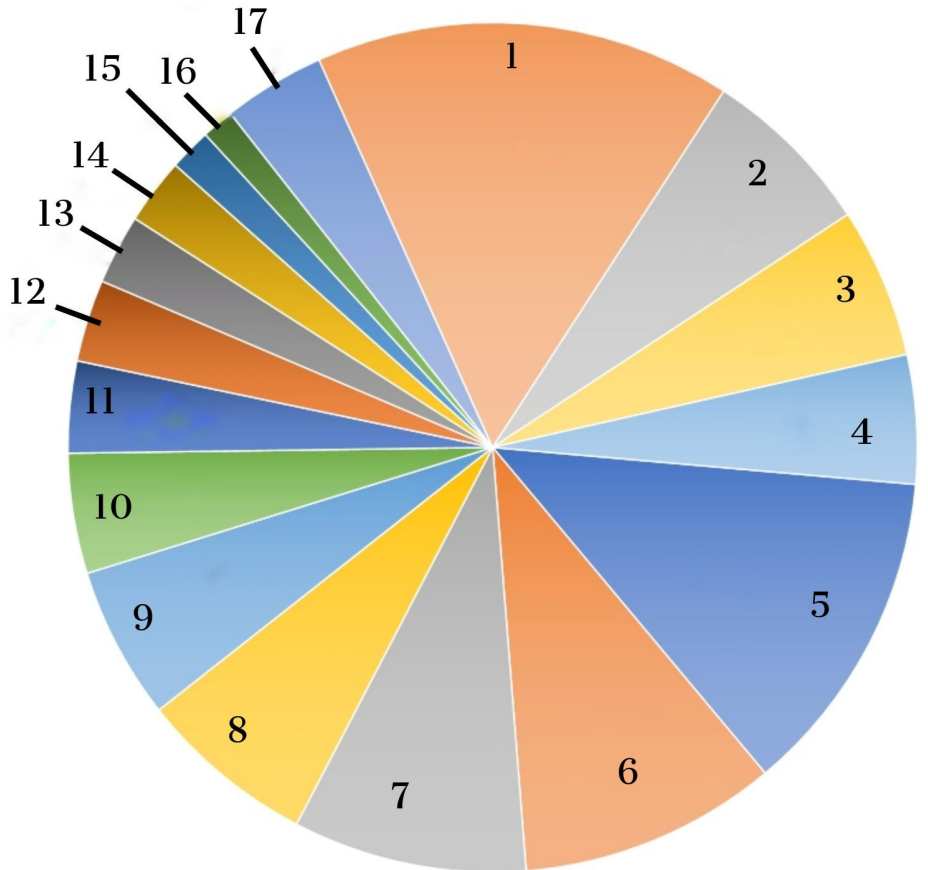


# UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

## 2023 Mid-Session Newsletter

### HOUSE BUDGET BILL HIGHLIGHTS



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. MEDICAID:<br>\$3,158,295,262 (16%)                      | 11. HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEM CORPORATION:<br>\$694,403,932 (3%)          |
| 2. RETIREMENT BENEFITS:<br>\$1,313,659,925 (7%)            | 12. LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES:<br>\$622,782,270 (3%)                  |
| 3. DEBT SERVICE:<br>\$1,138,771,074 (6%)                   | 13. BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM:<br>\$527,847,221 (3%) |
| 4. EMPLOYEE/RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS:<br>\$975,382,475 (5%) | 14. LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS:<br>\$500,871,818 (3%)              |
| 5. EDUCATION:<br>\$2,491,240,905 (13%)                     | 15. PUBLIC SAFETY:<br>\$319,198,678 (2%)                             |
| 6. BUDGET & FINANCE:<br>\$1,956,933,639 (10%)              | 16. ACCOUNTING & GENERAL SERVICES:<br>\$244,238,861 (1%)             |
| 7. TRANSPORTATION:<br>\$1,771,819,771 (9%)                 | 17. DEPARTMENTS LESS THAN 1%:<br>\$775,106,423 (4%)                  |
| 8. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII:<br>\$1,343,790,540 (7%)           |  |
| 9. HEALTH:<br>\$1,157,336,130 (6%)                         |  |
| 10. HUMAN SERVICES:<br>\$909,762,035 (5%)                  |  |
|  | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:<br/>\$19,901,440,959</b>                      |



**Representative  
Kyle Yamashita**

ALOHA,  
We have reached the halfway mark of the 2023 legislative session. The first crossover for bills that passed third reading happened on March 9th. There were 1,514 House bills introduced in January, 453 bills crossed to the Senate and the House received 499 Senate bills. In the weeks to come, the Finance Committee will consider and hear Senate bills referred to this committee. The second crossover happens on April 13th. There are bills of interest in this issue that are being considered by the Senate. The pie chart is the House version of the budget bill (HB300). I am honored to serve our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Please assist us 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](mailto:repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov)



# Mid-Session Lookbook



Maui legislators, Councilmembers, and Mayor Richard Bissen.



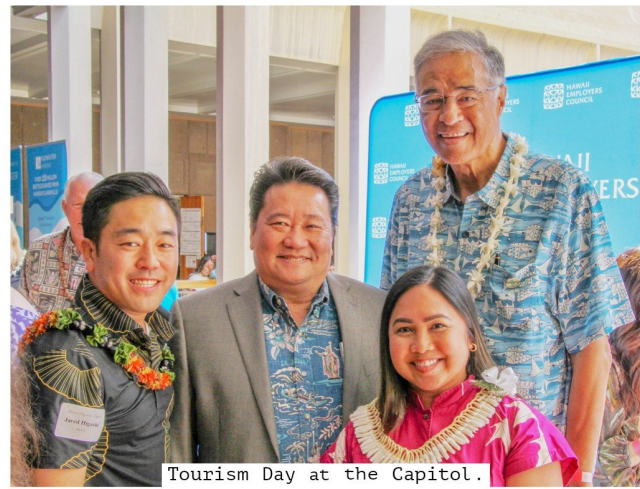
House Finance Committee Hearing.



Manufacturers Day at the Capitol.



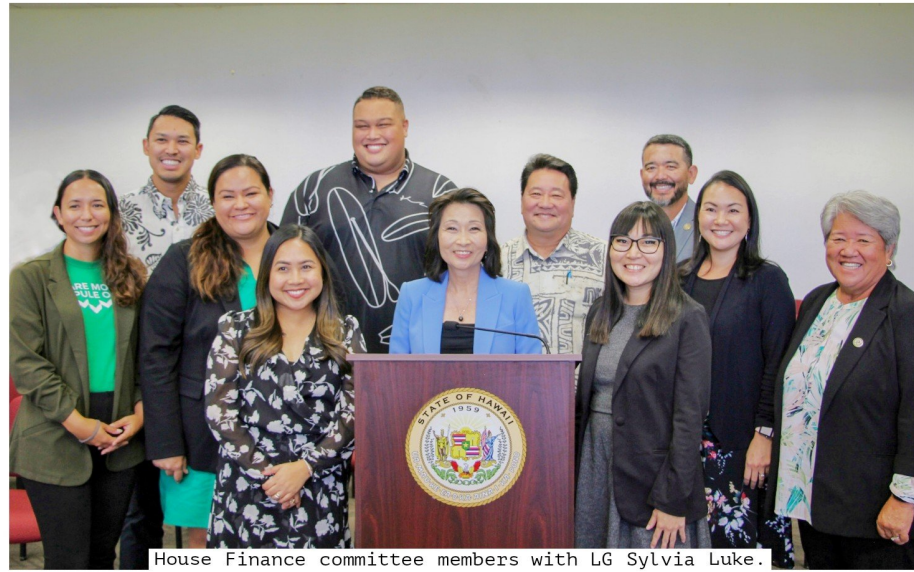
University of Hawaii Research Day.



Tourism Day at the Capitol.



Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke's Open House.



House Finance committee members with LG Sylvia Luke.



Celebrating Ag Day at the Capitol.



Signing the House budget bill with the house budget staff.



# Mid-Session Lookbook



Former US Congresswoman Patricia Saiki.



Friends of the Library Event celebrating Rep. Woodson as the legislator of the year.



Hawaii State Teachers Association.



Welcoming newly appointed Representatives Luke Evslin (District 16) and Trisha La Chica (District 37).



Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows visit the Capitol.



Olympic champion Carissa Kainani Moore.



Qanuk Nanuk, the polar bear.



Agricultural Awareness Day at the Capitol, featuring Pono the Nene bird and Smokey the Bear.



# Mid-Session Bill Highlights

*Please be advised that the status of the House measures listed will continue to evolve as the session progresses.*

## Taking Care of Our Keiki

### *HB1330 HD1 - RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES*

Appropriates funds to DOE for school bus services in order to address school bus driver/route shortages.

*HB948 HD2 - RELATING TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH*  
Establishes a two-year Child and Adolescent Crisis Mobile Outreach Team Pilot Program on Oahu and one neighbor island site to expand existing crisis response services.

*HB781 HD2 – RELATING TO CHILDREN*  
Requires that when a law enforcement officer has custody of a child under eighteen years of age for an alleged violation of law, the child shall have contact with legal counsel and, to the extent practicable, a parent, guardian, or legal custodian, before the child waives any right against self-incrimination and before any custodial interrogation.

*HB260 HD1 – Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement safety training for all cafeteria student helpers and ensure the student helpers receive the training prior to them volunteering. Requires the Department to provide personal protective equipment for all cafeteria student helpers prior to the student helpers volunteering. Requires all cafeteria student helpers to be directed and supervised by trained personnel at all times.*

## Kupuna Care

### *HB642 HD2 – RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION*

Requires check cashers to report suspected financial exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults in relation to check cashing. Authorizes a check casher to refuse to cash a check in situations of suspected financial exploitation. Provides immunity for check cashers acting in good faith.

## Tourism

*HB1375 HD1 – RELATING TO TOURISM*  
Repeals the Hawaii Tourism Authority and transfers its power, duties and rights to a newly established Destination Management Agency, to be headed by a commission.

*HB1233 HD2 – RELATING TO TOURISM*  
Requires the School of Travel Industry Management of the University of Hawaii at Manoa to conduct a study to research and estimate the tourism social carrying capacity for the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, and Molokai as perceived by residents and visitors.

## Addressing Housing Needs

*HB95 HD1 - RELATING TO HOUSING*  
Deposits funds into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to be used to provide grants or loans to mixed-income rental projects or units qualifying individuals and families.

### *HB1397 HD1 - RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING*

Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

## Supporting Agriculture

### *HB690 HD1 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE*

Establishes the Hawai'i Agricultural Investment Program within the Department of Agriculture to support local agricultural producers.

### *HB1266 HD2 - RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS*

Allows wild game to be donated as food.

# Mid-Session Bill Highlights Continued...

Please be advised that the status of the House measures listed will continue to evolve as the session progresses.

## Protecting the Environment

### *HB952 HD1* - RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect, manage, and restore natural resources, including native forests, native plants & animals, aquatic resources, coastal lands, and freshwater resources as well as address the impacts of climate change in the State.

### *HB85 HD1* – RELATING TO SINGLE\_USE PLASTICS

Prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests.

### *HB949 HD2* – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Establishes a Solar Energy Storage System Loan Program to provide asset limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) households with low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy storage systems, including battery storage systems.

## Investing into Public Interests

### *HB1408 HD3* – RELATING TO DIGITAL EQUITY

Establishes the Digital Equity Grant Program to award grants to applicants to deploy digital equity projects to covered populations in the State.

### *HB25 HD2* – RELATING TO TAXATION

Converts the Refundable Food/Excise Tax Credit to a tax rebate to be issued to qualifying taxpayers annually.

### *HB222 HD2* – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Adjusts the method by which the Department of Human Services calculates payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services.

To follow these bills, or others you may be interested in, and their status as they move through the legislative process, visit the Capitol's website at:  
[www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## *King Kekaulike High School Speed Tables Project*

The King Kekaulike High School speed tables have been completed as of March 14th, as part of the district's effort to increase pedestrian safety, especially the safety of our children.



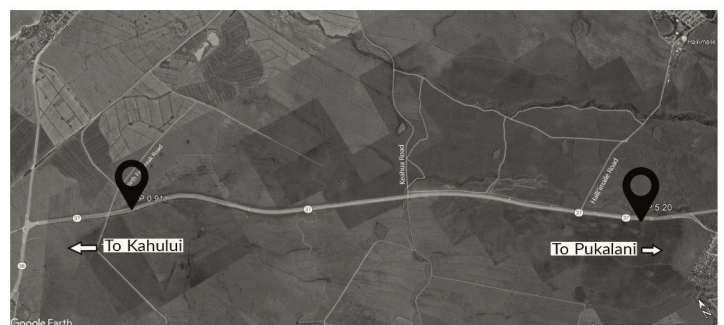
## Haleakala Highway Paving

**START WORK:** 3/28/2023

**COMPLETION DATE:** 7/31/2023

**WORK HOURS:** 8:30 PM - 5:30 AM

- Work will take place Monday nights through Saturday mornings.
- Traffic will be contra-flowed on the makai bound lanes.



## Representative Kyle Yamashita

*Hawaii State Capitol*

*415 S. Beretania Street, Room 306*

*Honolulu, HI 96813*

*(808) 586-6200*



# KAUNOA SENIOR SERVICES

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## APRIL CLASSES

Kaunoa Senior Services will offer virtual classes for seniors age 55 years or older in April.

### Classes:

- Motor Skills Upkeep
- Therapeutic Gardening
- Wellness & Fitness
- Arts & Crafts

For class descriptions and to register, call (808) 270-7308 and select option "3" or (808) 270-4310. Signed waivers are required for exercise classes. Pre-registration is required for in-person classes at Kaunoa Senior Center and West Maui Senior Center.

## UPCOUNTRY UPDATE!

Design plans for a new traffic light at the intersection of Kula Highway and Omaopio Road are now being prepared. Plans are to put the project out to bid by the end of the year.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING

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### Name:

PULEHUNUI IMPROVEMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE, MAUI

### Amount Released:

\$15,000,000

### Description:

TO ALLOT AND DESIGN FUNDS FOR WATER, WASTERWATER, AND/OR RECYCLED WATER TRANSMISSION LINES AND OTHER GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR STATE PROJECTS IN PULEHUNUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.