

HI Rep, from Page 5



Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

for working families and encourage economic growth across the islands.

Affordable Housing

Governor Green noted that Hawai'i is working hard to expand housing opportunities, including:

Accelerating the development of nearly 7,000 affordable housing units through emergency proclamations.

Tracking over 62,000 units in development over the next decade, including 46,000 designated as affordable.

Requesting \$500 million for housing initiatives in the upcoming biennium budget to support workforce housing and Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Homelessness

Governor Green reaffirmed his commitment to cutting homelessness in half by 2026:

Expanding kauhale (tiny home) villages to 17 statewide as of today, with 30 villages planned by 2026.

Allocating \$50 million annually for kauhale development and increasing investments in Housing First and rapid re-housing programs.

Reporting a 76 percent reduction in health care costs for housed individuals, underscoring the economic and social benefits of compassionate solutions.

Maui Recovery

Governor Green detailed ongoing recovery efforts following the 2023 Maui wildfires:

Investing more than \$2 billion in federal disaster relief and \$800 million in state funds to support survivors and rebuild communities.

Ensuring long-term housing for

99 percent of displaced residents through innovative interim and permanent housing projects.

Enhancing statewide wildfire prevention measures, including deploying early alert sensors, reestablishing the State Fire Marshal office, and increasing funding by \$2.2 million.

Health Care

The Governor spotlighted health and public safety advancements, including:

Launching the Health Care Education Loan Repayment Program (HELP) to address the shortage of healthcare professionals in rural and underserved areas.

Significant financial investments in rural hospitals, behavioral health centers, and Medicaid improvements.

Dedicated more state and federal funds to raising Medicaid rates — improving care for 450,000 of the most vulnerable people in our state.

Public Safety

The Governor spotlighted critical advancements in public safety, including:

Passing two new gun safety laws, designating sensitive places where firearms are prohibited and providing active-shooter training in public and charter schools to ensure safer communities.

Hosting two successful gun buyback events, collecting approximately 1,000 firearms — including assault rifles, ghost guns, and semi-automatic weapons — and removing them from Hawai'i's streets.

Establishing the Illegal Fireworks Task Force, which has seized 227,000 pounds of illegal fireworks, and pursuing legislation to ensure only safe and legal fireworks are used in the state.

Climate and Environment

The Governor emphasized that Hawai'i continues to lead on climate action by:

Permanently shutting down the Red Hill fuel facility.

Implementing recommendations from the Climate Advisory Team to mitigate the effects of climate-related disasters by funding resiliency efforts across the state.

Partnering with youth advocates and organizations to champion emissions reductions and sustainable transportation solutions.

After the State of the State Address, legislative hearings began in earnest. All the bills proposed by

the administration and by legislative members have been introduced and Committee Chairs are scheduling bills for hearings. As Chair, I am scheduling four hearings of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee each week to consider legislation referred to the Committee.

Each of the Committee Chairs is also reviewing the budgets for the State agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction and making recommendations to the House Finance Committee for additions and deletions to the budget. As Chair of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, I am responsible for the

budgets for the Judiciary, Office of Information Practices, Campaign Spending Commission, Office of Elections, Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Law Enforcement, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

During this session, I welcome your input and advice. Please contact me anytime at (808) 586-8510 and reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov to share your thoughts and to subscribe to my e-newsletter which provides regular updates on my work.

Mahalo Kohala!



Oléna Gallery

Big Island Artists and Craftsmen

Reception for our March
Featured Glass Artist
Jaime Lesourd
Friday, March, 7th 3-6pm

Open daily 10-5
Hawi, at the Hawi Road Intersection
@olenagallery.4636
(808) 345-1779



County of Hawai'i
Department of Environmental Management

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, March 1, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

67-1315 Ala 'Ōhi'a Road
Spencer Kalani Schutte (Waimea) District Park
*FREE. Open to households only *
For more info visit
www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/household-hazardous-waste/

Businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations
PROHIBITED BY LAW







Accepted Items (certain restrictions apply):
Batteries (no PV or EV), poisons, oil-based paints, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermometers, automotive fluids

For full list, safety rules and limitations visit website
www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/household-hazardous-waste/

These items contain toxic materials. If improperly disposed, they may leach and pollute groundwater and the 'āina.
Let's do our part - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

PLANTATION MARKET



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