

Senator Michelle Kidani

Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 - Proudly serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia
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Ways and Means

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The 2019 legislative session adjourned after a productive conference focused on bills to support, protect and uplift the community as well as determining budget allocations for the 2019-2021 fiscal years. It was an especially important and significant session for me as the Committee Chair on Education whose primary goal is to ensure a thriving education system for students, staff and teachers. The Legislature's dedication to education is evident in these budgets, where the second largest funding was awarded to education at \$4.25B eclipsed only by healthcare with \$5.56B allocated to Medicaid.

My priority as Education chair continues to be addressing our teacher shortage. This session pushed three innovative strategies. First, I obtained \$600k to continue the Grow Our Own program that I started two years ago. I also secured \$1.2M for the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to be fully general funded and increase services and supports to our current and future teachers. And finally, I also secured \$450K for Leeward Community Center's Special Education teacher preparation program.

May and June also mark a season of celebration for faculty and families as students prepare for graduation and an exciting new chapter in their lives. I send my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all of the 2019 graduates for their hard work, perseverance and academic achievements. I cannot wait to see where your journey leads next!

BILL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Conference Committee came to a close with the end of the 2019 Legislative Session on May 2, 2019. It culminated with both celebrations and challenges regarding bills that were passed in both the House and the Senate. For more information on these bills, additional updates and more, visit the Senate website at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

SENATOR KIDANI'S BILLS:

SB78 – PRE-K FUNDING AND TURNOVER/TRANSFER SAVINGS

This bill contained a number of important funding pieces for the future of Pre-K in our state. I have been a strong advocate for the expansion of public Pre-K programming and appreciate the House working with us to not only keep our previously Federally funded Charter Pre-K classrooms but to also fund 10 additional Pre-K classrooms. I am thrilled to also announce an additional \$1.5M in early college funds was included to expand the number of high schools that can offer this program to their students. Here are some highlights from this bill:

- o \$724K in 2020 and \$1.14M in 2021 for 10 new Pre-K classrooms
- o \$6.5M in each fiscal year for retrofitting the 10 new Pre-K classrooms
- o \$4M in each fiscal year for sustaining funding for 18 charter Pre-K classrooms
- o \$1.5M in each fiscal year in new money for Early College funding
- o \$155K in each fiscal year for school climate and student safety studies



SB78 will support students like those pictured above, Waipahu High School students who are amongst the elite group of Early College graduates who received their Certificate of Competence from KCC as Advanced Pharmacy Technicians and Medical Assistants who are now eligible to receive national certifications. Congratulations graduates on your exciting accomplishments!





SENATOR KIDANI'S BILLS (CONTINUED):

SB976 –21ST CENTURY LIBRARIES

Though Governor Ige vetoed this bill last session, I believe that the Hawai'i State Public Library System deserves the same opportunity that our DOE has had with Act 155. With the growing focus on technology, many of our libraries have been neglected and are in need of a long overdue remodel. Public-private partnerships can revitalize libraries as the valuable community centers they are for the public.

SB1303 – ACT 155 LAND TRANSFER AMENDMENTS; 99 YEAR LEASES

This bill amends the existing law regarding all lands upon which O'ahu schools sit upon. Where all such lands have been previously owned by the City and County of Honolulu, this new amendment directs their immediate transfer from the State of Hawai'i to the Department of Education. Under Act 155, this bill also amends the Department of Education Act 155 so they can lease lands under its control for up to 99 years.

SR51 – MODERN FARMING STUDENT STRATEGY

This resolution encourages the DOE, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Department of Agriculture to come up with a strategy to encourage the next generation of farmers. There is no shortage of land to do so, as the State has purchased many acres of Agricultural land on O'ahu but does not have enough new farmers to replace those retiring. This resolution hopes a new generation of modern farmers will bring innovative new agricultural methods into the educational system.

EDUCATION BILLS

HB1070 – FUNDS FOR HTSB & GROW OUR OWN TEACHERS INITIATIVE

This initiative allows the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to increase their teacher recruitment efforts, work on new certification methods for teachers, and eliminate teacher license fees for teachers across our state. \$1.27M was included in each fiscal year to convert 6 full time positions in the HTSB from special funds to general funds. While the latest collective bargaining agreement pays for tenured teachers, the state's newest (and often lowest paid) teachers still have to pay the fee on their own. This bill will eliminate the financial burden of teacher license fees and allow teachers to retain more of their hard earned paychecks.

This bill includes an additional \$600,000 in each fiscal year to continue the Grow Our Own program that I started two years ago. This program aims to encourage substitute teachers and educational assistants to continue their educational pursuits and earn their teaching certifications. In doing so, the state hopes to increase the pool of eligible applicants certified as highly qualified teachers willing to serve the community in hard-to-fill schools.

SB383 – DOE PROTOCOLS ON YOUTH SUICIDE AND PREVENTION

In response to the increasing concern regarding mental health, this bill requires the Department of Education to establish a mandatory Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Program and model risk referral protocol for complex areas and charter schools in coordination with the Department of Health. This program would include protocol reports provided on an annual basis to school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade 12 in an attempt to provide necessary support and prevention to children and adolescents.

SB388 – BEHAVIORAL YOUTH INTERVENTION NEEDS

Further examining the needs of student health and well-being, this bill requires the Department of Education establish a task force to create new evaluation systems to assess students exhibiting concerning behaviors that may be in need of appropriate support and intervention. This may consist of emergent or persistent misbehaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism and a means of addressing these behavioral concerns with appropriate action and strategic resolutions in the best interest of the student. A preliminary report is due to the Legislature prior to July 19, 2020.

SB989 – \$1.2M IN FY20 FOR CREATIVE MEDIA PROGRAMS

Our film and creative media industry has been booming over the last 5 years with productions like Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, Jurassic World, and the reboots of Hawai'i Five-O and Magnum P.I. shot right here at home. My concern has always been making sure that our local residents had the training and expertise necessary to fill the jobs of this industry and not import more workers to the state. This appropriation will go towards creative media programs at the high school and college levels.

BILL LEGISLATION UPDATE

HB2 – STATE BUDGET BILL

Here are some highlights from the biennial budget bill:

- Leeward Community College to receive 5 FTEs and \$450K to expand their Special Education teacher preparation coursework. The statewide shortage of SPED teachers has remained a growing concern. This bill seeks to support LCC in finding a solution. LCC has been working incredibly diligently to establish a recruitment program aimed at finding educators from hard-to-fill schools on the Leeward Coast and supporting their continued education to receive Bachelor degrees and SPED teacher certification.
- Teacher Mentoring and Induction to receive 3 FTEs and \$487K in 2020 and \$444K in 2021. This DOE program has been working to pair new teachers with veterans to provide support, mentorship and professional development geared towards new teachers and other best practices for teacher retention.
- State Library System to receive \$500K in each fiscal year for new collections. With the increased demand for electronic books, magazines, and other collections, the Hawai'i State Library will receive well-deserved funding to ensure that access to the best books and magazines is both available in hard and electronic copies.

HB1259 – CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

This bill appropriates capital improvement projects for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021. Here are some highlights for our community:

- Mililani High School: \$500K for the completion of the girls athletic locker room
- Mililani High School: \$1.68M for softball field improvements
- Mililani High School: \$250K for plans, design, construction and equipment towards a new gymnasium and refurbishment of current gymnasium into a performing arts facility
- Mililani Middle School: \$490K for plans, design, construction and equipment for a sidewalk improvement project, including expansion and widening of campus-wide sidewalks
- Mililani Uka Elementary: \$1.2M for construction to stabilize an eroding slope fronting the Kamehameha side of school campus
- Waipahu High School: \$5.5M for the design, construction and equipment for phase one of a new classroom building
- Waipahu High School: \$4.7M for design and construction of a girls athletic locker room
- Kalei'opu'u Elementary School: \$250K for design due diligence effort to construct a new classroom building



Pictured Above: Mililani High School and Kalei'opu'u Elementary School, both of whom received HB1259 funding for campus improvements

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

SB551 – NON-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURES

This bill clarifies that associations have the ability to use nonjudicial foreclosure to collect rental delinquencies regardless of whether or not the powers exist in the associations governing documents provided by the association. This would allow homeowners to be given the opportunity to enter into mediation for such claims though exemptions apply for units where the owner is on military deployment outside of the State of Hawai'i.

HB89 – CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Constituents shared concerns regarding illegal fireworks becoming a growing problem within our communities. I worked closely with my colleagues in the Senate, held meetings with the Honolulu Police Department, and other community advocates to craft language that will give HPD more tools to address illegal firework activity. This bill specifically places liability on property owners who knowingly allow such activity to take place on their property to be fined a minimum of \$500. It also expands approved evidence to include witness statements, photos, or video recordings that can be corroborated by one or more witnesses.

HB1259 – CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (MILILANI TECH PARK LOT #17)

This bill designates \$15.225M to the land acquisition of Mililani Tech Park lot #17 for use as a community arts and theatre center and ancillary support to the first responders tech park.

BILL LEGISLATION UPDATE

HB1383 – MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION

Addressing marijuana decriminalization, this bill provides for the expungement of criminal records pertaining to individuals in possession of 3 grams or less of marijuana. This bill establishes the possession of such amount as a violation punishable by a monetary fine of \$130. It also requires a marijuana evaluation task force designated to research other states' laws, penalties, and outcomes pertaining to marijuana use and make appropriate recommendations to the Legislature.

SB 33 – FILM TAX CREDIT CAP INCREASE

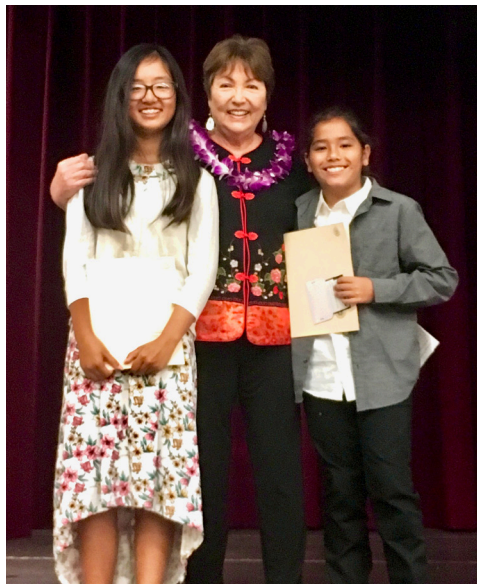
Our television, motion picture, and digital media industry continues to grow in our State thanks in part to the tax credit system that we have enabled. While fiscal prudence dictates that we bring in some kind of a cap I am pleased that we were able to negotiate a bump up in the ceiling of this tax credit; set to kick in at the start of this coming fiscal year. With films like Jumanji, Godzilla, and Jurassic World bringing big name stars and productions to our island in addition to our consistent television productions of Hawai'i Five-O and Magnum, it is important that we do not stifle this important industry for our islands. Importantly, with the approval of a new Creative Media degree at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu, we want to make sure that there is an industry ready with steady, good paying jobs for our graduates to fill.

SB1292 HD3, RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS

This bill received a lot of attention regarding the growing concern of transient accommodations in Hawai'i. In 2017 Governor Ige announced that he would lead and negotiate a deal directly for the collection of taxes with vacation rental platforms such as Air BnB. However, in 2018 Governor Ige rejected the negotiated deal and forced the issue back to the Legislature.

The heart of this bill addresses the rightful collection of taxes owed to the state for the operation of vacation rentals. Nothing in this bill precludes or supersedes the County's authority to pass or enforce existing land-use ordinances to regulate where and how vacation rentals operate. The estimated \$46 million in State tax revenue is important for a great many programs to address issues like homelessness, healthcare, and education.

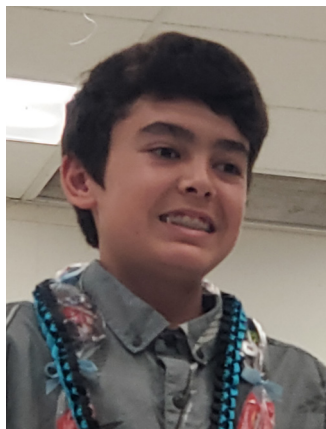
SCHOOL AWARDS



On May 21, I attended Kanoelani Elementary School to present 6th graders **Manoa Joao Monteiro** and **Mariko Yonemura** student awards for their outstanding academic achievements.

It has been an exceptional year for this thriving community as teacher **Richard Brian Ogawa** was presented the Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Kanoelani's proud Principal **Stacie Kunihisa** received the state's top honors as the 2019 Hawaii National Distinguished Principal as well as the 2019 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership award, of which she has been a finalist for two years running.

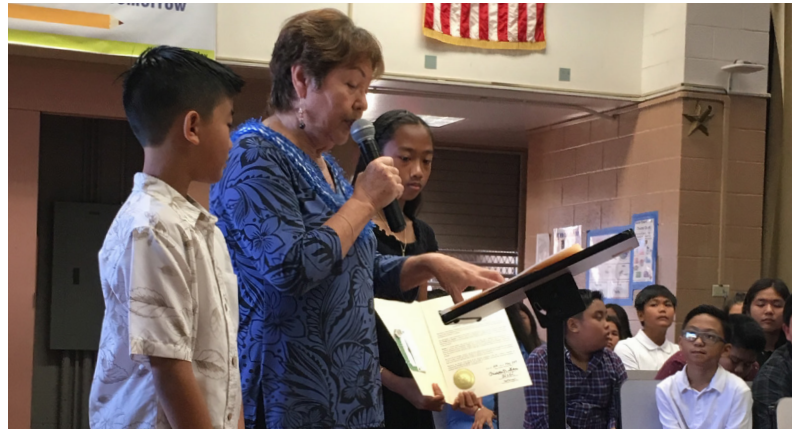
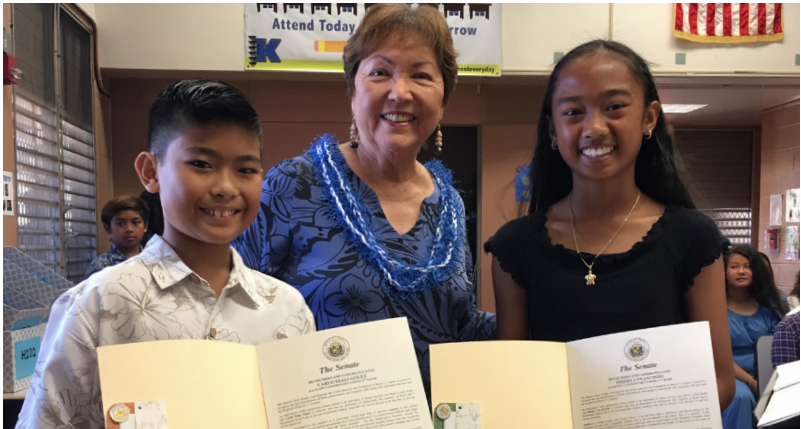
Congratulations to all the honorees of Kanoelani Elementary School for their exceptional work!



The students and faculty of Mililani Middle School gathered on May 22 for the Blazer Awards Night to present four exemplary students with awards from me. 8th grade students (pictured above L-R) **Kian Kelly**, **Kamryn Lapinid**, **Emma Olsson** and **Samantha Ito** were nominated by teachers for their academic achievements and citizenship within the school community as role models who demonstrate the values of leadership, hard work and friendship amongst their peers and faculty. Congratulations!

SCHOOL AWARDS

May ended strong with the student awards at Kalei'opu'u Elementary School. I joined the students, staff and families on May 30th to honor the exceptional students who have been leading by example for their peers. Kalei'opu'u recognized **Deizha Lyn Jacinto** and **Carlo Elias Golez** for their commitment to their studies and leadership qualities. Congratulations to these two bright keiki as well as the the entire Kalei'opu'u community for guiding these young minds!



I presented Mililani Uka Elementary students **Dakin Michael Saraos Jr.** and **Noah Talon** certificates of recognition on May 31, 2019 for their exceptional academic success, leadership and friendship amongst faculty and friends. The young men were selected by their teachers as outstanding student leaders who represent the values of Mililani Uka Elementary School. We wish them much success in their future endeavors as they continue their educational pursuits!



I was thrilled to honor Kipapa Elementary School's **Aubri Nakashima** and **Dallas Colburn** as shining stars of their 5th grade class on May 31st. They stood out in the minds of their teachers as dedicated students and community members.

I also honored Kipapa Elementary School science teacher **Stacie Tateyama** during the presentation as she received the Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, recognized as the highest award K-12 mathematics and science award teachers can receive from the U.S. government. Congratulations to all of these brilliant individuals for their achievements!



Congratulations to Mililani Waena Elementary students **Lauren Omine** and **Noelani Nakamoto** who received high praise from teachers during their student awards on May 31st. The 5th graders were acknowledged for leading by example as dedicated students pursuing their academic interests as well as engaged leaders who are committed to their classmates and school. We are so proud of these brilliant young women and cannot see what the future holds for them as they continue into 6th grade!



SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

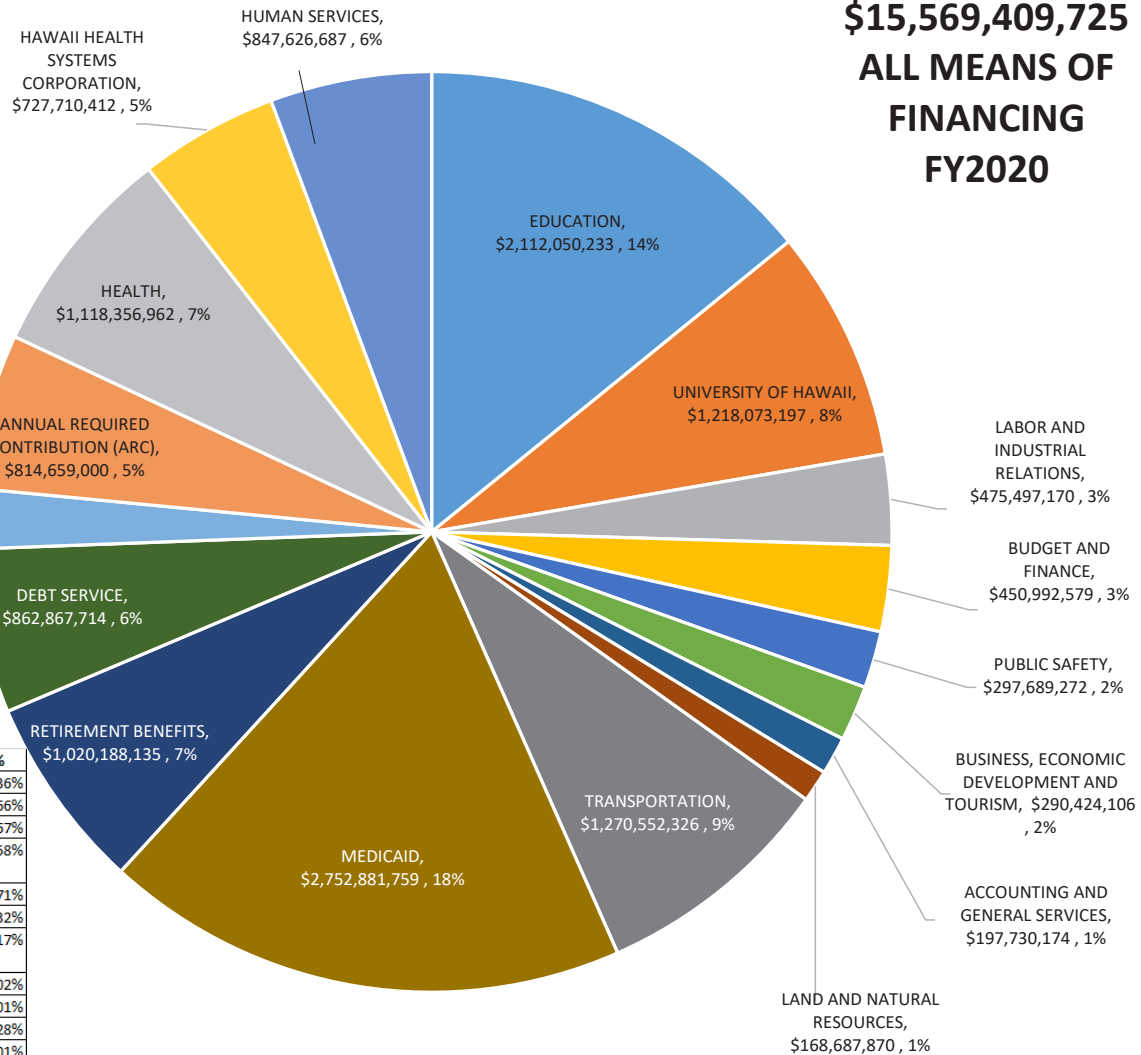


Congratulations to the Mililani High School boys baseball team and coach **Mark Hirayama**, who ended a hard-fought season as the Oahu Interscholastic Association Division I champions, defeating Campbell high school 17-6 overall. It was the second title in a row for the Trojans and the third in school history, continuing an incredible legacy for the Mililani team!

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

HB2 CD1; HB116 CD1: The Legislature's budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year begins July 1, 2019 and authorizes spending of \$15.7 billion to fund state operating costs, 14% of which is dedicated to public education. Funds allocated for public schools remain the second largest category in the state budget after Medicaid and are intended to improve and advance the public education system.

\$15,569,409,725
ALL MEANS OF FINANCING
FY2020



| DEPTS <1% | FY2020 | % |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| AGRICULTURE | \$ 55,898,559 | 0.36% |
| ATTORNEY GENERAL | \$ 103,000,417 | 0.66% |
| CHARTER SCHOOLS | \$ 104,703,606 | 0.67% |
| COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS | \$ 90,659,028 | 0.58% |
| DEFENSE | \$ 110,120,767 | 0.71% |
| HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS | \$ 50,521,830 | 0.32% |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | \$ 26,206,625 | 0.17% |
| DEVELOPMENT | | |
| OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR | \$ 3,863,903 | 0.02% |
| OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR | \$ 977,555 | 0.01% |
| PUBLIC LIBRARIES | \$ 43,877,423 | 0.28% |
| SUBSIDIES | \$ 942,000 | 0.01% |
| TAXATION | \$ 36,687,491 | 0.24% |

* Also includes funding from SB78, SB491, SB512, SB812, HB624, HB852, HB1561

MILILANI COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

The Mililani Disaster Preparedness Team was established in 2018 by Mililani resident and retired **Brigadier General Braden Sakai** with a vision of preparing the Mililani Community in the event of a natural or manmade disaster through disaster response plans. The goal of MDPT's plan is to educate the community and equip them with the tools to work together in the event of a disaster to sustain themselves until help arrives. As the plan continues develop, residents are urged to be part of the solution by taking the following preparedness steps to begin laying a strong foundation for your family and community's emergency plan. Head to the MDPT website for more information or contact Braden Sakai for presentations to prepare your family in case of an emergency:



1. Build a home Disaster Kit for yourself & your family that includes 14 days of food and water
2. Take necessary steps to reinforce entryways, windows and strengthen your home
3. Start making a map of your neighborhood so you are aware of evacuation options

For additional resources and recommendations on how you can prepare, head to MDPT's website at www.mililanidpt.com for contact braden.sakai@gmail.com.

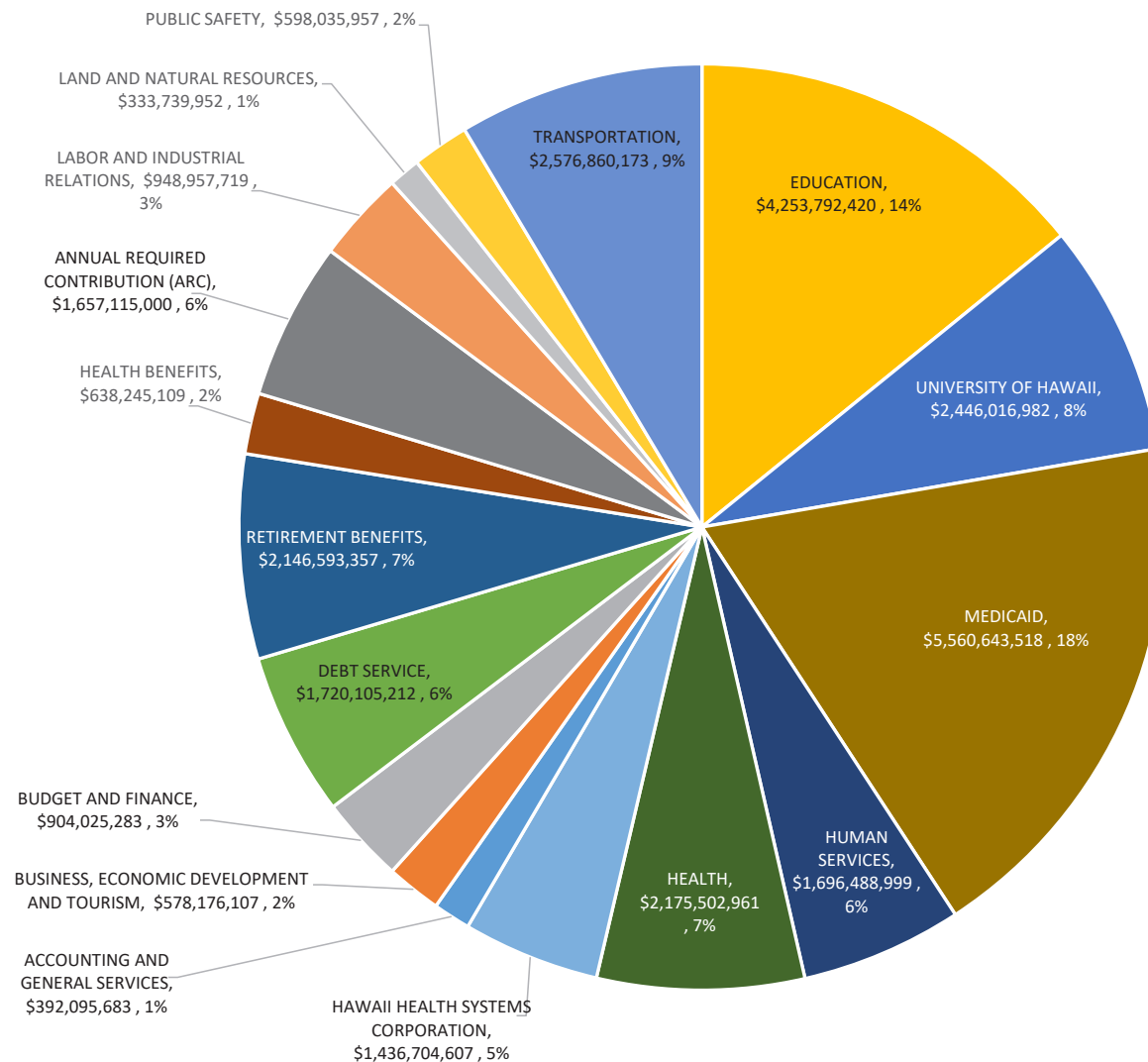
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

The Legislature's total budget for the fiscal year 2021 for all means of financing is \$31,320,458,635. Charted below are the budget breakdowns for all categories during the 2019-2021 years:

HB2 CD1
HB116 CD1

EXECUTIVE BUDGET

\$31,320,458,635
ALL MEANS OF
FINANCING
FB2019-2021



| DEPTS < 1% | FB19-21 | % |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| AGRICULTURE | \$ 109,842,984 | 0.35% |
| ATTORNEY GENERAL | \$ 205,428,434 | 0.66% |
| COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS | \$ 180,498,656 | 0.58% |
| DEFENSE | \$ 219,714,368 | 0.70% |
| CHARTER SCHOOLS | \$ 214,637,778 | 0.69% |
| PUBLIC LIBRARIES | \$ 87,825,348 | 0.28% |
| OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR | \$ 7,577,806 | 0.02% |
| HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS | \$ 101,049,880 | 0.32% |
| HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT | \$ 52,410,250 | 0.17% |
| OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR | \$ 1,955,110 | 0.01% |
| SUBSIDIES | \$ 1,884,000 | 0.01% |
| TAXATION | \$ 74,534,982 | 0.24% |

* Also includes funding from SB78, SB491, SB512, SB812, HB624, HB852, HB1561

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all of the 2019 graduates for their incredible achievements. We wish them much success as they venture forth into the next exciting chapter of their lives and pursuit their future endeavors! Congrats, graduates!



Above: Waipahu High School seniors celebrate their graduation on May 29, 2019. Class President **Megan Aragon** shares thoughtful insights to her classmates during the ceremony. Below: Senator Kidani smiles with Presidential Scholar **Ian Henry Acosta** as he accepts his Senate certificate; Seniors from Mililani High School eagerly await their diplomas.

