



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44 · WAIANAE, MAKAHA, MAKUA, MAILI · 2014 SESSION

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## ALOHA NEIGHBORS,

The 2014 legislative session adjourned on May 1 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 \$1.4 billion or 22% of the general funds. I'm also excited to report that over \$61 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 education, employment/economy, housing, health, public safety, and Hawaiian Affairs. The legislature took up many important matters this year including making kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year, increasing the minimum wage, and supporting our kupuna.

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 Benefits from Over \$61 Million in New Projects

The State Budget includes over \$2 billion in funding for capital improvement projects (CIP). Highlights of the CIP budget for the biennium include nearly \$700 million in appropriations for the DOE to address school improvements, upgrades, and renovations and over \$110 million to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation for critical repairs and upgrades for the state hospital system, as well as \$11.5 million to protect vital watersheds. Other CIP highlights include:

**\$40 million** for construction for a **PM Contraflow lane on Interstate Route H-1** from the vicinity of Radford Drive to the vicinity of Waikele. This is in addition to the \$15 million appropriated last year.

**\$500,000** for plans, design, construction and equipment **for an environmental assessment and to construct a fence line in Makaha Valley to protect the watershed.**

**\$17 million** for design and construction for the **Allied Health Building at UH West Oahu.** This is in addition to the \$11.8 million appropriated last year.

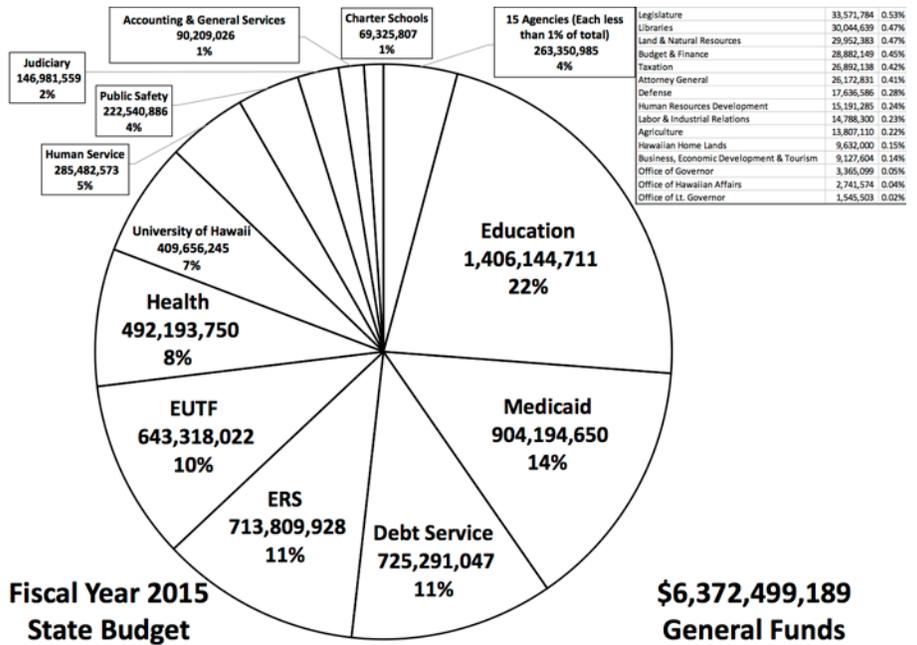
**\$2 million** for plans and design for the new **Science, Technology, and Creative Media Facility at UH West Oahu.**

**\$2 million** for construction for road, parking repairs and perimeter fencing on the western end of the **Waianae Small Boat Harbor.**



# THE STATE BUDGET

The Legislature approved the State Budget for the upcoming FY2014-2015 appropriating \$6.372 billion in general funds and \$12.147 billion in all means of financing. In January, there was an \$844 million dollar surplus balance in the state coffers. But in March, the Council on Revenues reduced revenue projections for the current and next fiscal bienniums —amounting to \$189.5 million less in FY2013-2014 and \$491.8 million less in FY2014-2015. As stewards of the taxpayers' money, the Legislature has an obligation to spend wisely on today's needs while ensuring that there are sufficient funds to address future challenges. In sum, the State Budget represents a balance among the needs of the beneficiaries of state government, the availability of projected future revenues, and the preservation of adequate reserves. The House Finance Chair characterized the budget as measured and prudent. Other funding highlights include:



Legislature	33,571,784	0.53%
Libraries	30,044,639	0.47%
Land & Natural Resources	29,952,383	0.47%
Budget & Finance	28,882,149	0.45%
Taxation	26,892,138	0.42%
Attorney General	26,172,831	0.41%
Defense	17,658,585	0.28%
Human Resources Development	15,151,285	0.24%
Labor & Industrial Relations	14,788,300	0.23%
Agriculture	13,807,110	0.22%
Hawaiian Home Lands	9,632,000	0.15%
Business, Economic Development & Tourism	9,127,604	0.14%
Office of Governor	3,365,009	0.05%
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	2,741,574	0.04%
Office of Lt. Governor	1,545,503	0.02%

## Agriculture

**\$400,000** for operating and equipment costs **for the pesticides branch.**

## Defense

**\$227,200 for the Homeland Security Office** to coordinate security planning and preparedness activities with all agencies.

## Education

**\$15 million for the weighted student formula**, which are funds that are distributed to schools based on enrollment and are spent at the principals' discretion.

**\$3 million for a pre-kindergarten program**, which will be coordinated by the DOE and the Executive Office on Early Learning in the Office of the Governor.

**\$1.925 million for the Strive HI performance system**, which supports the lowest-performing 15% of schools.

**\$2 million to support school athletic activities.**

## Charter Schools

**\$134,802 for charter school per-pupil allotment.**

**\$2.8 million for the Charter School Commission operating and administration costs.**

## Human Services

A total of **\$8.5 million to increase foster care funding.**

**\$500,000 for the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Initiative (REACH) program** to provide a framework for intermediate school after-school programs.

**\$1.5 million to continue the Housing First homeless initiative program.**

## Land and Natural Resources

**\$650,000 for watershed protection.**

**\$1.3 million for information management system upgrade** in the Public Land Management division.

**\$577,000 for equipment, supplies, and other current expenses to support Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement officers.**

## University of Hawaii

**\$600,000 for a Model Indigenous Serving University** to be expended on programs that would help native Hawaiian students succeed in fields in which they have not traditionally been successful.

**A total of \$4 million for 89 campus operation and growth positions at the newly constructed University of Hawaii-West Oahu campus.**

# TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2014 LEGISLATURE

## Education

### Kindergarten, SB2768 CD1 (Act 76)

Makes kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year, unless otherwise exempt.

### Charter Schools, HB1745 CD1

Builds on the progress made by Act 130 of 2012 which established a new charter school law resulting in Hawaii's charter school system leaping to fourteenth place in the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools' rankings.

### Special Education, SB2134 CD1

Amends various sections of chapter 302A, HRS, relating to Department of Education schools, to comply with the requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.



**ABOVE:** Rep Jordan with Peter Ganaban, a Waianae resident and one of the state's youngest union leaders, who was honored along with the Laborers Union for its diamond jubilee.

## Employment/Economy

### Minimum Wage, SB2609 CD1

Increases minimum wage to \$7.75 per hour beginning on 1/1/15, \$8.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/16, \$9.25 per hour beginning on 1/1/17, and \$10.10 per hour beginning on 1/1/18.

### Public Employees, HB1966 CD1

Requires the State Auditor to review the current civil service exemption process and recommend procedures, guidelines, and criteria to ensure that the civil service exemption process is used appropriately and only in extraordinary circumstances to ensure fiscal integrity, responsibility, and efficiency in the state and county governments.

## Economy, SB2981 CD1

Amends the state plan policies, objectives, and priority guidelines to promote and encourage innovative activity in the economy.

## Supporting Our Kupuna

### Funding for Kupuna, SB2346 CD1

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for community-based services and programs for older persons and requires the Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on long-term care.

### Fall Prevention, HB2053 CD1

Establishes a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch in order to address falls and fall-related injuries by elderly persons in the State.

### Unlicensed Contractors, HB570 (Act 32)

Increases the fine against unlicensed contractors who commit licensing violations against elders.

## Housing and Agriculture

### Rental Housing Trust Fund, SB2542 CD1

Restores the allocation of conveyance tax collections to the rental housing trust fund to 50% beginning July 1, 2014.

### Infrastructure Bonds, HB2448 CD1

Authorizes HHFDC to issue bonds for infrastructure for land owned by an eligible developer for the construction of affordable housing.

### Agricultural Enterprises, HB748 CD1

Proposes an amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to authorize the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds to assist agricultural enterprises on any type of land.

## Health

### Clean and Sober Homes, HB2224 CD1

Establishes a registry for clean and sober homes within the Department of Health.

### Adult Dental Benefits, HB1752 CD1

Appropriates funds to provide adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

### At-risk Youth, HB2037 CD1

Appropriates continued funding for Project Kealahou which offers services to at-risk youth and their families within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health.

# TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2014 LEGISLATURE

## Public Safety

### Domestic Violence, HB1993 CD1

Requires a police officer to make reasonable inquiry of witnesses and the family or household member upon whom physical abuse or harm is believed to have been inflicted and order a no-contact period of forty-eight hours and makes the commission of an act of physical abuse in the presence of a family or household member who is a minor under the age of fourteen a class C felony.

### Cybersecurity, HB2003 CD1

Establishes the Hawaii cybersecurity, economic, education, and infrastructure security coordinator to assist with the development of methods to improve the State's cybersecurity and cyber resiliency.

### Sexual Assault, HB2034 CD1

Removes the statute of limitations for criminal actions arising from sexual assault in the first and second degrees and continuous sexual assault of a minor under the age of fourteen years.

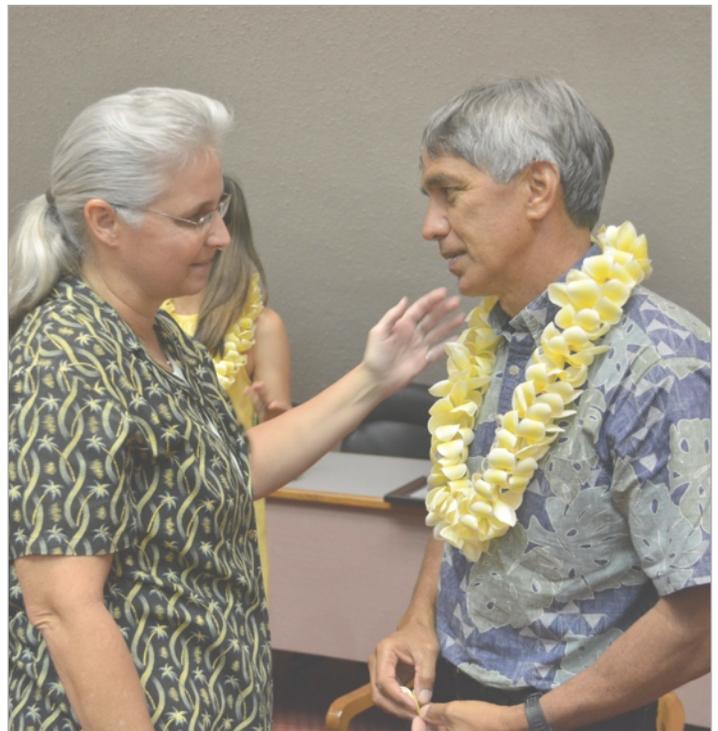
## Hawaiian Affairs

### Board of Land and Natural Resources, HB1618 CD1 & SB2874 HD1

Requires that at least one member of the board of land and natural resources, other than the member appointed for having a background in conservation and natural resources, have demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

### Endangered Species Recovery Committee, SB2875 HD1 (Act 53)

Amends the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by requiring inclusion of a member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.



**ABOVE:** Rep. Jordan with Nainoa Thompson of the Hokulea congratulated for their Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage.

### Health Planning, HB1616 SD1

Updates the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives for health to include a dual commitment to addressing Native Hawaiian health and eliminating health disparities.

## Connect with Rep. Jordan



### Official Website

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>  
click on "Legislators"  
click on "Jordan"



### Contact Information

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