



REPRESENTATIVE
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 District 16 * Niihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea



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Aloha,

We are living through an unbelievable moment in history. Although some had predicted a future pandemic that might crash our health system, you really cannot grasp the seriousness and reality of an event like this until it happens. So here we are, experiencing such a moment together. We have always learned to adapt, whether it be natural disasters, world conflicts, terrorism, or pandemics, because we have no choice, especially now.

The residents of our island have done a tremendous job in keeping our numbers low. As much as we may want to get back to our lives prior to COVID-19, we must realize that the “new normal” will be necessary in order to save lives. We have become so accustomed to catching colds, the flu, viruses, and other infections, and have been very successful in treating these ailments, that we sometimes tend to be less careful about preventing the spread.

Due to the pandemic shutdown across the nation, the 2020 Legislative Session was recessed on Monday, March 16. The official date to end session (Sine Die) was May 7th, but we reconvened on May 11th to immediately address the State budget. Prioritizing the budget allocates federal CARES Act funds to the neighbor islands (\$28,715,021 for Kaua’i County) **so the Counties can provide rent subsidies and food aid to their residents.** The CARES Act would also provide funds to state departments combating the impact of COVID-19, for example, virus containment response needs such as airport screening, contact tracing, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for hospitals. Unlike other states, our state government

is responsible for social services, hospitals, education, emergency medical services and jails...all of which are handled by counties in other states. The budget allows these critical government functions to remain operational during the pandemic and offers an option to harmful furloughs and layoffs.

Bills passed during the re-convened Legislature adjusted the state budget to fill the \$1 billion shortfall caused by the state economy shutting down due to COVID-19. Serious concerns that social safety networks will be lost if we did not shore up the budget. The bills also allow the Governor to borrow federal funds in case of further fiscal issues, push out shovel ready capital improvement projects to support the economy now.

District 16 projects approved this year are highlighted in this newsletter, and it has exceeded our expectations. The ‘Ele‘ele Pedestrian Bridge will finally get repaired, and we can see the near completion of the Waimea Canyon Middle School’s covered play court. Our Hanapēpē Bridge work, although looking very challenging, is on-going and will be completed at some point. Major housing projects have come up in Koloa, ‘Ele‘ele and Waimea and we are grateful for more homes becoming available for residents.

Please stay safe, be kind to each other, and do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff.

Majority Floor Leader, House of Representatives



The State Budget

HB 2725, HD1, SD1 and SB 3080, SD3, HD1 contains the funding totals for all Capital Improvement Projects including renovations, repairs, and major maintenance to existing facilities, landscape improvements, new construction, land acquisition, and utility modifications statewide.

To address some of the statewide needs that have become painfully apparent due to the coronavirus pandemic, CIP funds will be used to make much needed upgrades to our outdated Department of Labor and Industrial Relations unemployment computer systems (\$10 million) and to modernize the Department of Accounting and General Services finance systems (\$17 million).

Capital Improvement Projects Biennium Budget Totals (not including CIP Grants-In-Aid):

- FY2020: \$1,011,766 billion General Obligation Bond Funds
- FY2021: \$1,060,366 billion General Obligation Bond Funds
- FY2020: \$2,312,836 billion All Means of Financing
- FY2021: \$2,837,156 billion All Means of Financing

The CIP budget also includes funding for many **“Shovel Ready”** construction projects that can begin work quickly, providing much needed jobs to help resuscitate our struggling economy. Shovel Ready projects for District 16 include:

Kekaha Ditch Irrigation System	\$2,783,000
<i>Modification to improve the efficiency of water delivery within the Kekaha Ditch System with the installation of pressurized piping.</i>	
Kaua’i Veterans Cemetery	\$213,400
<i>Additional columbarium wall.</i>	
Waimea Public Library	\$1,038,620
<i>Replace chiller, pumps and other improvements.</i>	
Alakai Wilderness Preserve - Rare Plant Bog Fences	\$75,377
<i>Construction of a fence to protect multiple endangered plant species.</i>	



Overlooking Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park and the Waimea River Mouth.



Koa’e Makana - Workforce Housing Rental Community in Koloa.

District 16 Capital Improvement Projects approved by the 2020 Legislature (HB 2725, HD1 SD1)

Kekaha Bridge, Kaua’i	FY21 \$600,000
<i>Plans, design and construction to improve interior access road and Kekaha Ditch bridge crossing.</i>	
‘Ele‘ele Elementary School, Kaua’i	FY21 \$1,500,000
<i>Plans design, and construction for air conditioning.</i>	
Kaua’i Veterans Memorial Hospital, Kaua’i	FY21 \$1,300,000
<i>Design and equipment to purchase and install a CT Scanner</i>	
Design and construction to renovate IT department	FY21 \$300,000
Design, Construction, and equipment to install a 3D mammography machine	FY21 \$650,000
Hanapēpē Stadium, Kaua’i	FY21 \$1,500,000
<i>Construction of a ticket booth, a food booth, and comfort stations, provided that partial matching funds be provided by the County of Kaua’i.</i>	



The Waimea Canyon Middle School covered play-court is nearing completion.

The list below highlights previously approved CIP funds by the Legislature in recent years for House District 16. The monies for these projects have since been released by Governor Ige.

2019 CIP Releases

Kekaha Elementary School **\$2,050,000**
Repair and maintenance of buildings at Kekaha Elementary School including replacing the stage curtain, re-carpeting and re-tiling of floors, resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of termite damaged building elements, and reroofing of various buildings. These projects have all been identified on the Department of Education's repair and maintenance backlog.

The Storybook Theatre of Hawai'i **\$50,000**
G.O. Bonds
Grant-In-Aid for construction/renovation of the theatre.

Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor **\$2,000,000**
Design and construction for water system and comfort station improvements.

Friends of King Kaumuali'i **\$220,000**
G.O. Bonds
Grant-In-Aid for the statue of King Kaumuali'i at the Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park.

Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital **\$425,900**
Design and construction for Phase II renovations to the emergency department.

2020 CIP Releases

Kaumuali'i Highway, Intersection Improvements at Waimea Canyon Drive and Menehune Road/Halepule Road (Project No. 50B-01-14)..... **\$2,333,000**
Design and construction for intersection improvements at the intersections of Kaumuali'i Highway and Waimea Canyon Drive, and Kaumuali'i Highway and Menehune Road/Halepule Road to facilitate traffic flow..

Waimea High School, Gymnasium and Athletic Facilities **\$2,000,000**
Plans and design for a new gymnasium and athletic facilities.

Waimea High School Library Renovation **\$500,000**
Design, construction and equipment for library renovations.



Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity's 'Ele'ele Iluna Subdivision.

Waimea Canyon Middle School Building R Air Conditioning **\$110,000**
Design and construction for Building R to provide air conditioning connected to photovoltaic panels/battery storage wall for the school's makerspace project.

Hanapēpē Health Center - DAGS Job No. 14-20-2735 **\$506,000**
G.O. Bonds
Design and construction for renovations, repairs and improvement at the Hanapēpē Health Center, Kaua'i. (Total Funding amount to be shared with the Lahaina Health Center on Maui)

Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park **\$800,000**
Funds for design, construction, repairs and improvements to Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park.

Kaumuali'i Highway, 'Ele'ele Pedestrian Overpass **\$2,000,000**
Construction for 'Ele'ele Pedestrian Overpass improvements on Kaumuali'i Highway.

Hui o Laka **\$25,000**
Construction funds for reroofing and repairs at the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Kōke'e State Park.



Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity's Waimea Huakai Housing Development.



'Ele'ele Pedestrian Bridge.

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Critical budget bills that were also passed by the Legislature addressing COVID-19

SB 3139, SD1, HD1 – Relating to the State Budget. This bill makes deposits into the emergency and budget reserve fund by replacing general fund appropriations with general obligation bond proceeds and transferring savings from the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020. Transfers the remaining \$635 million of the CARES Act money into the State's Emergency Budget Reserve or "rainy day" fund to hold until a decision can be made when the Legislature reconvenes in the near future on how to best use the funds.

SB 75 SD2, HD1 – Relating to Appropriations. This bill appropriates funds designated for the State by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Eco-

nomics Security Act (CARES Act) to the counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i (\$28,715,021); the departments of Defense, Labor and Industrial Relations, and Human Services; and the Office of the Governor for the public health response to the coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, outbreak. Transfers remaining CARES Act funding to the emergency and budget reserve fund. Authorizes the issuance of instruments of indebtedness for the purpose of municipal liquidity facility under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act. Appropriates funds designated for the State by the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act to the departments of Transportation and Health for testing, contact tracing, thermal screening, and other efforts.

COVID-19 Resources

As COVID-19 continues to affect the lives of everyone, below are online links for up to date information regarding health and unemployment claims.

Hawai'i State Department of Health

<https://hawaicovid19.com/>
<https://hawaicovid19.com/guidance-for-everyone/>
<https://hawaicovid19.com/telehealth/>
<https://hawaicovid19.com/resources/>

Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/>
<https://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/main/covid-19-how-to-obtain-unemployment-ins-benefits/>
<https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/> (Unemployment development claims)
General questions: Phone: 833-901-2275