



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JO JORDAN

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

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## Aloha Neighbors,

As reflected in the column to the right, I recently held a legislative town hall meeting, where I discussed funds allocated in the state budget that would directly benefit our community. I was pleased that community members turned out and provided feedback in an open, public forum.



Since the town hall meeting, I have had the honor of organizing an affordable housing site visit along the Leeward Coast as showcased inside this newsletter. Government officials who participated appreciated the opportunity to see the units and talk with representatives from each facility as well as residents.

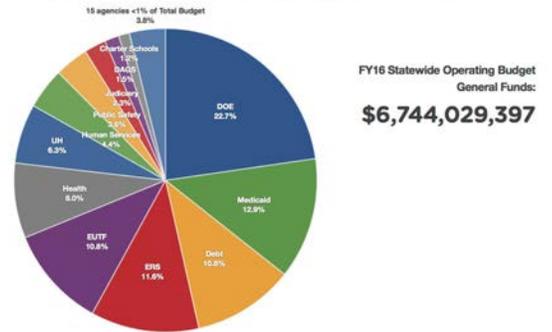
During the interim, my colleagues and I on the House Finance Committee will be conducting site visits throughout the state, which will include a visit to Hookele Elementary School in Kapolei where the DOE will present the design build method used in building this new school. Additionally, I am planning on attending the Council of State Governments (CSG) West Annual Meeting in Vail, Colorado as well as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit in Seattle, Washington. A report will be provided in a future newsletter.

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

## Budget Overview



## Town Hall Meeting a Success

On June 25, I had the pleasure of hosting a town hall meeting where I went over the budget and bills passed during the 2015 legislative session. The entire general funds allocation for fiscal year (FY) 2016 was \$6,744,029,397, with the Department of Education receiving the largest amount of funds at 22.7%, followed by Medicaid at 12.9% of funds and the Hawaii Employee's Retirement System (ERS) at 11.6% of funds. Some notable Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) that I helped secure for our district include \$8,480,160 for our schools in 2015, \$250,000 for improvements to Eku Stream in Makaha, and \$40 million for affordable rental housing statewide.

After I presented the legislature's accomplishments, I opened the floor to community members to ask questions and voice feedback. The surveys I received from community members indicate that the information presented was relevant and useful. Additional comments reflected appreciation and an interest in doing this meeting again whenever possible. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their evenings to make the town hall meeting a success!



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITE VISIT

I organized an affordable housing site visit for a group of representatives on the Finance and Housing committees as well as directors and liaisons from the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) and the City and County of Honolulu. On June 30, we toured the Green Homes at Lualualei, the Mā'ili III Self-Help Housing Project, and Kulia i ka Nu'u, formerly known as Kahikolu.

The Green Homes at Lualualei are a mixed-housing project, with market-value houses facing Farrington Highway and affordable houses toward the back of the parcel. The houses are a mix of one- and two-story houses, of which some have open-air ground levels and some have enclosed ground levels.

After touring the Green Homes at Lualualei, we drove to Mā'ili, where we were greeted by Claudia Shay, the Director of the Self-Help Housing Corporation of



**Rep. Jordan with Representatives Onishi (center) and Yamashita (right), speaking with tour guide intern and University of Hawaii – West Oahu student Ana Lillis.**

Hawaii. The homes at the Mā'ili III Self-Help Housing Project were planned and funded by Claudia, who selects residents based on need. Claudia explained that

the residents, most of whom are from the Waianae Coast, are collectively responsible for building not only their own homes, but their neighbors' homes as well. As a result, some of the young residents have been able to use their experience to further their career in the field of construction. Claudia also provides the new homeowners a six-week course that teaches families about home ownership and budgeting around a mortgage.

We took a tour of the Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center at Mā'ili and sat down for a talk-story lunch with Ka Pua Initiative Director Kalei Kailihiwa and Community Learning Center



**Rep. Jordan and the tour group speaking with Claudia Shay (second from left), affordable housing developer and builder. Claudia has helped to develop and build hundreds of affordable housing homes for Hawai'i families since 1984.**

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITE VISIT

Director Paula-Ann Burgess. Both Kalei and Paula spoke about the history and fruition of the Ka Pua Initiative and the visions they have based on community input for the future of the Community Learning Center for the Waianae Coast.

After our lunch at the Community Learning Center, we visited Kulia i ka Nu'u, formerly known as Kahikolu, to tour the transitional units and the U.S. Vets facility, which is to transition into permanent rental units by the end of July.

It was an honor to meet and talk to residents along the Waianae Coast regarding their experiences with affordable housing, self-help housing, and community-grown initiatives such as the Ka Pua Initiative. Our community has made some landmark strides in how we talk about and act upon the problems that we face. Even though the conversations can be difficult to have, I look forward to being part of them with you in the future. ◀



Representatives tour the men's and women's dormitory at Kulia i ka Nu'u, formerly known as Kahikolu.



The **Mā'ili III Self Help Housing Project** comprises 72 3- and 4-bedroom units with options for accessible options such as ramps and modified bathrooms.



**Paula-Ann Burgess** and **Kalei Kailihiwa** spoke to representatives about community-based learning initiatives at a roundtable discussion at the Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center at Maili.



**Rep. Jordan** and city officials speak with **Gladys Peraro** (right), Executive Director of U.S. Vets Waianae. Kulia i ka Nu'u will transition into permanent rental units by the end of July.

## Representative Jo Jordan

House of Representatives

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## Connect with Rep. Jordan



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