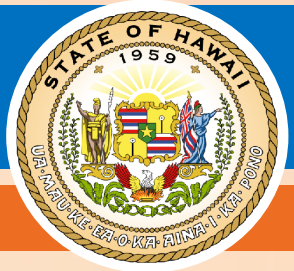


Representative Val Okimoto
 Hawaii State Capitol
 415 S. Berentania St., Room 319
 Honolulu, HI 96813



VAL OKIMOTO
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MILILANI MAUKA | MILILANI | WAIPIO ACRES

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL

- **\$1,680,000** - Softball Field Improvements
- **\$650,000** - Girl's Locker Room
- **\$250,000** - New Gym and Refurbishment of Existing Gym into a Performing Arts Facility

MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **\$490,000** - Sidewalk Improvements

MILILANI UKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- **\$1,200,000** - Slope Stabilization Project

MILILANI TECH PARK

- **\$15,225,000** - Land Acquisition for Community Arts and Theatre Center and Support for First Responders Tech Park

WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL

- **\$350,000** - Grant

TOTAL: \$19,845,000

2019 END OF SESSION WRAP-UP



CONTACT

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SOCIAL MEDIA

- [@repvalokimoto](https://www.instagram.com/repvalokimoto)
- [/repvalokimoto](https://www.facebook.com/repvalokimoto)

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your voice and advocate in the state House of Representatives. The 2019 legislative session adjourned sine die on Thursday, May 2, 2019. Over the course of two days, the House voted on over 200 final versions of bills, which were subsequently sent to Governor Ige. The Governor has 45 days to review, approve, or veto bills sent to him. Bills automatically become law without his signature after the 45th day.

Mahalo to everyone who reached out to me or my staff to share their thoughts, opinions and feedback on bills and resolutions that were considered this session. As your state representative in the people's House, I believe I voted for you and our entire community. While the legislative session has adjourned for the year, my office continues to work for you and Mililani. Please reach out and share your thoughts and ideas for legislation in 2020. If you have any questions, concerns or complaints, please contact me at (808) 586-9460 or via e-mail at repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo for the honor and privilege to serve Mililani.

- Val



A special mahalo to my wonderful, hard working staff for making my first session a memorable experience!

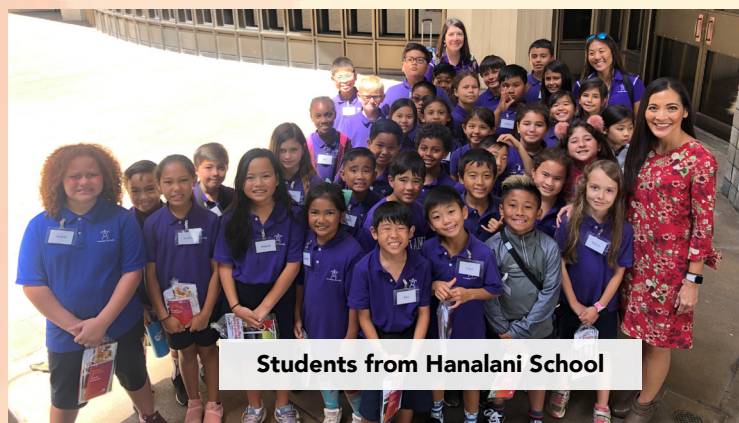
(L-R) Eric Kamanu, Nannette Oudraad, Jame Schaedel

SESSION SNAPSHOTS



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the highlights from my first legislative session. It was such an honor working alongside my colleagues and meeting with different members of the community.



LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AGRICULTURE

SB375 SD2 HD1 PASSED: The Governor has set a goal of doubling Hawaii's food production by 2020. This bill requires the Governor's Office and the Department of Agriculture to create a strategic plan to double our agricultural production by 2030. It also gives funding to the Department of Agriculture to develop the plan and present it to the Legislature next year.

HB 681 HD1 FAILED: This bill would have allowed pet dogs in restaurants. Currently, the Department of Health's food safety rules only allow for service dogs in eating establishments. The bill was amended by the Committee on Agriculture to require restaurants to have an outdoor eating area with a separate entrance for owners and their pets.

HB616 HD1 FAILED: As a way to reduce the cost of locally grown fruit, vegetables, and meat, this bill would have removed the General Excise Tax from those purchases. The authors of the bill wanted to encourage residents to eat healthier food and also help local farmers sell their products. The Supreme Court has ruled that this type of special treatment for a local product is unconstitutional and violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH

SB1025 SD1 HD2 PASSED: This bill requires the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to develop and implement a plan to maximize the number of Kupuna Caregivers Program (Program) participants. The program allows kupuna to remain in their own home longer by providing \$210 per week for supplemental at-home services customized to the individual's needs. Furthermore, this bill greatly assists Hawaii's working families by allowing these unpaid caregivers to remain in the workforce with the peace of mind that their loved ones will be cared for while they are at work.

HB713 HD1 SD1 FAILED: This bill would have established a 3-year Homeless Employment Grant Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. The purpose of the bill was to help homeless individuals looking for work opportunities and equip them with the tools and resources they needed to transition back into the labor force.

SB1033 SD2 HD2 PASSED: Requires the practice of midwifery to be practiced only by licensed midwives and approved Native Hawaiian healers. A task force will be put forth to increase data collection of home birth practices and establish licensure requirements. This bill was extremely controversial because some feel that it is a women's right to choose where to give birth and who to trust concerning the births of their child, which is understandably an intimate matter. However, others feel that it's both for the safety of the mother and child that mandatory requirements for licensure be put into place, and practitioners be regulated to ensure continued safe practices in the home birth community.

HB1383 HD2 SD1 CD1 PASSED: This bill decriminalizes (not legalize) possession of a small amount of cannabis (less than 3 grams) and would allow expungement for all criminal violations related to such possession, even those existing before passage of this law.

EDUCATION

HB247 HD1 FAILED: Presently, there continues to be classrooms without air conditioning, which proves to adversely affect student learning. This bill appropriated funds to finish installing air conditioning for all public schools that prioritize it, but the measure died in the Senate. This bill would have remedied the sweltering heat that some students have testified reached above 90 degrees.

HB250 HD2 SD1 CD1 PASSED: By appropriating funds for the existing Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program, the program can implement, expand, and sustain itself. The Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program enhances school-based health services with a partnership with the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene and the Department of Education. Recently, there has been an influx of storing and utilizing electronic medical records. Due to the bill's purely supportive nature and the existing program's altruistic intent to medically help Hawaii's keiki, the bill received many positive public testimonies and passed with little legislative scrutiny.

SB383 SD2 HD1 CD1 PASSED: Suicide is the leading cause of injury related deaths for residents aged 15 to 24 years. With this bill, State hopes to establish a mandatory annual youth suicide awareness training program available to all school personnel in direct contact with students. The goal of this program is to create awareness for key indicators of suicidal students so school personnel can intervene before suicide is committed, and hopefully as a byproduct, cultivate a compassionate environment for students contemplating suicide.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT BILLS

SB216 SD2 HD1 CD1 PASSED: This bill provides for a mandatory recount in elections where the margin of victory is equal to or less than 100 votes or one-quarter of one percent, whichever is greater. This measure seems reasonable on its face however, it is unclear what the actual impact of such recounts might be or how, logistically speaking, they might be conducted.

HB1248 SD2 HD1 CD1 PASSED: This bill provides for all-mail voting across all counties to begin in the 2020 election. There was significant testimony on this measure in committee that tended to indicate that total voting by mail more problematic than initially expected. Although the Office of Elections expressed support for this measure, they were unable to offer much support on ease of implementation.

SB1459 SD2 HD2 CD1 PASSED: This bill creates a State Surfing Commission for the next five years. Because surfing, our official state sport, will be included at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, the Legislature believes that this is an opportune time to educate the world on the cultural and historical significance of surfing in our State. The Commission also aims to promote the local surfing industry, capitalize on local, national, and international surfing opportunities, and establish Hawaii as the surfing mecca of the world before disbanding in 2024.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at **(808) 586-9460** or via email at **repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov**.



FEBRUARY 19, 2019

MILILANI COMPLEX CHARACTER COUNTS CELEBRATION

The Character Counts Celebration brings our community and schools together in a celebration of the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

MARCH 1, 2019

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually near or on March 2 - Dr. Seuss' birthday.



MARCH 14, 2019

MILILANI CHORAL FESTIVAL

The Mililani Complex Choral Festival is a wonderful event that showcases the musical talents of the children in the Mililani community. Six schools participated this year.



APRIL 13, 2019

MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

The new classroom building will provide enough classrooms to remove the middle school from its current multi-track schedule and should be ready for use by the spring of 2021.



MAY 19, 2019

MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Congratulations to Mililani High School Valedictorian Miriya Ogawa and the entire Class of 2019.



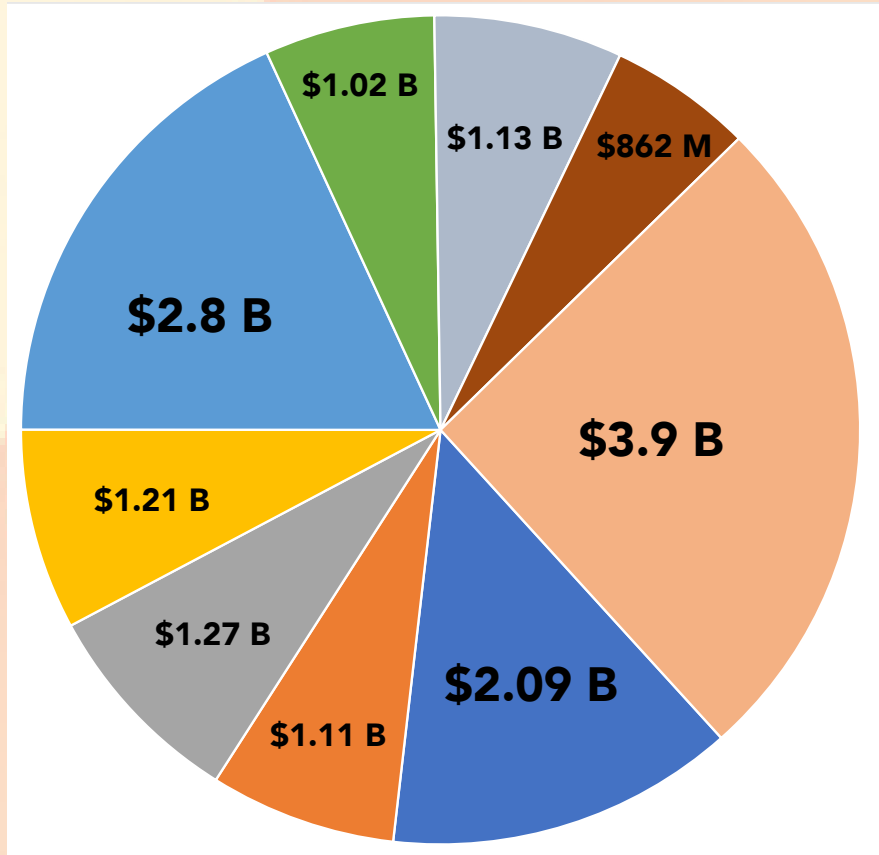
MAY 25, 2019

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

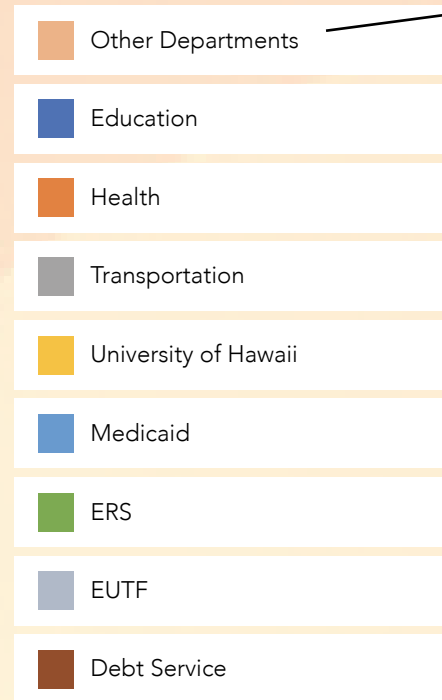
Congratulations to Sidon Miyamoto (left) and Enoch Nakata (right) who earned the Eagle Scout Award. The prestigious Eagle Scout Award is the highest distinction that a scout can earn.



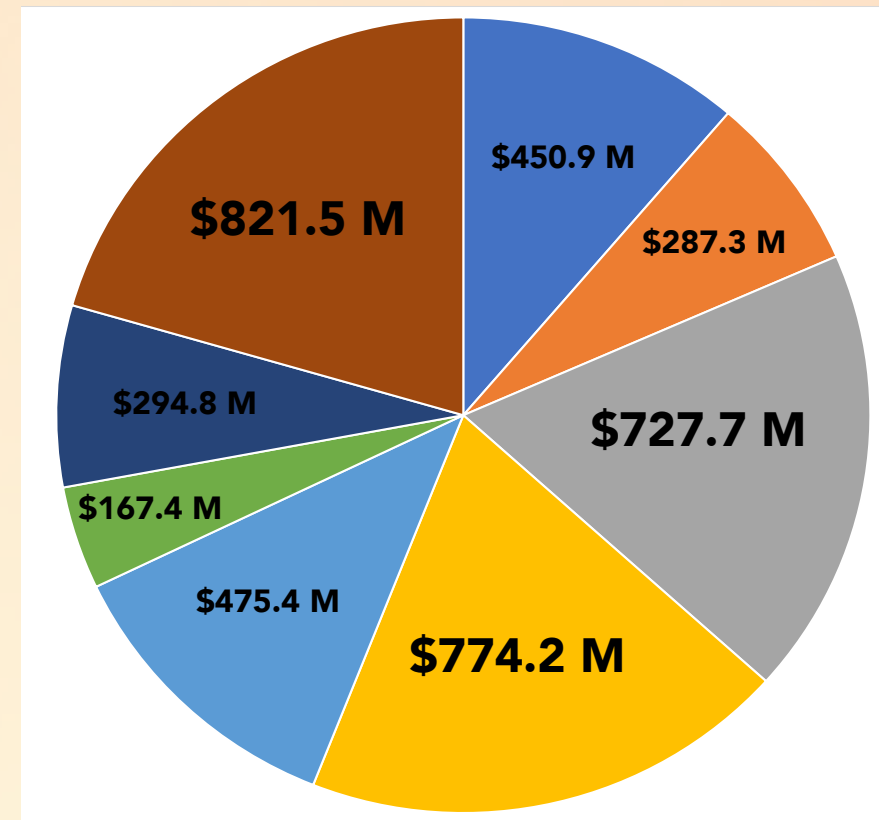
2019 - 2020 STATE OPERATING BUDGET



TOTAL BUDGET: \$15,338,256,934



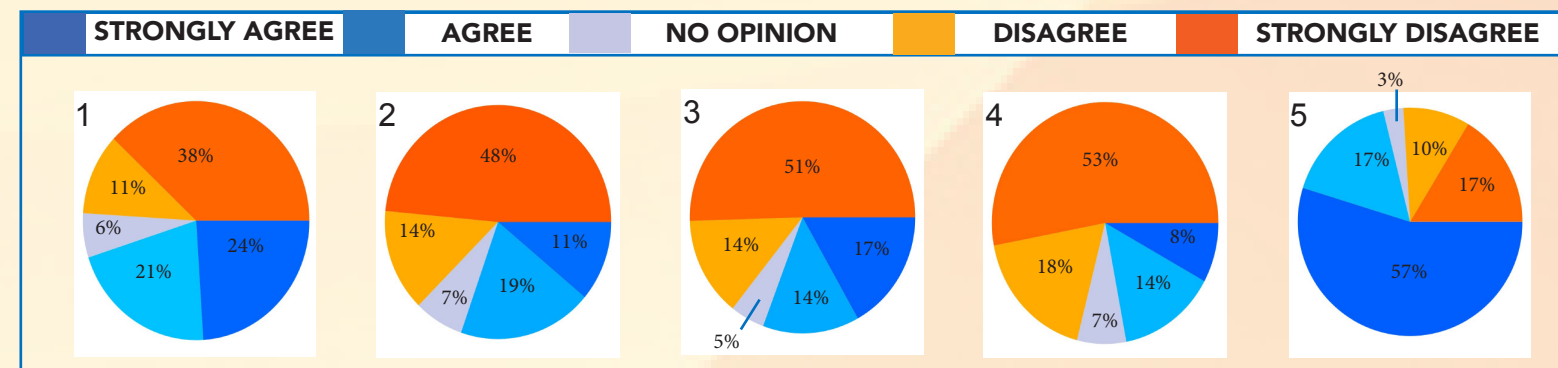
OTHER DEPARTMENTS



FINANCES & THE ECONOMY

SB301 SD1 HD1 CD1	PASSED: Taxation of Real Estate Investment Trusts. This bill requires Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to pay corporate income tax by closing the dividends paid deduction loophole.
SB33 SD3 HD2 CD1	PASSED: Raising the Annual Rolling Cap Tax Credit for the Film and Media Industry. This bill raises the annual rolling cap from \$35 million to \$50 million for the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.
HB887 HD1 SD1	FAILED: Cooler Beverages and Draft Beer Tax Rates. This bill added the definition of spirit-based beverages under "cooler beverages" and removed the current draft beer definition. The same tax rate would apply to all beers.
HB1584 HD2 SD1	FAILED: Appropriating Funds for a Statewide Carbon Tax. This bill would have appropriated funds to the Office of Planning to conduct a study on implementing a statewide carbon tax.
SB1362 SD1	FAILED: Increasing the Conveyance Tax. The conveyance tax was originally designed to be a nominal fee to pay for the recording of land sales. As property values rise, the amounts collected have risen significantly, and the Legislature continues to raise the rates.
SB1474 SD2	FAILED: Increasing GET by 0.5% for DOE and UH Funds. The intent of this bill was to increase the general excise tax by 0.5% (4% to 4.5%) to help fund the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii.
SB 409 SD2 HD1 CD1	PASSED: Additional Annual Surcharge on Electric & Alternative Fuel Vehicles. This bill establishes an annual vehicle registration surcharge fee of \$50 for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles.

2019 SESSION SURVEY RESULTS



1. The state should legalize gambling in Hawaii.
2. I would support a tax increase to specifically fund education.
3. The state should legalize recreational use of marijuana in Hawaii.
4. I would support a card tax (i.e. gas tax) at the pump in order to address climate change in Hawaii.
5. I would support extending the general excise tax (GET) surcharge to pay for the city's rail project.