

SENATOR

Troy N. Hashimoto



2025 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS  
MESSAGE FROM TROY



# News & Updates

PROUDLY SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 5 - WAILUKU, KAHULUI, WAIHE'E, WAIKAPU MAUKA, WAI'EHU

## 322 BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE

With the adjournment of this year's legislative session, below are highlights of several key bills that were passed by the legislature and are now pending final action. In total, 322 bills were passed this session. The Governor has until July 9 to sign into law, veto, or allow bills to become law without a signature. Any intent to veto must be relayed to the Legislature by June 24. For a comprehensive list of all bills passed this session, visit [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/main.aspx](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/main.aspx).

### EDUCATION

#### SB119 - Relating to Nursing

Appropriates \$250,000 in FY26 and \$350,000 in FY27 for the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing pathway at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.

#### HB692 - Relating to the Preschool Open Doors Program

Expands eligibility criteria for the program to include two-year-old children and repeals the accreditation requirement for program providers to increase childcare accessibility.

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### SB825 - Relating to Eviction Mediation

Beginning Feb. 2026, requires landlords to engage in mediation with tenants if requested before filing for summary possession. Extends notice of termination of a rental agreement from five business days to ten calendar days. Appropriates \$1.25 million in FY26 and FY27 for the Judiciary to contract for mediation services. Sunsets in Feb. 2028, but keeps the extended notice of termination.

#### SB102 - Relating to Restaurants

Introduced at the request of a Maui-based restaurant and prohibits third-party restaurant reservation services from advertising, promoting, or selling restaurant reservations without first receiving approval from the restaurant.

### WATER AND LAND

#### HB830 - Relating to Historic Preservation Reviews

Beginning July 2026, authorizes the State Historic Preservation Division to contract its review of proposed state projects affecting historic properties to third-party consultants under certain circumstances. This should help to speed up a longstanding, time-consuming review.

### HOUSING

#### HB1298 - Relating to Housing

Establishes a Government Employee Housing Pilot Program to provide affordable rental opportunities for State and county employees.

#### HB431 - Relating to Housing

Appropriates \$18.57 million in FY26 and \$24.32 million in FY27 for continuing kauhale initiatives to address statewide homelessness. Makes permanent the Ohana Zones Program, which provides wraparound services with a goal to transition those experiencing homelessness into housing. Adds \$2.52 million in FY26 and \$5.85 million in FY27 for the program.

#### HB422 - Relating to School Impact Fees

Repeals the construction cost component of school impact fees, which adds costs to new housing developments in areas like Central Maui. This will reduce financial barriers for affordable housing.

### HEALTH

#### HB700 - Relating to Cognitive Assessments


A priority of the Alzheimer's Association, establishes annual cognitive assessments for qualified Medicare beneficiaries. Establishes a two-year dementia data pilot program to analyze cognitive assessment data.

#### HB705 - Relating to the Executive Office on Aging

Establishes a medi-medi project within the Executive Office on Aging to assist older adults, medicare beneficiaries and underserved populations to gain access to their benefits. Appropriates \$121,016 in FY26 and FY27 to administer the project.

#### HB799 - Relating to Health

Clarifies that a physician may practice at an organized ambulatory healthcare facility even if they do not have hospital privileges at a licensed hospital in the same location. This will allow off-island physicians to practice on Maui without having hospital privileges.

 **E-Updates:** My office sends an e-newsletter every two weeks to keep you informed about events occurring in the community and at the legislature. If you would like to stay informed, go to [linktr.ee/sentroyhashimoto](http://linktr.ee/sentroyhashimoto) to subscribe.

The 2025 legislative session ended, sine die, on May 2. I am happy to share with you some of the legislative accomplishments secured for our community and State in this newsletter.

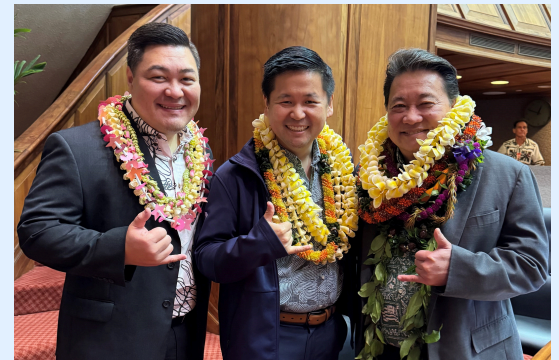
One of the most important highlights include the passage of **Senate Bill 119**, which will allow the University of Hawai'i Maui College to start their own four-year bachelor's degree in nursing – a big milestone for higher education within our community! Students currently must enroll in programs at other campuses. The hope is that this program will push more students to pursue a four-year degree since it will be right here on Maui and will fill a big workforce shortage.

**\$35 million** was also secured for a new Central Maui Middle School bringing us a step closer to the construction phase and will bring the total amount appropriated to over **\$70 million**.

I look forward to engaging with you in person at upcoming meetings and community events. Your ideas and suggestions are invaluable in shaping how I represent you effectively in the Senate. My office continues to be here to assist you. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns by calling (808) 586-7344 or by email at [senhashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senhashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Mahalo,

### SINE DIE - END OF 2025 SESSION



Session pau! Pictured with Representatives Miyake (left) and Yamashita (right) after singing Hawai'i Aloha to end the legislative session.

### MAUI COUNTY AT THE CAPITOL



Maui County deputy directors and councilmembers were welcomed to the State Capitol to learn more about the legislative process.

# LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

## EDUCATION

### SB1300 - Relating to School Meals

Expands free school meal coverage to students who currently qualify for reduced-price lunch beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Appropriates a total of **\$3.93 million** for meal subsidies for students eligible for reduced-price meals or whose family income is not more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

## AGRICULTURE

**HB427 - Relating to Biosecurity**  
Aims to protect the islands' environment from the growing threat of invasive species. Key provisions include establishing a deputy chairperson position to lead invasive species efforts, requiring inspection of imported plants and animals, increasing penalties for illegal transport, and establishing a new Biosecurity Emergency Response Program within the department.

**\$35 million** has been appropriated for the following:

- The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council operations;
- 44 positions for Biosecurity efforts;
- The Hawai'i Ant Lab; and
- The coconut rhinoceros beetle response under the University of Hawai'i.

## FIREWORKS

### HB806 & SB222 - Relating to Fireworks

**HB806** appropriates **\$1 million** to the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct fireworks sting operations and **\$2 million** to establish an explosives and firearms laboratory. **SB222** extends funding of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and the annual reporting requirements to the Legislature from 2025 to 2030. In the budget, appropriates **\$7.65 million** for eight positions for enforcement of illegal fireworks.

### HB1483 - Relating to Fireworks

Establishes new fireworks-related offenses and penalties, increases penalties for causing injury or death, and includes fireworks infractions in the adjudication process.

### HB550 - Relating to Fireworks

Allows law enforcement to use drone recordings over public property to establish probable cause for fireworks-related arrests if the act occurs on public property.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - WE HAVE A BILL



*In early May, had the pleasure of welcoming the 'Iao Intermediate School Band to the State Capitol, where they learned more about how our government operates. Always great to see the next generation getting involved! Big thanks to Julius Galanto and Brad Kuraya for guiding and inspiring these young leaders.*



## JWCC ANNUAL GALA

ALEC MCBARNET

HIDEO AND JOYCE KAWAHARA

*In March, the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows visited the Capitol for some great conversations about leadership and civic engagement. As a KIK alumni, it is always inspiring to see young leaders thinking critically about Hawai'i's future.*

## SHINNENKAI



*Attended the JCSM annual Shinnenkai and had the honor of recognizing awardees Brian Nagami, Tiffany Iida, and Sensei Claude Moreau for their excellence and lifetime dedication to the perpetuation of Japanese culture.*

# AROUND THE COMMUNITY

*The end is always a sprint! The legislature was able to pass many important measures - to the left, the conference committee poses with a copy of SB933, which appropriates \$50 million in funding towards nonprofits throughout the State, contingent on if they are impacted by federal funding reductions.*

## 'IAO SCHOOL BAND VISITS THE CAPITOL



*Attended the J. Walter Cameron Center's annual Gala in early May and was honored to present, on behalf of the Maui Delegation, a certificate to honorees Alec, CEO of Maui Oil, and Hideo (now retired) of A&B Properties Hawai'i, for their instrumental roles in strengthening the center's ability to serve the community. Mahalo for everything you do!*

## KA IPU KUKUI FELLOWS



## HOUSING UPDATE

### HALE PILINA BREAKS GROUND



*At the groundbreaking ceremony on May 9.*

**Catholic Charities Hawai'i** expects to complete construction of Hale Pilina, a 178-unit affordable housing project, by the **second quarter of 2027**. The project broke ground in early May, and is expected to relieve some of the need for housing within the community. Hale Pilina will comprise

of 89 one-bedroom, 89 two-bedroom units, and a resident manager unit. Hale Pilina is mainly financed with tax-exempt bonds, state and federal low-income tax credits, and the Rental Housing Revolving Fund. The units will be set aside for families earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income.

Hale Pilina will be situated on a once vacant lot on South Pu'unē Avenue, directly across from the post office and next door to the district pool. The lot was previously home to the Maui Swap Meet, before it moved to the University of Hawai'i Maui campus.



*With Councilmember Kama and Representative Miyake.*



## STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

This year's budget bill appropriated a total of \$19,940,654,149 in FY26 and \$19,759,753,598 in FY27 to go towards important issues such as housing, education, and health. \$3,379,551,000 in FY26 and \$2,331,259,000 in FY27 is appropriated for Capital Improvement Projects.

### UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

- **\$660,000** for the Practical Nursing Bridge program at UH Maui College to help with the Certified Nursing Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse pathway.
- **\$250,000** and 1.00 position for the UH Maui Water Quality Lab, the only water quality testing facility on Maui - and instrumental in the detection of bacteria in freshwater and seawater.

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- **\$411,216** and increases federal funds by \$12.5 million for 9 positions for Maui wildfire long-term recovery efforts.
- **\$500,000** for the State Rent Supplement Program, which provides shallow rent subsidies for eligible low-income families.
- **\$500,000** for the Federal Section 8 Program, designed to provide rental assistance to low-income families.
- **\$7.5 million** for the Housing First Program, which prioritizes permanent housing placement for those experiencing chronic homelessness.
- **\$50 million** in FY26 and FY27 towards the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to finance additional affordable rental housing. These funds are targeted towards households making 60 percent of the Area Median Income and below.
- **\$50 million** in FY26 and FY27 towards the RHRF to finance workforce housing projects for those earning between 60 and 100 percent of the area median income, many of which include government workers such as teachers, fire fighters, and police officers.
- **\$40 million** infusion to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund to help with for-sale housing projects and infrastructure investments.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- **\$18 million** for operating expenses for Maui Health Systems.
- **\$319,547** for EMS Aeromedical for Maui.
- **\$7.66 million** for 9-1-1 emergency ground and aeromedical ambulance services for Maui County.
- **\$45,616** and 1 position for an EMS Physician on Maui.

### DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **\$2.4 million** for Hydrologic (water) Studies to ensure sustainable development. Includes a study of the 'Iao Aquifer to determine long-term, sustainable yield.
- **\$14.82 million** and 22 positions for the Fire Protection Program, which aims to prevent and extinguish wildland fires.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **\$927,248** and 6 positions for mathematics, financial literacy curriculum, and instructional support statewide.
- **\$11.6 million** for athletics, including increases for travel, coaching salaries, athletic training supplies, flag football, and equity statewide.
- **\$49.38 million** for statewide school meal shortfalls to ensure lunch prices are not increased.
- **\$41.98 million** for statewide summer programs.
- **\$150 million** for deferred maintenance on school facilities statewide.
- **\$13.26 million** and 108 positions for public pre-kindergarten expansion within the Executive Office on Early Learning statewide.

### DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **\$7.65 million** and 8 positions for the Illegal Fireworks and Enforcement Section.
- **\$514,000** for the Silver Alert Program that notifies the public of missing older adults aged 60 or older.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following projects have been secured in the state budget. CIP projects are generally paid for with borrowed funds, and must be a large-scale renovation or repair.

### Central Maui Highlights

#### EDUCATION - PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION

##### New Central Maui Elementary and Middle School - \$35 million

- New K-8 school in Central Maui. Over \$70 million in funds have been appropriated for this project.



PU'U KUKUI / MAUI

##### Pu'u Kukui Elementary - \$3.2 million

- For two portable classrooms, ground and site improvements, and equipment to help with overcrowding on the campus.

##### Wailuku Elementary School - \$2.5 million

- Funding to complete a school parking lot expansion.

##### Maui Veteran's Home - \$35 million

- Plans, construction, and equipment for a new, long-term care veterans home on Maui. This allocation will be matched by **\$58 million** in federal funds.

##### Maui Health System - \$6 million



MAUI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- For building improvements, construction, and repairs to Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

##### Kahului Harbor - \$4 million

- For land acquisition and construction of projects that will provide for efficient use of existing or additional operational areas.

##### Wai'ale Road Extension - \$5 million

- Plans and construction for a Wai'ale Road Extension to the Waikapu Country Town housing project.

##### Kahului Airport - \$52.2 million

- For improvement to terminals, systems, facilities, including inbound baggage handling, and additional security services.

##### Maui Community Correctional Center - \$4 million

- Plans, design, and construction for improvements, renovations, security upgrades, and infrastructure. To include medical and mental health area & facilities.

**GRANTS-IN-AID** The following nonprofits have been awarded a grant from the State for facility improvements, operating expenses, or to support specific projects and are awarded based on a competitive application process and is included in the state budget.

##### Hale Mahaolu - \$200,000

- To provide wrap around services for vulnerable populations, including nutrition and kupuna care.

##### Arc of Maui County - \$200,000

- Construction and land acquisition for an accessible environment for individuals with disabilities, electrical upgrades.

##### Maui Economic Development Board, Inc. - \$150,000

- For programs that provide professional development opportunities and in-classroom support to public school students and teachers statewide.

##### Oceanit Research Foundation - \$250,000

- To restore the ecosystem in Mantokuji Bay for Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation.

**FUNDING RELEASES FROM THE GOVERNOR** The following funds have been released by the Governor and was appropriated by the Legislature:

##### Hale Makua Health Services - \$800,000

- To provide planning and design for their one-story rehabilitation center.

##### Wailuku Civic Center - \$1 million

- Towards planning for redevelopment of the state civic center.

##### Kahului Harbor Boat Ramp - \$1 million

- For permanent restrooms.

##### H.P. Baldwin High School - \$5.83 million

- To finance the design and construction for PE and athletic facilities, including locker room and other improvements. The total amount appropriated to this project now totals over \$12.5 million and should complete the first phase.



SENATOR

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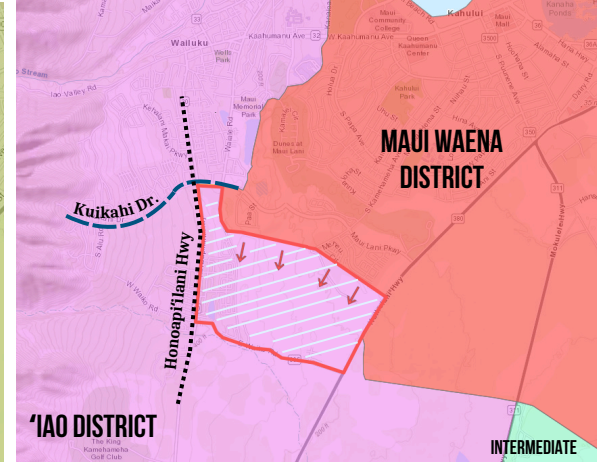
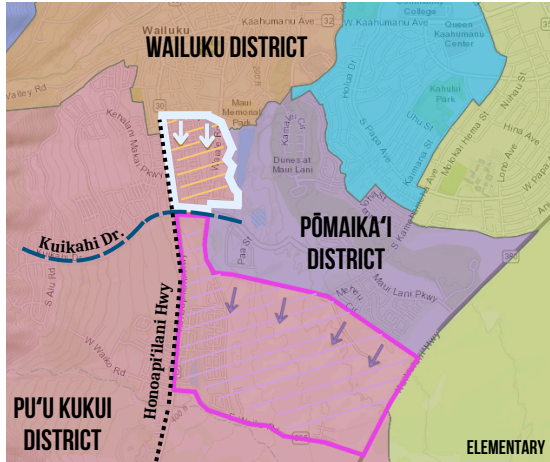
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

COMMUNITY UPDATE

CENTRAL MAUI SCHOOLS
REDISTRICTING

To address overcrowding issues within the Pu'u Kukui Elementary School district, a redistricting plan for the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kulanihako'i-Maui Complex Area has been approved by the State Department of Education.

Students residing in their respective districts will attend the designated schools as follows:



- ELEMENTARY
- Below Honoapi'ilani Highway and south of Kuikahi Drive: attend Pomaika'i Elementary School.
- Below Honoapi'ilani Highway and north of Kuikahi Drive: attend Wailuku Elementary School.
INTERMEDIATE
- Pu'u Kukui Elementary School and Wailuku Elementary School districts: attend 'Iao Intermediate and Baldwin High School.
- Pomaika'i Elementary School district: attend Maui Waena Intermediate and Maui High School.

Boundary maps of the redistricting plan and FAQs can be found at: https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/bkmcomplexarea/home



Senior Spotlight

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!



A Message from Senator Hashimoto

"Congratulations, graduates! As you take your next steps, may you continue to pursue your goals with purpose and confidence. Wishing you continued success in all that lies ahead!"



Emma Jane Roy
H.P. Baldwin High School

Emma Jane Roy, the daughter of Trisha and Mark of Wailuku, distinguished herself at H.P. Baldwin High School as both a student leader, athlete, and a creative force.

Known for her appearances on the television show PBS Hiki No and winning several media competitions, film is one of her deepest passions. She has a lot to live up to, as her mother, Trisha is a popular media teacher at Baldwin High School.

After graduation, Emma plans to attend Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, where she will pursue a degree in Film and Television Production. She aims to become a film director or editor.



Wilson Chau
Maui High School

An enthusiastic student leader, Wilson Chau had the distinct honor of being selected as a highly prestigious U.S. Youth Senate Program participant, which allowed him to immerse in a week-long, all-expense paid to Washington D.C. and hear from many of the top leaders within our nation.

The son of Danny and Bich of Kahului, he made the most of his high school experience at Maui High School. He served as student body president, played on the boys varsity soccer team, was a member of the National Honor Society, and completed internships with both State Senator Troy Hashimoto and U.S. Senator Brian Schatz.