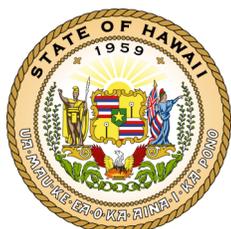




Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813



**Representative
Justin H. Woodson**



**2019 Community Update
Representative
Justin H. Woodson**



Aloha,

*Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.
Please enjoy this newsletter. These are some of the issues the
Legislature will be working on this session. Please feel free to
contact me any time with any questions, comments, or con-
cerns.*

Mahalo,

Justin Woodson

What's to Come in 2019



Representative Woodson with the students from across the state attending the Secondary Student Conference

Hawai'i Promise Program — Expansion

HB 1277 establishes funds to implement the University of Hawaii Promise Program (HPP) statewide. The expanded Hawaii Promise Program would provide scholarships for unmet cost needs of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawaii system or any community college campus. Because of the program's success thus far, we feel that it's time to extend the program at to all 4-year University of Hawaii campuses who meet certain eligibility criteria as well.

Public Preschool — Expansion

This year I am fully supporting EOEL's efforts to expand high quality early education for our keiki. Early learning programs are critical for brain development and set the foundation for life long learning. EOEL works with families and communities, connecting policies, programs, and funding in relation to health, safety, early childhood education, and school readiness and success. These bills would provide funding for office support and program expansion.

Public Charter Schools

Students learn in varying ways, and our public charter schools provide an alternative to the traditional classroom setting. Due to the lack of adequate funding, this year I introduced HB 246 to support infrastructure costs and maintenance for charter schools. This proposal would allow a more equitable public school system.

Lower Higher Education Committee Merge

For the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, the House of Representatives decided to combine Lower & Higher Education committee together. The idea is to have a seamless continuum from Pre-K to college. After the two year period, we will assess if it continues to make sense to keep the committees together or separate them again. Our office is also now responsible for putting together the budgets for the subject matter governmental entities, which include, Public Charter Schools, Executive Office on Early Learning, Hawaii Public Libraries, and the University of Hawai'i System. This is a tremendous responsibility and opportunity for our office to be more intimately involved in helping shape the operational budgets for roughly 40% of the total state budget.



Opening Day at the Hawaii State Legislature with members of ILWU

Teacher Salary Increase

HB 1275 would provide our public school teachers who have completed a year's satisfactory work with an annual incremental increase in salary. This is to better ensure our teachers stay with in the profession by providing continued pay increases up to the maximum salary. This approach will also help address our teacher shortage challenges as not only are enough are coming in, but qualified teachers are also leaving.

Community Updates

Kahului Elementary

Following the devastating fire at Kahului Elementary School, myself and others have been working with the DOE to expedite the repair and replacement of damaged structures. Also I'm pleased to report the new STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) building is in progress.

Homelessness (update)

With the work of the fantastic team at Ka Hale A Ke Ola Resource Center (KHAKO), a new building in Central Maui is being constructed, dedicated to serving the needs of the homeless in our community. These microunits are especially unique in that they were built at one-third of regular costs. This has allowed the center more capacity to provide emergency and transitional shelter and has been instrumental in stabilizing the population. With a strong grasp on this issue, KHAKO has informed us that the only growing persistent demographic are the chronic homeless. **Chronic homelessness** are individuals who have experienced **homelessness** for at least a year's — or repeatedly — while struggling with disabling conditions such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

Affordable Housing

The historic package passed last year was a great first step. As one avenue to meaningfully addressing this, this year I'm working with Chair of the Housing Committee in the Senate, Senator Stanley Chang who has introduced a robust public housing bill. Steep housing rates have subsequently led to the lowest homeownership in the nation. The ALOHA Homes Bill is based on a Singaporean low-subsidy model, and would produce a steady supply of housing that would match demand, all while addressing constituent concerns that include affordability, preserving our agricultural land, and taxpayer subsidies. I'd like to re-articulate my strong support for this bill. Not only is this a creative solution, but I believe we'll be able to reach demand within a relatively short period of time if implemented properly.

Kupuna Care

This session I am co-sponsoring several bills; these would provide funding for the Kupuna Care Program, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Kupuna Caregivers, and the Healthy Aging Partnership Program, all in effort to further support the health and well-being of our Kupuna. I am pleased to report these bills that would appropriate a total of \$14,705,000 for kupuna health care initiatives. We are also considering a palliative care proposal. Culturally, the care of our kupuna does not necessarily align with the same standards found in different states. This bill would establish the culturally competent palliative care pilot program in order to gather health care data, and have that data brought back to the legislature.

Kahului Airport CONRAC

The new Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) consolidates all rental car companies servicing the Airport, freeing up space from 895 to 2,250 parking stalls. The \$340 million being used for this project is being funded by the Customer Facility Charge, which means no taxpayer funds are going towards this project. The project is on schedule, and expected to open May of this year. The tram system that transports customers between the rental car facility and the terminal is also projected to finish on time.



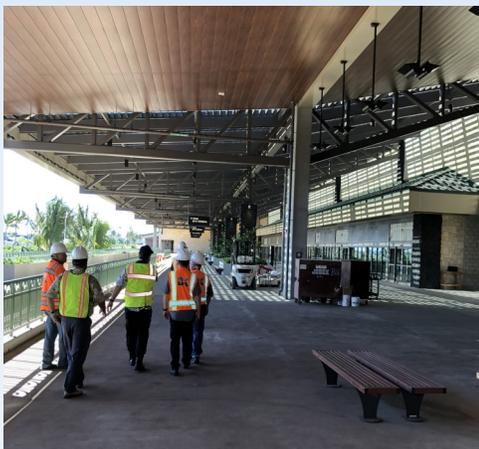
Rep. Woodson visiting an EOEL program



New STEAM building at Kahului Elementary



Construction on the new STEAM building at Kahului Elementary



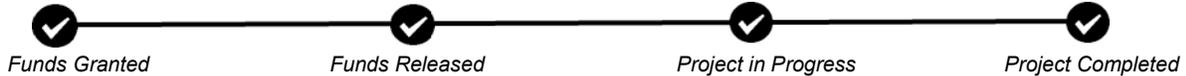
Tram construction at Kahului Airport

Central Maui Capital Improvement Projects Update

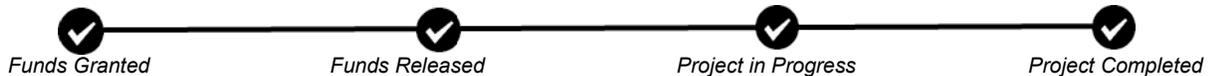
It can be challenging to keep up with various projects that are happening in the community. It's important for our office to keep track and collaborate with key figures to make sure projects ultimately become a reality. Here are some we are actively engaging. I also will be requesting funding for the following CIP requests this year:

\$140 million for Central Maui Middle School (NEW)

\$22.7 Million for **Maui Memorial Medical Center**: Equipment upgrades to the Imaging Laboratory and the Oncology Department



\$950,000 for **Easter Seals, Maui**: Construction of Phase 2 to meet increased demands



\$2.5 Million for **Kahului Civic Center Mixed Used Project**: Construction for a new bus hub



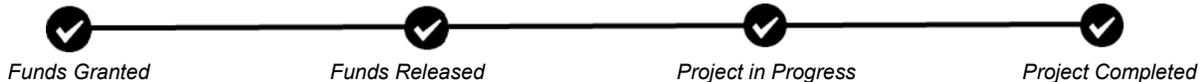
\$1 Million for **Central Maui Regional Sport Complex, Final Phase**: Funds for Phase 5, the final phase, for the installation of lighting and netting to improve overall safety



\$9 Million for **Maui High School, Wrestling Room and Band Room**: Construction, renovations, and expansion the weight training, wrestling, and band facilities



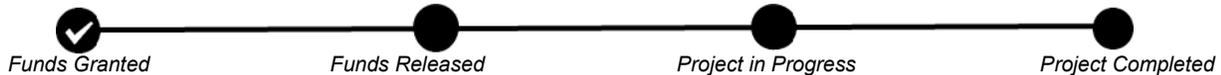
\$140,000 for **Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.**: Construction of various facilities



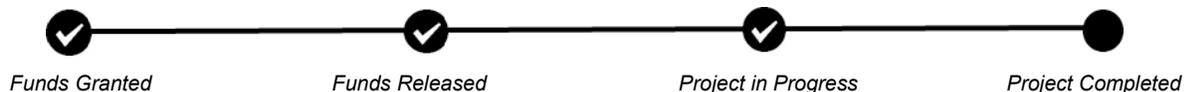
\$1.5 Million for **Kahului Elementary, Maui Waena Intermediate, Lihikai Elementary, and Maui High School**: Implementation of air conditioning/cooling systems



\$1.75 Million for **Maui Arts & Cultural Center**: Completion of a community stage and lawn area



\$7 Million for **UH Maui: Food Innovation Center**: Renovation of the kitchen for the Maui Food Innovation Center program



\$1.7 Million for **Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, Inc.**: Construction of microunits housing for the homeless

