

inclusive and collaborative, and consequently much more transparent, and that's been a good thing for the process, for all of us in the House and for the general public."

For Representative Takayama, who is also a member of the Finance Committee and the public safety point person for the committee, the budget process was also instructive and gratifying. On the House floor, he noted the proposed funding in the budget would advance public safety in several significant ways.

"This budget appropriates \$5M to the state Department of Public Safety to begin planning and site selection for the relocation of the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and expansion of our prison capacity to accommodate the return of the 15-hundred inmates now housed on the Mainland." Takayama said.

"In addition, this measure would appropriate \$1.5M for planning and design of a new Maui Community Correctional Center. The replacement of OCCC and construction of a new Maui jail were identified by the Director of Public Safety as the two top priorities of our State's correctional system, during a legislative briefing last month."

Representative Ohno, who is vice chair of the House Education Committee and a former elementary school teacher, pointed to appropriations supporting education.

"I'm proud of this budget that is focused on putting students first," Ohno said. "We've invested additional resources into early education classrooms and the Weighted Student Formula to support our teachers and students. In addition, we've provided funding to restore and lengthen service hours at public libraries on the Neighbor Islands. This budget works to ensure that Hawaii students have the foundation and funding for the high quality education system they deserve."

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