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Student advocates from Maui; Elizabeth Lyn, Kailana, Logan, RJ and Catherine, traveled to the State Capitol to share their concerns about the youth vaping epidemic.



Students and Teachers from Moloka'i visited my office as they were attending the "We Grow Hawaii-A Youth Food Summit" at the State Capitol.



State Council on Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Day! It was my honor to host a mock hearing so the Self-Advocates could learn to participate in the Legislative process!



The Kipahulu Ohana at Ocean Awareness Day at the State Capitol! Kipahulu after many years of community collaboration has gained the Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area designation through DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources.

## Senator DeCoite Constituent Visits



Spent a morning this March at Maliko gulch in Haiku to see first hand how the infestation of coqui frogs are impacting the area. Mahalo to the community members for the site visit!



Honored to celebrate the kick-off of the 12th Annual LEI Program with ClimbHI! LEI is a workforce development project to inspire Hawai'i youth to select careers in the Hawai'i visitor industry by providing them with the necessary means to achieve success.



I had the honor of hosting a constituent from Lāna'i as my intern for the day, Jacob Janikowski.

Jacob is a freshmen at Northern Arizona University. He was home on spring break in March and spent one day on Oahu to get a first hand look at the legislative process.

He sat in on meetings, attended Senate Floor Session and took notes with my committee staff during our EET hearings.



Ocean-it interns at the Paia Mantokuji Mission from Maui High Schools and UHMC. It was amazing to see their work and plans for the future.



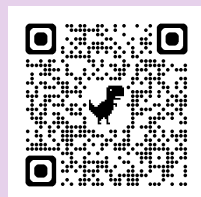
The Boys and Girls Club Maui's "Big Chef Little Chef"!

## Do you have Unclaimed Property?

**As of April 30, 2024, there are 89,848 listings for SD 7 on the State Unclaimed Property List. 2,135 Listings are for \$500 or more!!**

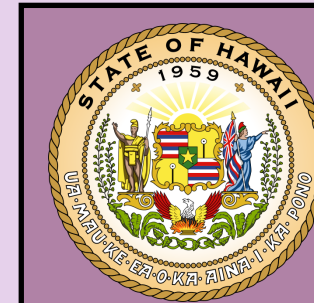
Did you know the State of Hawaii holds unclaimed property as a custodian for the rightful owner? Have you checked to see if you or your Tutu who has passed have unclaimed property? Many of us do and don't even realize it. Some have few cents to a few hundred or even a few thousand dollars. It is very easy to check, and you can do it yourself from home.

Please view the information at the link/ QR Code below to check if you, your family members, or even your business/organization (past or present) have any unclaimed property. The list is updated every year. If you have unclaimed property, all you have to do is fill out the forms and get them turned in to the Unclaimed Property Office. No fees and no lawyers are needed.



Scan this QR code to go to the website: <https://budget.hawaii.gov/finance/unclaimedproperty/>

**REMINDER:** Act 184, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 requires that claims for funds less than \$100 in the unclaimed property trust fund must be claimed within ten (10) years of deposit into the trust fund, or the funds will escheat to the State and be transferred to the general fund. **On July 1, 2024, unclaimed funds less than \$100 and received on or prior to June 30, 2014, will escheat to the State if not claimed.**



## OFFICE OF SENATOR LYNN DECOITE

Senate District 7: Hāna, East & Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe and Molokini



## Legislative Newsletter May 2024

Aloha District 7 Ohana,

I hope you are all doing well! It's hard to believe another legislative session has already gone by. It has once again been a rewarding experience and an honor to represent Senate District 7. Mahalo to everyone for taking the time to contact my office with your positions and concerns about the bills this session. Hearing directly from all of you helps guide my votes and decisions on bills and policies.

As the Chair of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism, I worked with my colleagues to pass bills relating to Energy, Economic Development related Tax Credits, and more. This role has allowed me to learn more about the legislature, as well as how to better assist with the issues residents of SD 7 face on any given day.

Mahalo for your continued interest and concerns for issues facing our state and the communities of SD 7. I look forward to seeing you and your Ohana when I'm out in the district at one of the many upcoming community events. And please know that my staff and I are just a phone call or email away if you have any questions or concerns on State related matters.

Mahalo nui loa

*Lynn DeCoite*

Senator Lynn DeCoite, District 7



Education Week: Kaunakakai School teacher, **Mr. David "Kawika" Gonzales** was honored as the Teacher of the year for Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai Complex area!



The Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Committee at an Informational Briefing on the Film Industry in Hawai'i

# District 7 Funds

Over \$265,000,000 brought to the district in budget additions, CIP's & GIA's!

## Budget Highlights (HB 1800 HD1 SD1 CD1)

### Department of Agriculture

\$1,500,000—Da Bux Program  
\$1,000,000 and 3 meat inspector positions

### Department of Accounting and General Services

\$150,000—Arts and Health for Maui Wildfire Victims

### Department of Budget and Finance

\$4,000,000—increased Unclaimed Property Trust Fund ceiling

### Department of Business,

### Economic Development, and Tourism

\$818,630 and positions for the "Solar for All" Initiative in Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority  
\$1,050,000 for workforce development through the Hawaii Tourism Authority

### Department of Education

\$12,931,380—increases to the weighted student formula and English language learners  
\$6,000,000 for weighted student formula for small and remote schools  
\$18,000,000—school food service program

## FY24—FY25 Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)

\$2,000,000—**Waikolu Valley**—design and construction of improvements to the irrigation system  
\$1,200,000—**Kilohana Elementary**— construction for repairs to two basketball courts, including resurfacing, replacing hoop frames, replacing court lights, and shade structures  
\$2,500,000—**Lānaʻi High & Elementary School**—plan, design, and installation of a new fire alarm system  
\$10,000,000—**Kekaulike High School**—design and construction of sewer system improvements  
\$1,174,000—**Hāna High & Elementary School**—design and construction for a girls' athletic locker room  
\$1,000,000—**Waiʻānanapa State Park**— construction of park improvements, including but not limited to comfort station, water and sewer system improvements  
\$2,500,000—**Value-Added Product Development Center, Molokai**—plan, design, construction and equipment for the development of a value-added product development center  
\$71,760,000 – **DOE Lump Sum CIP - Deferred Maintenance Projects (FY24)**  
\$45,000,000 – **DOE Lump Sum CIP - Deferred Maintenance Projects (FY25)**  
\$25,600,000 – **DOE Lump Sum CIP - Federal Grants (FY24)**

(DOE cont...)

\$187,000—temporary libraries for Kaneohe, Makawao, and Princeville  
\$62,500—Makawao temporary library  
\$2,500,000 for Career and Technical teacher differentials

### Department of Health

\$122,556 and 2 positions for Kalaupapa  
\$17,400,000—Maui Health Systems  
\$4,212,751—Emergency Medical Services Statewide  
\$2,000,000—Essential Rural Medical Air transport

### Department of Human Services

\$10,500,000 for Rehabilitation, Remodeling, Renovation, and Repair of Housing Units

### University of Hawaii

\$3,700,000 for the Hawaii Promise Community College scholarship program  
\$925,000 and 4 positions—for neighbor island health access and pathway extension  
\$1,000,000—wildfire mapping and vulnerability assessments

# END OF SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## Senator DeCoite's Bills

that have passed through the Legislature and moving onto the Governor

### SB2497 SD2 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO TAXATION

Repeals the provision that made references to the base amount in the Internal Revenue Code inapplicable to the research activities tax credit and allowed credits for all qualified research expenses to be taken without regard to previous years' expenses. Narrows the qualifying criteria for research activities tax credits to applicants who are small businesses registered in the State. Amends the maximum amount of tax credits that can be certified per year. Extends the sunset date of the research activities tax credit to 12/31/29 .

### SB2537 SD2 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO ENERGY

Clarifies that the Chief Energy Officer is responsible for supporting the renewable portfolio standards and reporting on certain energy matters.

### SB2974 SD2 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Establishes a Business Revitalization Task Force within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify methods to improve Hawaii's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including the mitigation of regulatory and tax burdens. Requires a report to the Legislature.

### SB2536 SD1 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO PROCUREMENT PREFERENCES AND RECIPROCITY

Establishes accounting services procurement preferences for certain Hawaii accounting service businesses. Clarifies that the existing reciprocity procurement preference includes offerors under sections 103D-302 and 103D-303, Hawaii Revised Statutes

## 2024 BILLS OF IMPORTANCE

### SB1035 SD2 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAX

Exempts from the general excise tax those medical and dental services provided by health care providers to patients who receive Medicaid, Medicare, or TRICARE benefits

### HB2619 HD1 SD1 CD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Requires the Department of Agriculture to lead and coordinate the State's invasive pest control and eradication biosecurity efforts. Establishes certain reporting requirements. Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for programs and positions in agricultural biosecurity. Appropriates funds to each county as a grant-in-aid, subject to a county match, for the implementation of feral chicken control programs.

### HB2074 HD2 SD1 CD1 RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION.

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for Kaiapuni programs and the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

### SB2475 SD2 HD2 CD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Establishes a harm to students registry, for all early learning programs or schools and K-12 educational institutions within the State, that contains information on school employees, contractors, or volunteers for whom, as result of an investigation, a final finding has been issued that the individual has inflicted harm on a student.

### HB2404 HD1 SD1 CD1 RELATING TO INCOME TAX

Incrementally increases standard deduction amounts and widens income tax brackets for specific taxable years beginning after 12/31/2023.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

## Governor's Deadlines, CIP Releases and 2024 Awarded GIA's

For Bills sent to the Governor after April 15, 2024 (less than 20 days prior to adjournment *sine die*)...

- 1) If the Governor signs the bill by **July 10, 2024** (the 45th day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law and is given an act number.
- 2) If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill by **July 10, 2024** (the 45th day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature and is given an act number
- 3) If the Governor intends to veto the bill, the Governor must inform the Legislature by **June 25, 2024** (the 35th day after adjournment *sine die*) and deliver the veto by July 10, 2024 (the 45th day after adjournment *sine die*). If the bill is vetoed, it will not become law unless the Legislature successfully overrides the veto in special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber. The Legislature must convene in special session at or before noon on **July 10, 2024**, to override the Governor's veto.

### Capital Improvement Project Funds Released (Jan-April 2024)

- ◇ **Kula Highway & Omaopio Road, Maui**—construction for intersection safety improvements **\$3,500,000**
- ◇ **Kahului Airport, Maui**—construction of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training pit **\$25,259,210**
- ◇ **Kalaupapa Settlement, Moloka'i**—design and construction to reroof and provide structural repairs to the Care Home at the Kalaupapa Settlement **\$945,000**
- ◇ **Waiʻānanapa State Park, Maui**—construction of a new access road **\$7,760,000**
- ◇ **Watershed Protection and Initiatives**—construction of watershed protection fences on **Moloka'i** and Hawaii **\$5,000,000**
- ◇ **Hāna Airport, Maui**—construction of cesspool closeouts and replacement with individual water systems **\$467,310**
- ◇ **Hana High and Elementary School, Maui**—finance, design, and construction for a multipurpose athletic field **\$1,300,000**
- ◇ **Moloka'i High School**—finance, design, and construction for gym renovations, which include hurricane shelter retrofit and renovation improvements—**\$5,510,000**



Bill Signing for **SB 582** (RELATING TO STATE BUDGET) on May 2, 2024. SB 582 Appropriates funds to support the State's response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the County of Maui.

### 2024 Operating Grant-In-Aid's

- ◆ **\$100,000** – Hale Mahaolu Subsidy Program
- ◆ **\$150,000** – Hale Makua Health Services (FOR COSTS RELATED TO SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADULT DAY HEALTH OPERATION ON MOLOKAI FOR FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES )
- ◆ **\$275,000** – Hawaii Agricultural Foundation
- ◆ **\$150,000** – Hawaii Farm Bureau Foundation
- ◆ **\$20,000** – Lānaʻi Academy of Performing Arts, INC.
- ◆ **\$100,000** – Maui Economic Development Board, INC.
- ◆ **\$50,000** – Maui Phoenix Farms, LLC (Kula)
- ◆ **\$100,000** – Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance

### 2024 Capital Grant-In-Aid's

- ◆ **\$800,000**—Hale Makua Health Services
- ◆ **\$500,000**—Lānaʻi Community Health Center
- ◆ **\$500,000**—Maui Humane Society

OFFICE OF SENATOR LYNN DECOITE  
SENATE DISTRICT 7

