

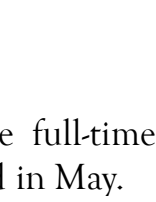


SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN

Hawaii State Senate District 5

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WAILUKU • WAIHE'E • KAHULUI



A MESSAGE FROM GIL

Aloha Kakou,

It's been refreshing to be home full-time since the Regular Session of 2017 ended in May.

I had the honor of delivering the commencement address at the University of Hawaii Maui College graduation. I spoke about the changes occurring on the Valley Isle over the past 20 years, including the end of the Sugar Era, and the important role the graduates will play in the future of our community.

I also had the privilege of attending the transition ceremony for Maui Health Systems which marked the start of a public-private partnership to continue to provide acute health care services in our county. It's been an ongoing process years in the making to officially move our three public hospitals to private management effective on July 1, the start of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Furthermore, congratulations to the talented Maui Nui baseball, soccer, and basketball teams who have earned multiple state championship and district titles this summer.

Though I spend the majority of my time on Maui, I also attend meetings at the State Capitol in preparation for next session. In this issue you will find legislative updates, including notable bills that the governor signed into law, a summary of the housing issues discussed in the House and Senate Informational Briefings, and some tips on hurricane preparedness.

As always, I welcome your ideas about how our work at the Capitol affects your life on the Valley Isle. Mahalo for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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PHOTOS



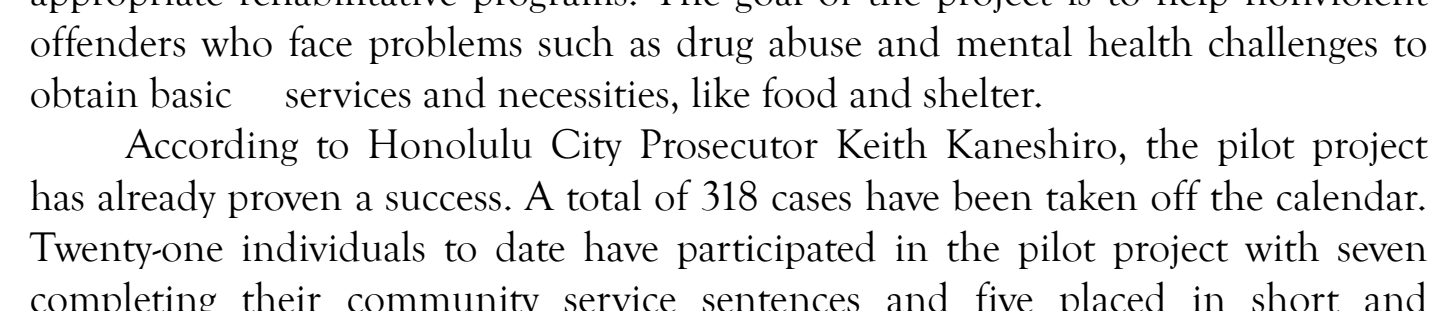
Attending an Informational Briefing for the House and Senate Committees on Housing.



Addressing the University of Hawaii Maui College Class of 2017 at their graduation ceremony. (Photo courtesy of MauiTime.)



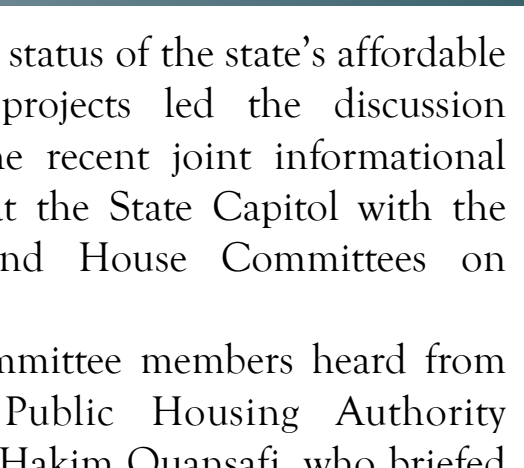
Analyzing budget numbers with Ways and Means Chair Dela Cruz, Ways and Means staff, and the Department of Budget and Finance.



With my fellow legislators Representative Della Au Belatti, myself, Maui Health Systems Manager Ray Hahn, Senator Jill Tokuda, Representative Angus McKelvey, Speaker Emeritus Joe Souki, Representative Kyle Yamashita, and Senator Rosalyn Baker at the July 1 transition ceremony.

COMMUNITY COURTS PROJECT GETS BOOST FROM STATE

In an effort to alleviate the backlog within the court system and reduce crime and recidivism, Senate Bill 718, which creates a Community Court outreach project in the City and County of Honolulu was signed into law, becoming Act 55.

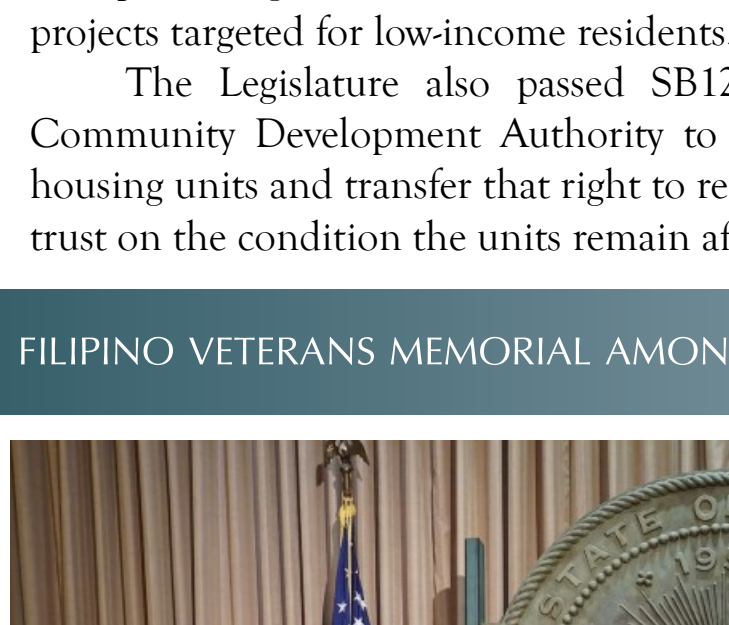


Intended to function as a mobile justice system for nonviolent offenders, judges go out into the community and have the flexibility to impose alternative sentences, community service and mandatory participation in appropriate rehabilitative programs. The goal of the project is to help nonviolent offenders who face problems such as drug abuse and mental health challenges to obtain basic services and necessities, like food and shelter.

According to Honolulu City Prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro, the pilot project has already proven a success. A total of 318 cases have been taken off the calendar. Twenty-one individuals to date have participated in the pilot project with seven completing their community service sentences and five placed in short and long-term housing.

Act 55 aligns with the 2017 Senate Legislative Program which committed to supporting efforts for transforming justice to assist the state's incarcerated and homeless population. The legislature intends to evaluate the community court outreach project during its operational period and determine whether the project should be expanded to other counties of the State.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED IN HOUSE AND SENATE



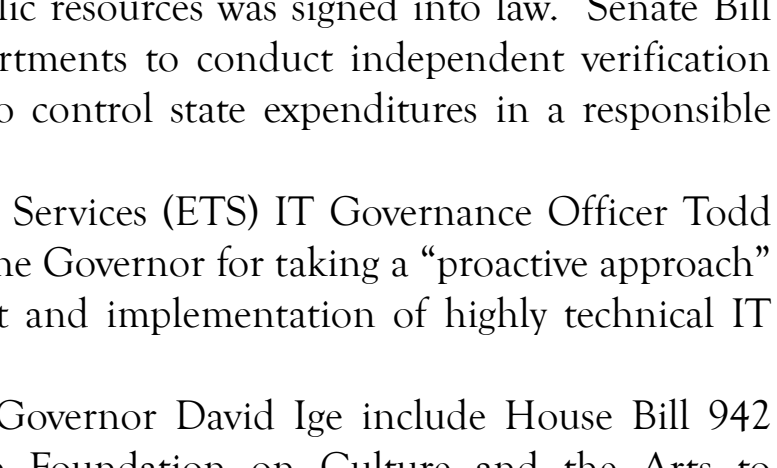
Members of the House and Senate Committees on Housing listening to a presentation by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

The status of the state's affordable housing projects led the discussion during the recent joint informational briefing at the State Capitol with the Senate and House Committees on Housing.

Committee members heard from Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Director, Hakim Ouansafi, who briefed state lawmakers on the variety of projects aimed at addressing the lack of available public housing for Hawai'i residents in need of affordable housing.

The State has identified a need for an additional 64,700 housing units to meet the projected long-term housing demand. To ease the demand, HPHA is hoping to add thousands of housing units along the Honolulu rail route through a public-private partnership. In total, 10-transit oriented development projects identified by HPHA could add up to 10,600 new housing units in the coming years. Two projects in the early stages of development include the redevelopment of Mayor Wright Housing in Palama and Kuhio Park Terrace in Kalihi. The redevelopment of the Mayor Wright parcel will feature up to 546 housing units and over 40,000 square feet of commercial space. The project would provide new housing for current residents and create additional affordable workforce housing and market-priced units.

According to the HPHA, there currently is a 10-year, \$815 million repair and maintenance backlog. In the last Legislative session, lawmakers provided \$20.175 million to address the backlog and safety improvements.

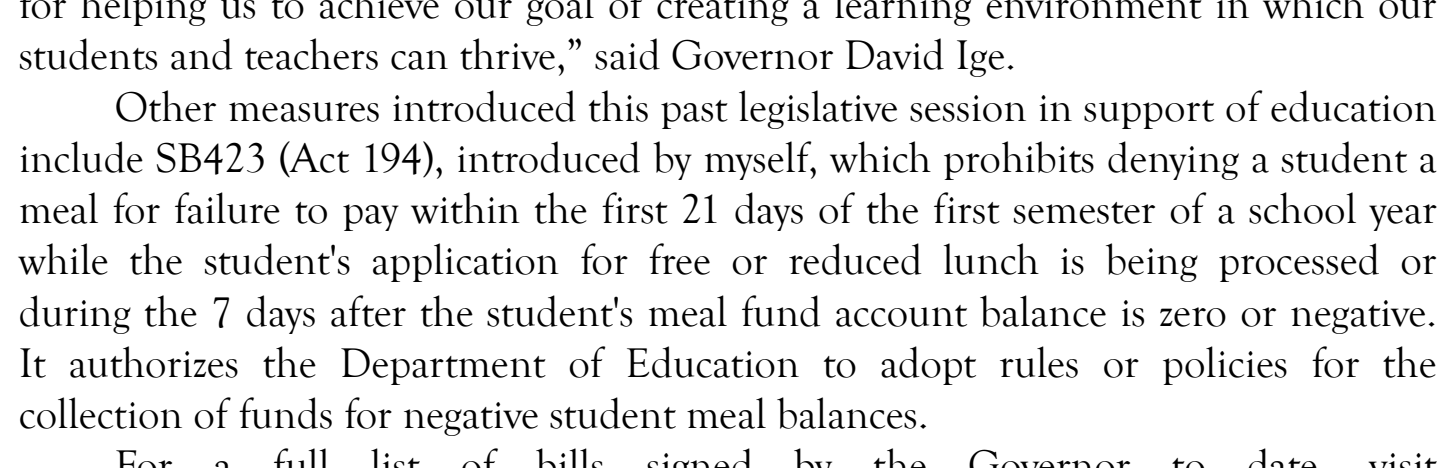


The public gathered during the Informational Briefing.

In an effort to address the affordable housing crunch, lawmakers passed HB1179 (Act 54) which expands the types of rental housing projects that can be exempt from general excise tax, encouraging the development of rental housing projects targeted for low-income residents.

The Legislature also passed SB1244 (Act 159) authorizing the Hawai'i Community Development Authority to waive its right to repurchase affordable housing units and transfer that right to repurchase to a qualified nonprofit housing trust on the condition the units remain affordable housing units.

FILIPINO VETERANS MEMORIAL AMONG BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW



Legislation to help ensure large information technology (IT) projects will have better success and optimal use of public resources was signed into law. Senate Bill 850, now Act 37, requires state departments to conduct independent verification and validation for large IT projects to control state expenditures in a responsible manner.

Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) IT Governance Officer Todd Nacapuy, praised the Legislature and the Governor for taking a "proactive approach" to achieve the successful development and implementation of highly technical IT projects. Act 37 took effect July 1.

Other bills signed into law by Governor David Ige include House Bill 942 (Act 35) which authorizes the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to commission an artist to design and build a monument to honor and commemorate Filipino veterans of World War II.

HEAT ABATEMENT BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

More Hawai'i schools will be getting a break from the heat following the signing of HB957 into law. The bill, now Act 57, authorizes the Department of Education to borrow money, interest-free, from the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Loan Program for heat abatement measures in Hawai'i's public school classrooms.

The Department of Education is expecting significant decreases in energy use and electricity costs through heat abatement efforts including heat reflective material, trees, awnings and ceiling fans. The use of LED indoor lighting in public school classrooms is expected to result in a \$4 million drop in energy costs annually.

This Act comes on the heels of a \$100 million general funds appropriation approved last year (Act 47) for the installation of and equipment for air conditioning, heat abatement, energy efficient lighting, and other energy efficiency measures.

Education is one of the priority issues included in the 2017 Hawaii State Senate Legislative Program. "A big mahalo to our state legislators for their support of our efforts to cool the schools. Thank you also to the DOE for its hard work and for helping us to achieve our goal of creating a learning environment in which our students and teachers can thrive," said Governor David Ige.

Other measures introduced this past legislative session in support of education include SB423 (Act 194), introduced by myself, which prohibits denying a student a meal for failure to pay within the first 21 days of the first semester of a school year while the student's application for free or reduced lunch is being processed or during the 7 days after the student's meal fund account balance is zero or negative. It authorizes the Department of Education to adopt rules or policies for the collection of funds for negative student meal balances.

For a full list of bills signed by the Governor to date, visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The Pacific hurricane season started on June 1 and continues until November 30. Below are tips from the American Red Cross Hawaii to prepare yourself and your family in an emergency.



WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE A HURRICANE?

- Monitor the local news for critical information or restock as needed
- Check your disaster supplies and replace or restock as needed
- Bring anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture) indoors
- Close windows, doors, and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances
- Fill your car's gas tank
- Charge your cell phones and other electronic devices
- Talk with members of your household and create an evacuation plan
- Planning and practicing your evacuation plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event
- Learn your county's hurricane response plans
- Plan routes to local shelters and make plans for your pets to be cared for
- Evacuate if advised by authorities. If going to a shelter, bring all supplies with you. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program website at www.FloodSmart.gov

WHAT DO I DO AFTER A HURRICANE?

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company
- Stay out of any building that has water around it
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes
- Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury
- Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls
- Let your family know you are safe

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT

- Food—at least a 14-day supply of nonperishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Water—at least a 14-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (14-day supply) and medical items (hearing aid, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Camera for photos of damage

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