



REPRESENTATIVE
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 District 17 * Niihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea



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Aloha,

As I conclude my 14th session as your State Representative, I remain committed to working for you and your ohana and we continue to ensure transparency in keeping our constituents informed about the work that is completed every legislative session. As in many sessions in the past, there are very controversial measures that we must address and compromise on, and then there are good bills that are passed to improve the quality of life for our state. I appreciate your good faith and understanding on all policies that are worked on by the Legislature and passed into law.

Our focus for many years has been trying to make living in Hawai'i more affordable for our local residents. Efforts include, increasing the state's affordable housing inventory, adjusting tax brackets to accommodate the increase in minimum wages, addressing construction and maintenance of school facilities, and working with County government to maintain infrastructure and recreational facilities. I'm also happy to report that the Legislature's priority was to ensure funding to assist Maui with their wildfire recovery, and we were still able to craft a balanced budget that will address many of our core services throughout our state.

We were successful in obtaining Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding, with the commitment of the County to match funds, to resurface tennis/ basketball courts in Kekaha, Waimea and Hanapepe. These facilities have not been resurfaced in over two decades. Our District will receive funding for many facilities and organizations with CIP's and Grants-in-Aid, as highlighted in this newsletter.

Cesspool conversion policy is still a very important issue and with the introduction of many bills, all agencies and the public are aware of how critical it will be for the Counties to make this their top priority. Unless we beef up our infrastructure, we are not able to expand our housing inventory adequately. More importantly, we must provide assistance with sewer and water systems to current homeowners when deemed possible.

2024 completes another legislative session, and I encourage you to reach out to me anytime to share concerns or suggestions.

Mahalo,



The State Budget

HB1800, HD1, SD1, CD1 Appropriates supplemental funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch. The following projects are just a snapshot of the many CIP's approved by the Legislature for Kaua'i.

Capital Improvement Projects for House District 17 approved by the 2024 Legislature

Kekaha Faye Park, Waimea Athletic Field, Hanapēpē Stadium.....FY25 \$1,650,000

Design and construction for resurfacing of tennis courts at Kekaha Faye Park (including basketball court), resurfacing of basketball courts at Waimea Athletic Field, and resurfacing of tennis courts at Hanapēpē Stadium, provided that no state funds shall be expended unless the County of Kaua'i contributes matching county funds for state funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Kekaha Agricultural Association, Kaua'i.....FY25 \$2,000,000

Plans, design, and construction for a post-harvest processing center in Kekaha; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.

Kekaha Bridge, Kaua'iFY25 \$2,500,000

Construction to improve interior access road and Kekaha Ditch Crossing.

Stream Crossings, Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve, Kaua'iFY25 \$5,000,000

Plans, design, and construction for Kawaikoi stream and Waikoali stream crossing repairs and improvements in the Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve.

Koke'e State Park Baseyard Improvements.....FY25 \$500,000

Design and construction for improvements and repair of electrical systems and infrastructure at the historic baseyard.

Koke'e State Park Road Improvements, Phase 2, Kaua'iFY25 \$1,000,000

Design and construction for phase 2 road and parking improvements at Koke'e State Park

State Parks – Hazard Mitigation Improvements, Kaua'iFY25 \$1,000,000

Plans, design and construction of Waimea Canyon lookouts, hazard mitigation improvements for health and safety (**Waimea Canyon Lookout, Pu'u Ka Pele, Pu'u Hinahina**).

Poli Hale State Park, Kaua'i FY25 \$1,000,000 C Funds; \$1,000 N Funds

Construction to complete ongoing projects including but not limited to roadway improvements, security for cultural and environmental resources, comfort stations, and pavilions. This project is deemed necessary for Federal aid financing and/or reimbursement.

Kaua'i Veteran's Memorial Hospital Emergency Department ExpansionFY25 \$3,000,000

Design, construction, and equipment for modernization of operating room.

Kaua'i Veteran's Memorial Hospital Rehab RenovationFY25 \$1,183,000

Construction to renovate the rehab department to modernize suites and improve efficiency.

Other Notable CIP's approved for the Island of Kaua'i

East Kaua'i Water Irrigation SystemFY25 \$750,000

Lihu'e Airport Improvements, Kaua'i FY25 \$62,228,000 B Funds; \$24,901,000 N

Nawiliwili Harbor Improvements, Kaua'iFY25 \$4,000 B Funds;

..... \$23,988,000 E Funds; \$4,000 N Funds; \$4,000 R Funds

New Kaua'i Community Correctional Center and Community Transitional Center, Kaua'iFY25 \$20,000,000



West Side Da Best Side! Kekaha Elementary School highlighting their accomplishments at the State Capitol during Education Week. Left to Right: Principal Joseph Hicks, Student Services Coordinator Chelsie Ruiz, and Special Education Teacher Kauakea Mata.



Advocacy at work! Representatives from west Kaua'i businesses travel to the state capitol to testify at hearings and make sure their voices are heard. Left to Right: Carly Powell, Nate Fisher Tadashi Muratake, Jose (Junior) San Augustin, Koa Fuller, Jessie Croft, Nick Croft



Having a light-hearted conversation with Majority Leader Nakamura



Manufacturing Day at the State Capitol! Great to see David Honma featuring Kōloa Rum Co.'s world famous products.

Education Highlights in HB1800, HD1, SD1, CD1

Greater focus on direct student learning was a priority of this budget. Our communities will thrive by investing in quality education and building more resilient education systems.

- **\$21M** for Summer Learning hubs
- **\$12.9M** for increases to Weighted Student Formula and English Language Learners program
- **\$6M** for increases in Weighted Student Formula for Small and Remote schools
- **\$2.48M** for Workforce readiness
- **\$1.65M** for Complex areas to address inflation-based costs increases
- **\$1.3M** for Hawaii Keiki Healthy and Ready to Learn Health Technicians
- **\$413,915** for Advanced Placement Exams
- **\$10M** for School night security contracts, Active Threat training and Saferwatch panic buttons in schools.

Notable Bills That Passed The 2024 Legislature

HB 2404, HD1, SD1, CD1

Increases the amounts for the income tax brackets and standard deduction amounts for tax year 2024. Adjusts annually for tax years beginning after 12/31/2024, the income tax brackets and standard deduction amounts by a cost-of-living adjustment factor. In addition, this bill amends the child and dependent care tax credit that will provide tax relief to working families, promote preschool education, and promote labor participation by working parents. Amends the taxable income brackets and income tax rates for each filing status for taxable years beginning after 12/31/2023.

SB 1035, SD2, HD1, CD1

Exempts medical and dental services provided by health care providers to patients who receive Medicaid, Medicare, or TRICARE benefits from the general excise tax. This bill is beneficial in eliminating the disparity in compensation as well as easing the financial burden for primary care providers. This in turn will encourage more physicians to practice and remain in Hawai'i. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2023.



Proud to meet with Kaua'i's Developmental Disabilities Self Advocates!



Judiciary Chair David A. Tarnas, Majority Floor Leader Dee Morikawa, Vice Speaker Greggor Ilagan, Speaker Scott K. Saiki, Majority Leader Nadine K. Nakamura, Finance Chair Kyle T. Yamashita.



The House Finance Committee conducted site visits on Kaua'i in November 2023. Left to Right – Representative Luke Evslin, Jeremiah Aguilera - DLNR's Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation, Finance Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, Jenna Takenouchi, Bert Kobayashi, Vice Speaker Greggor Ilagan, and Cory M. Chun.

CONTACT US

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Grants-in-Aid

Grants-In-Aid (GIA) as defined in §42F-101 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes means "an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities." **Below are GIA's that were awarded to organizations for the benefit of all Kaua'i.**

Neighborhood Housing Comm. Dev. Corp. (PAL Kaua'i)	\$200,000
Hale Puna - Gulick-Rowell Mission House Restoration	\$40,000
Habitat for Humanity, International - Kaua'i	\$500,000
The Kaua'i Foodbank, Inc.	\$230,000
Ōhana Pacific Foundation	\$150,000
Kaua'i Humane Society	\$100,000
Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc.	\$75,000
Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance	\$75,000
Kaua'i Philippine Cultural Center	\$40,000
Ho'akeolapono Trades Academy Institute	\$65,000
Thrive with Movement/Aloha Dance Studio	\$128,000
Aloha Diaper Bank	\$40,000

CIP's Released

The list below highlights *previously approved CIP funds by the Legislature* in recent years for House District 17 and other important island wide projects. The monies for these projects have since been released by Governor Green in **2023/2024** and projects will now be able to commence.

Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital, CT Scan Department	\$21,013
Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital, Signage Phase II	\$49,389
Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital - Emergency Department Renovations	\$2,943,382
Kōloa Elementary School, Architectural Barrier Removal	\$250,000
Guardrail and Shoulder Improvements at Various Locations	\$2,400,000
Poli Hale State Park Improvements	\$4,350,000
Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor Sand Bypass Project ...	\$2,100,000
Captain Cook Memorial Park, Waimea	\$2,600,000
Hanapēpē Stadium Improvements	\$1,833,000
Kekaha Elementary School, Covered Playcourt	\$4,400,000
Lehua Island Seabird Sanctuary	\$100,000
Alaka'i Swamp Boardwalk Repair	\$200,000