



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN

HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · 2015 SESSION

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## Aloha Neighbors,

The 2015 legislative session adjourned on May 7 and the purpose of this newsletter is to inform you about funding included in the State Budget as detailed on page two. Education is still the State's top priority accounting for over \$1.5 billion or 23% of the general funds. I'm also excited to report



that \$70 million in new projects to benefit our community received funding as explained in the article to the right of this column.

This newsletter also highlights some of the important measures that have become law or are poised to become law in the areas of agriculture, economic/workforce development, education, fiscal transparency, Hawaiian Affairs, health, and human services. The legislature took up many important matters this year including creating a statewide system of medical marijuana dispensaries, extending the rail tax surcharge for another five years, and allowing Maui public hospitals to pursue a public-private partnership.

It is my honor to continue to serve you. Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

## Mahalo,

Jo Jordan,  
District 44 Representative

## Community Receives \$70 Million in New Projects

I am glad to report that our district is fortunate to be receiving funds for a number of projects that will improve our community. The additional funding provided in this year's biennium budget for Waianae Elementary and High Schools, Farrington Highway Improvements between Honokai Hale and Hakimo Road, UH West Oahu, and the Waianae Small Boat Harbor builds upon initial funding included in the budget in prior years as outlined below. Furthermore, the budget includes an infusion of funds to finance affordable rental housing statewide to begin to address the shortage of affordable housing. Below is a list of projects that were funded by the Legislature:

- › **\$500,000 for improvements along Farrington Highway between Honokai Hale and Hakimo Road** for alternative congestion relief and/or safety improvements. This is in addition to the \$7.5 million included in the budget in 2012.
- › **\$750,000 for construction for an Administration Building for Waianae Elementary School.** This is in addition to the \$500,000 in FY13 for plans and design and \$4.5 million in FY14 included in the budget in 2013.
- › **\$2 million for construction to renovate, expand, and/or connect two existing Searider Productions Media Buildings (SP and T) at Waianae High School.** This is in addition to the \$500,000 in FY14 for plans and design included in the budget in 2013.
- › **\$24 million for design, construction, and equipment for the Allied Health and Administration Building for UH West Oahu.** This is in addition to the \$995,000 for plans and design in the 2012 budget, \$11.8 million for design and construction in the 2013 budget, and \$17 million for design and construction in the 2014 budget for the Allied Health Building.
- › **\$2.5 million for design and construction to replace piers at the Waianae Small Boat Harbor.** This is in addition to the \$500,000 for improvements included in the 2011 budget and the \$2 million for construction for road, parking repairs and perimeter fencing on the western end of the boat harbor included in the 2014 budget.
- › **\$250,000 for plans and design for flood control and drainage improvements to Eku Stream in Makaha.** This is the first phase of one of the structural projects recommended in the Makaha Valley Flood Mitigation Study funded by a bill I sponsored in 2012.
- › **\$40 million for construction to provide an infusion of funds to finance additional affordable rental housing statewide.** ◀

# THE STATE BUDGET

The Legislature formulated an executive budget that is fiscally responsible by appropriating \$6.58 billion in general funds and \$12.87 billion in all other means of financing for FY16 and \$6.83 billion in general funds and \$13.3 billion in all additional financing means for FY17. Funding highlights include:

## EDUCATION

- ▶ \$2.4 million for FY16 and \$5 million for FY17 for the **weighted student formula**.



Rep. Jordan with **Ja-zjah Yahiku-Young**, distinguished finalist of the Boys and Girls Clubs – State of Hawaii’s 2015 Youth of the Year of the Waianae Clubhouse, and **Lana Keamo**, Waianae Boys and Girls Clubhouse Director.

- ▶ \$3.6 million for each fiscal year for **incentivizing teacher recruitment and retention** for hard-to-fill positions.
- ▶ \$2 million for FY16 for **skilled nursing services to students**.
- ▶ \$7.4 million for FY16 for **school bus contracts**.
- ▶ \$5.1 million for FY16 for **school food service programs**.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

- ▶ \$7.2 million for FY16 and \$6 million for FY17 for the **per pupil adjustment**.

## HOUSING

- ▶ \$50 million in trust funds for each fiscal year for the **rental housing trust fund**.

## HUMAN SERVICES

- ▶ \$2.6 million for each fiscal year for **general assistance payments**.

- ▶ \$3 million for FY16 for Hawaii Public Housing Authority **state family and state elderly housing facilities**.

## TRANSPORTATION

- ▶ \$921,000 in each fiscal year in special funds for the **Oahu zipper lane**.

## DEFENSE

- ▶ \$778,000 in general funds and \$1.6 million in other federal funds for FY16 for the **Veteran’s Cemetery**.
- ▶ \$49,190 for FY16 and \$95,000 for FY17 for the **Office of Homeland Security**.

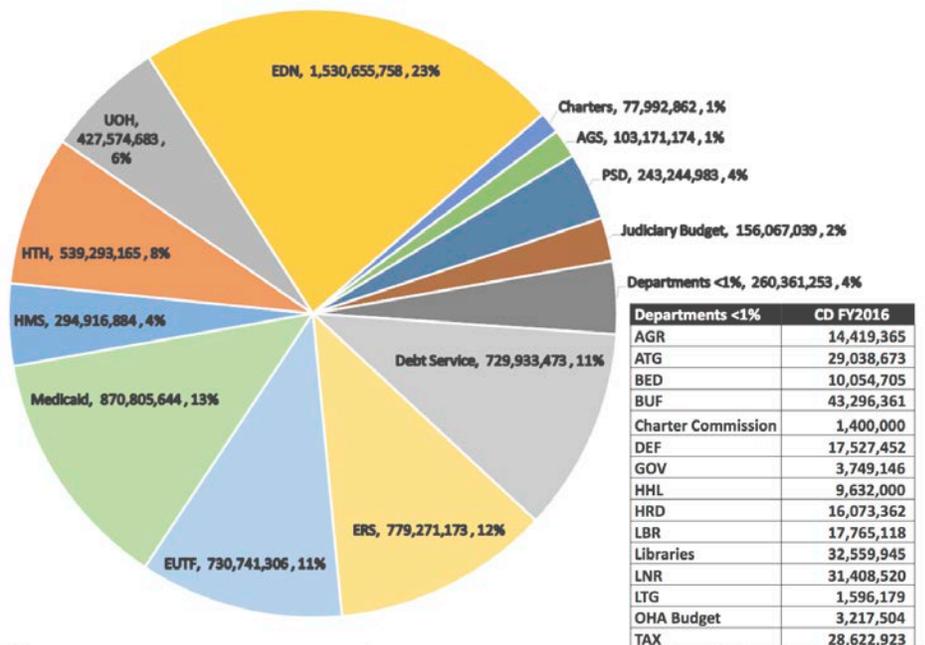
## PUBLIC SAFETY

- ▶ \$3.16 million for FY16 and \$2.74 million for FY17 for **inmate relocation costs** associated with Halawa Correctional Facility repair and improvement project.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- ▶ \$380,000 for FY16 for **statewide sexual assault services**.
- ▶ \$700,000 in revolving funds for each fiscal year for the **criminal history record improvement program**.

HB500 CD1 FY2016 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS



Departments <1%	CD FY2016
AGR	14,419,365
ATG	29,038,673
BED	10,054,705
BUF	43,296,361
Charter Commission	1,400,000
DEF	17,527,452
GOV	3,749,146
HHL	9,632,000
HRD	16,073,362
LBR	17,765,118
Libraries	32,559,945
LNR	31,408,520
LTG	1,596,179
OHA Budget	3,217,504
TAX	28,622,923

# TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2015 LEGISLATURE

## FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

- ▶ **Non-General Funds (HB707):** Repeals and transfers the unencumbered balances of various non-general funds and accounts as recommended by the auditor.
- ▶ **Procurement (HB1292):** Extends the procurement task force to identify and propose amendments, if any, to the procurement code that may better promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and impartiality in the procurement of public works construction projects, specifically regarding statewide past performance standards and processes.
- ▶ **Tax Reports (SB92):** Requires reports on income patterns for Hawaii businesses, the status of the tax system modernization project, and general excise tax exemptions.



**Rep. Jordan with Edith "Nalani" Flynn**, who was recognized as an outstanding individual of the Hawaii Rotary District 5000 on the occasion of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the State of Hawaii.

## ECONOMIC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ **Workforce Development (HB696):** Establishes the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Advisory Board to help increase and strengthen the healthcare workforce in the State and allow the director of labor and industrial relations to establish additional workforce advisory boards.
- ▶ **Small Business Innovation (HB1069):** Expands Hawaii small business innovation research program to provide a match for prototyping and commercialization awardees to diversify Hawaii's economy and provide a framework for people to create their own high tech companies.
- ▶ **Employment Agreements (HB1090):** Prohibits noncompete and nonsolicit clauses in employment contracts relating to employees of a technology business in order to preserve and provide jobs for employees in this sector as well as opportunities to establish new companies and new job opportunities in the State.

## EDUCATION

- ▶ **Preschool (SB64):** Appropriates \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors Program, which is Hawaii's school readiness program that provides critical subsidies for low to moderate income families sending their children to a licensed preschool to prepare them for kindergarten.

- ▶ **Public Charter Schools (HB1251):** Requires state departments, upon the closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning programs that are affiliated with a public charter school.
- ▶ **Dual Credit Programs (SB374):** Increase the likelihood that Hawaii high school students will successfully attend and graduate from college by allowing broader student participation in dual credit programs in which students can earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.

## HEALTH

- ▶ **Hawaii Keiki Healthy and Ready to Learn (HB1440):** Appropriates \$1 million for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program, which is designed to improve the access and quality of health services available to schoolchildren by coordinating and expanding existing efforts.
- ▶ **Hawaii ABLE Savings Program (HB119):** Establishes the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program by authorizing the Director of Finance to establish savings accounts that empower individuals with a disability and their families to save private funds to support the individual with a disability.
- ▶ **Stroke Care (HB589):** Requires the Department of Health to participate in a stroke system of care in order to increase survival and decrease incidents of disabilities associated with stroke.

## HUMAN SERVICES

- ▶ **Kupuna Care (SB964):** Appropriates \$3 million for the kupuna care program in order to address the needs of Hawaii's aging population and issues arising from those needs.
- ▶ **General Assistance Payments (SB1107):** Appropriates \$2.5 million to the Department of Human Services for the General Assistance Program to address budgetary shortfalls in order to maintain monthly maximum general assistance payments for clients.
- ▶ **Interim Assistance Reimbursement (HB1432):** Establishes the interim assistance reimbursement special fund, into which



**Rep. Jordan thanking veterans of the Military Intelligence Service**, honored for their courage and sacrifice in service of our nation.

# TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2015 LEGISLATURE

reimbursements received from the U.S. Social Security Administration will be deposited for state-funded financial assistance payments and programs to assist individuals to qualify for supplemental security income.

## AGRICULTURE

- ▶ **Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices (HB573):** Establishes and appropriates \$300,000 for the Hawaii Good Agricultural Practices Program to develop and support good agricultural practices for Hawaii farms growing agricultural food products.
- ▶ **Traditional Farming (SB434):** Includes traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming to the Hawaii state plan objectives and policies for the economy.
- ▶ **Farm to School Program (SB376):** Establishes and appropriates \$75,000 for the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator position.

## HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

- ▶ **Affordable Housing on Hawaiian Home Lands (HB142):** Amends the requirements for issuing affordable housing credits for housing units developed by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

- ▶ **Hawaiian Rights Training Course (HB207):** Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights and requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend the training course.
- ▶ **Hawaiian Fishponds (HB393):** Waive Department of Health water quality certification requirement for restoration, repair, and operation of a Hawaiian loko i'a (fishponds) that are permitted under the Statewide Programmatic General Permit process, administered by DLNR. <



Rep. Jordan congratulating Nainoa Thompson and members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of Hokule'a.

## Connect with Rep. Jordan



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