduce costs for the State and Hawai'i farmers. Amends the hemp law in a manner that recognizes the unique constraints of Hawai'i farmers, while protecting human health. Allows licensed hemp producers to sell hemp biomass. Requires transparency in labeling of hemp products to identify the percentage of Hawai'i-grown hemp or hemp from outside the State in all hemp products. Establishes the Hawai'i Hemp Task Force. Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to hire a hemp consultant to recommend infrastructure improvements on each island. Requires and appropriates moneys for the Department of Health to hire or consult a toxicologist or consultant familiar with hemp industry standards for the purpose of setting defined action limits or exposure levels for different types of hemp products. Extends the State's hemp processor law through 7/1/2027. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, and shall be repealed on July 1, 2027.



Bill signing ceremony with Governor Josh Green, M.D.

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"Pledge to Our Keiki" Earth Day photo op with House and Senate colleagues and the President of Palau, Surangel Whipps, Jr.

Grant in Aid Funds and CIP Releases

Below are Grants-In-Aid (GIA's) that were awarded to organizations for the benefit of all Kaua'i.

Neighborhood Housing Comm. Dev. Corp. (PAL Kaua'i)	\$200,000
Hale Puna - Gulick-Rowell Mission House Restoration	\$400,000
Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity	\$225,000
The Kaua'i Foodbank, Inc.	\$215,000
Wilcox Health Foundation	\$350,000
Nāmāhāna Education Foundation	\$125,000

The list below are some of the *previously approved CIP funds by the Legislature* in 2022/2023 for House District 17. The monies for these projects have since been released and projects will now be able to commence.

Waimea High School Gymnasium and Athletic Facilities (Governor Ige)	\$27,000,000
Kekaha Ditch Irrigation System Modification (Governor Ige)	\$3,500,000
Waimea Canyon Drive/Kōke'e Road Phase 2A (Governor Ige)	\$1,700,000
Kōloa Elementary School (Governor Ige)	\$932,000
Kikīaola Small Boat Harbor New Boat Ramp (Governor Green)	\$4,100,000
'Ele'ele Elementary School – Air Conditioning (Governor Green)	\$1,500,000