



*Aloha!*

We convened the 32nd legislative session on January 18, 2023 and adjourned on May 4, 2023 in a post COVID-19 pandemic environment.

We committed to learn from the pandemic and took a proactive approach to address the many unresolved needs of our state. This includes relief for lower & middle income families, achieving renewable energy goals, housing Department of Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries, bridging the gaps in the mental health system, financing affordable housing projects, maintaining state parks/trails, as well as protecting our natural environment and its natural resources.

After a productive 60-day session, we were able to deliver on our commitments passing 274 bills focused on these various issues.

This newsletter highlights some of the noteworthy achievements of this legislative session. Thank you for your support and allowing me to serve our State and community.

Sincerely,

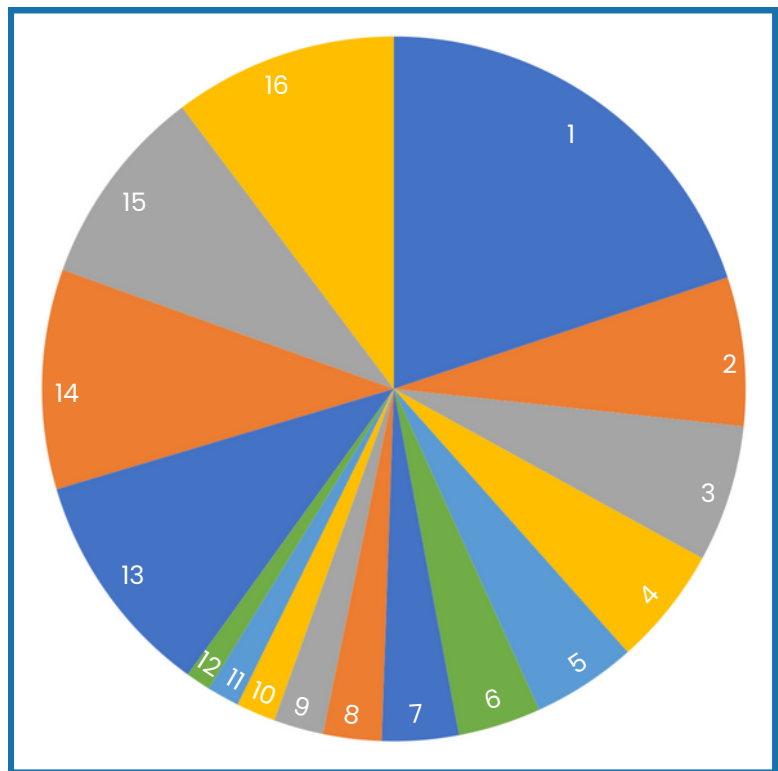
*Kief T. Yamashita*

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## HAWAII STATE BUDGET

1. EDUCATION - (19.9%)
2. BUDGET & FINANCE - (6.8%)
3. BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM - (6.8%)
4. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - (5.4%)
5. HEALTH - (4.8%)
6. DEPARTMENTS LESS THAN 1% - (1.0%)
7. HUMAN SERVICES - (3.5%)
8. PUBLIC SAFETY - (2.7%)
9. LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES - (2.29%)
10. HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEM CORPORATION - (1.8%)
11. ACCOUNTING & GENERAL SERVICES - (1.5%)
12. CHARTER SCHOOLS - (1.1%)
13. RETIREMENT BENEFITS - (10.4%)
14. DEBT SERVICE - (10.1%)
15. MEDICAID - (9.2%)
16. EMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFITS - (10.3%)



# FLOOR SPEECH ON HB300 HD1 SD1 CD1

Mr. Speaker,

We have an aggressive yet cautious, optimistic approach to building this budget. Enormous federal money [that] helped us all to survive the pandemic, has created unintended consequences for all the states. Government has a rare amount of money and resources, if strategically spent well, this can pay dividends for future legislatures. This budget focuses on healing and investing in our future.



Group photo alongside Lt. Governor Luke, Senate Ways & Means Chair Dela Cruz, with members of the House Finance and Senate WAM Committees seated in back.

This budget increases medicaid reimbursement rates to 100% of medicare rates, by providing over \$72 million dollars to our healthcare industries. This is an increase to the base budget that will benefit lower income families with more access to healthcare.

A 2019 report shows that Hawaii is 42nd among the states, in medicaid reimbursement rates to doctors and other medical providers. This change will vault us in the top 5 states of this reimbursement.

This budget also provides \$100 million dollars to agencies for responsible healing of our natural resources by fixing our parks and beaches, rejuvenating our conservation and preservation lands, and supporting our aquatic resources. Another base budget adjustment, of \$38.8 million dollars to Preschool Open Doors program will expand public and private preschool early learning opportunities to 3 year olds.

In another bill we provided \$2 million dollars to help 220 child care providers to get financial and technical assistance they need for accreditation to receive Pre-School Open Doors and other funding streams. This will in turn make their operations more stable and increase the supply of childcare and early learning seats statewide.

We have invested over \$300 million to increase our inventory of affordable housing and providing various supporting housing services for the low and middle class.

Those are just 4 examples of how we have set up the state budget for decades of success. Mr. Speaker, this budget strikes a responsible balance between the needs of today and building a strong foundation for tomorrow. This is a biennium budget, so your Committee on Finance intends to continue discussions with your chairs, the departments, and others involved to continue refining the budgets of all departments, increasing performance analysis to improve outcomes, and a deeper dive into our tax code.

## 2024 EXPENDITURES (GENERAL FUNDS)

ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES:	\$168,059,241 (1.49%)
AGRICULTURE:	\$32,151,916 (0.29%)
ATTORNEY GENERAL:	\$48,767,486 (0.43%)
BUDGET AND FINANCE:	\$770,514,775 (6.82%)
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM:	\$709,280,200 (6.28%)
CHARTER SCHOOLS:	\$129,223,632 (1.14%)
COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS:	\$2,940,000 (0.03%)
DEBT SERVICE:	\$1,138,771,074 (10.09%)
DEFENSE:	\$47,002,382 (0.42%)
EDUCATION:	\$2,244,901,834 (19.88%)
EMPLOYEE/RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS:	\$1,160,450,457 (10.28%)
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEM CORPORATION:	\$204,275,303 (1.81%)
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS:	\$26,428,191 (0.23%)
HEALTH:	\$542,045,218 (4.80%)
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:	\$31,009,270 (0.28%)
HUMAN SERVICES:	\$397,201,877 (3.52%)
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS:	\$67,138,283 (0.60%)
LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES:	\$258,371,621 (2.29%)
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	\$77,977,198 (0.69%)
MEDICAID:	\$1,043,33,246 (9.24%)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:	\$5,431,153 (0.05%)
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:	\$2,319,967 (0.02%)
PUBLIC LIBRARIES:	\$43,453,723 (0.39%)
PUBLIC SAFETY:	\$302,597,771 (2.68%)
RETIREMENT BENEFITS:	\$1,178,674,986 (10.44%)
TAXATION:	\$41,389,717 (0.37%)
TRANSPORTATION:	\$3,600,000 (0.03%)
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII:	\$614,065,558 (5.44%)

### EXECUTIVE BIENNIUM BUDGET, FISCAL BUDGET 2023-2025

For a more in depth look at the Hawaii State Budget, visit:  
[budget.hawaii.gov/budget](https://budget.hawaii.gov/budget)

Scan the QR code for a breakdown of the funding by department.







## REINFORCING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE



### HB953 HD1 SD1 CD1

*RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.*

Requires DLNR to develop and publish a website and mobile application that includes the application processes, including a means of collecting any fees, for a permit, license, or reservation needed to conduct recreational and commercial activities in the State. Requires DLNR to make available existing application processes in a digital format to be used on the website and mobile application.

### SB1024 SD2 HD1 CD1

*RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION [CLEAN EMISSIONS]*

Establishes long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in Hawai'i and abroad to reduce and eliminate transportation emissions. Establishes the clean ground transportation working group and the interisland and clean transportation working group. Requires reports to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2023.

## OUR HOUSING NEEDS

### HB1397 HD1 SD2 CD1

*RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING*

Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds. Declares that appropriations exceed general fund expenditure ceiling. Effective 7/1/2023.

## ESTABLISHING SAFER ROADS

### HB600 HD1 SD2 CD2

*RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL*

Requires the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive, statewide Safe Routes to School Plan.

### HB579 HD2 SD1 CD1

*RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING*

Establishes the statewide human trafficking prevention program within the Department of the Attorney General to provide services and assistance to victims of human trafficking and victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### SB1166 SD2 HD2 CD1

*RELATING TO THE RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES*

Allows for the renewal of driver's licenses online in addition to by mail. Effective 7/1/2025.



### SB930 SD2 HD1 CD1

*RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD TENANT CODE*

A landlord/landlord's agent shall return to the applicant any amount of the application screening fee that is not used for the purposes authorized within thirty days after the landlord has submitted screening requests.



## NURTURING A HEALTHY HAWAII

### HB870 HD2 SD1 CD1

*RELATING TO THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM*

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a neighbor islands blind and visually impaired service pilot program that supplements existing statewide services by providing training and other services to neighbor island residents who are blind or visually impaired.

### SB759 SD2 HD2 CD1

*RELATING TO HEALTH*

Requires the Office of Primary Care & Rural Health to oversee and support community efforts to collaboratively address the health and wellness needs of the State's most underserved rural residents to develop plans that align with appropriate providers' goals and objectives.

### HB899 (ACT 12)/SB318

*RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS*

#### HB899 HD2; ACT 12 (4/19/23)

Designates the month of September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month.

#### SB318 SD2HD1 CD1

Requires the Department of Health to establish & administer a 3-year pilot program to implement a co-management system of care for the diagnosis and treatment of a persons with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.



### HB948 HD2 SD2 CD1

*RELATING TO CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH*

Establishes a two-year child & adolescent crisis mobile outreach team pilot program on Oahu & one neighbor island site to expand existing crisis response services.

### SB975 SD2 HD3 CD1

*RELATING TO HEALTH*

Establishes the offense of unlawful shipment of tobacco products. Includes electronic smoking devices & e-liquids under the definition of "tobacco products" for purposes of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law. Amends the license and permit fees for wholesalers, dealers, and retailers. Beginning 1/1/2024, imposes an excise tax on each electronic smoking device/e-liquid sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer.

## INVESTING IN EDUCATION

### HB353 HD1 SD1 CD1

*RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION*

Appropriates funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

### HB961 HD1 SD2 CD1

*RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING*

Expands the types of entities from which a Preschool Open Doors service provider may obtain accreditation. Beginning 1/1/2024, expands the Preschool Open Doors Program application process to eligible 3 year-old children.

### SB941 SD2 HD1 CD1

*RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY*

Authorizes the School Facilities Authority to partner with public and private agencies to develop housing on or off campus for teachers, educators, and staff and develop classrooms. *Appropriates \$20 million dollars for projects on Maui specifically.*

### SB239 SD2 HD3 CD1

*RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION*

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Child Care Accreditation Program to assist licensed and registered child care providers obtain accreditation. Extends the deadlines by which existing Preschool Open Doors Program service providers are required to commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds for the Child Care Accreditation Program, including the establishment of one full-time equivalent position for the program.

### SB1344 SD2 HD2 CD1

*RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES*

Replaces the term "school health aides" with "school health assistants" to reflect recent changes to the job title. Allows the administration of medication to public school students by school health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service pursuant to a written agreement with the Department of Education.



Photo courtesy of Makawao Elementary School

# CONSTITUENT UPDATES

## University of Hawaii Systems

### **This is to help Upcountry Farmers!**

The University of Hawaii will implement on-farm demonstrations and community education programs to promote the long-term adoption of cover crops, intercropping, and no-till practices in Maui County, Hawaii. These practices will be adopted by twelve underserved producers to increase water use efficiency, enhance soil moisture content, and reduce surface and groundwater depletion. The on-farm trail sites are located in Maui dry areas and will demonstrate solutions that can be scaled within the district as well as provide a template for other areas of the county and state.

## Future Capital Improvement Projects for Upcountry Maui

### **Kula Elementary School - \$7 M**

Funding will be used for the design and construction of a multipurpose building with a kitchen and infrastructure improvements at Keokea.

### **Maui Health System - \$27.7 M (lump sum)**

Funding will be used to plan, design, construct and purchase necessary equipment for renovation, expansion, modernization, and upgrades to Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC) and Kula Hospital (KH).

### **Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Inc. - \$500K**

Funding will be used to plan, design, construction, and equipment for photovoltaic system. *This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS.*

## Upcountry Construction Updates

### **Haleakala Highway Project:**

After a delay in the start of construction due to logistical obstructions, paving of the Haleakala Highway was set to start in **Mid-May** with an anticipated completion date of **8/16/2023**. Work will be done in the evening hours from **(8:00 PM - 5:30 AM)**.

### **Kula Hwy & Omaopio Rd Traffic Signal**

Preliminary engineering is underway. The Department of Transportation anticipates a project advertising date of **3/1/2024**.

## Makawao Library Hours

### **Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday:** CLOSED

**Monday:** CLOSED

**Tuesday:** 9 AM - 4 PM

**Wednesday:** 12 PM - 7 PM

**Thursday:** 9 AM - 4 PM

**Friday:** 11 AM - 4 PM

**Saturday:** CLOSED

For more information regarding Makawao Library contact: **(808) 573-8785**

## Makawao History Museum Hours

### **Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday:** 11 AM - 5 PM

**Monday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

**Tuesday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

**Wednesday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

**Thursday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

**Friday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

**Saturday:** 10 AM - 5 PM

Visit the Makawao History Museum at: **3643 Baldwin Ave Makawao, HI 96768**



## TSA Cares



TSA Cares is a helpline available to assist travelers with disabilities, medical conditions and other special circumstances. If you are in need of additional assistance during your TSA screening, TSA Cares is there to help and provide assistance during your screening process.

If you are traveling and have any questions about what to expect, TSA procedures, or their policies, you can call TSA Cares at their toll-free phone number **(+1 855 787 2227) 72 hours prior**.

You can also request TSA Cares assistance through: **[www.tsa.gov/contact-center/form/cares](http://www.tsa.gov/contact-center/form/cares)**

### **Contact TSA Cares at:**

**1-855-787-2227**

*Federal Relay: 711*

<b>Weekdays:</b> 2 a.m. to 5 p.m.	<b>Weekend:</b> 3 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Or contact by email at:  
**[TSA-ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov)**

## 2023 Legislative Session Complete Look Book

During the 2023 legislative session I had the privilege of meeting and working with many of Hawaii's most dedicated individuals. From people such as my fellow legislators to individuals from various departments, agencies, public/private entities, or even just individual citizens exercising their democratic right of speech via public testimonies. I truly appreciate all the interactions and connections I have had during this session.

Scan the QR code to access a digital album containing most if not all the people I had the privilege of meeting this legislative session.





## Representative Kyle Yamashita

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Honolulu, HI 96813

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RepYamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov

### Capital Improvement Project Release

#### Upcountry Maui Well

I am happy to announce the release of funds for design for a water well in Upcountry, Maui. \$1 million dollars was released, \$750,000 going to the Department of Land & Natural Resources; and the remaining \$250,000 to be delegated to Maui County for land acquisition activities.

#### King Kekaulike High School -

#### Band Room Improvements

To further support our Upcountry keiki, a release of funding appropriated by the Legislature for \$2 million will be used to finance design and construction for band room improvements that may include new soundproofing, air conditioning replacement, instrument lockers, and additional storage.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!! TO THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2023

Ho'omaika'i 'ana to all of this year's graduates. From my office to your o'hana we wish you pomaika' and makani 'olu'olu e kai maliei on your future endeavours.



Please assist in our initiative to "Go Green" and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email. Call **(808) 586 - 6200** or email:

**repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov**

If you would like to view this newsletter in color scan QR Code, click the "**Links**" tab and find link labeled "**2023 End of Session Newsletter**"

