



# Senator Joy San Buenaventura

## Senate District 2, Puna

Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services • Vice Chair, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
• Committee on Government Affairs • Committee on the Judiciary

@sensanbuenaventura

May 2025 E-Newsletter

### Legislative Update: Sine Die

Aloha:

On April 25th, the 'Final Decking' deadline saw conference committee chairs from both the House and Senate officially conclude the last of the conference hearings for the 2025 legislative session. On the final day of May, the legislature held a third and final reading of all bills that have either been voted in conference or had amendments agreed to by the originating chamber. All bills that have passed third reading will now be transmitted to the Governor's office for review. I am very proud of the work that we did this session and the bills that were passed by my committee on Health & Human Services. We will now wait as the Governor makes the decision on what bills will become law. As we head towards the veto deadline, I look forward to sharing more information about the package of bills that we will send to the Governor and hope you will not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about a bill or the legislative process. In the next e-newsletter, I will provide a list of legislative highlights and a review of Health & Human Services legislation that I was able to pass this session. In the meantime, a full list of the bills passed can be found on the legislature's website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

Joy San Buenaventura



# 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS & GRANT-IN-AID

## SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR HAWAII ISLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

**\$80,000,000**

THIS WILL EXPAND PAHOA, KEAAU, AND HILO FAMILY  
HEALTH CENTER SITES. EXPAND AND DEVELOP  
PRIMARY CARE HEALTH FACILITIES

## KEAAU-BENIOFF AMBULATORY CARE CENTER

**\$20,000,000**

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR A NEW  
AMBULATORY CARE CENTER IN KEAAU

## POHOIKI SAFE SWIM AREA, HAWAII

**\$200,000**

PLANS AND DESIGN INCLUDING FEASIBILITY STUDY  
AND SITE SELECTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A  
SAFE SWIM AREA LOCATED AT POHOIKI

## ALTERNATE ROUTE PUNA MAKAI

**\$1,500,000**

ALTERNATE ROUTE SELECTION STUDY FOR PUNA MAKAI  
- PLANS FOR ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR PUNA MAKAI.

## ALTERNATE ROUTE PUNA MAUKA

**\$1,000,000**

ALTERNATE ROUTE SELECTION STUDY FOR PUNA  
MAUKA- PLANS FOR ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR PUNA  
MAUKA

## PUNA MEDICAL CAMPUS

**\$400,000**

PLANS AND DESIGN FOR A MEDICAL CAMPUS IN PUNA.  
(GRANT-IN-AID). PUNA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER  
FOUNDATION.





At Aloha Exchange Club to award Puna Officer DeLima with Police Officer of the year award. In just 1 month in Dec. 2024, Officer DeLima made 4 harrowing arrests per Cief Moskowitz. 2 of which were of armed men who threatened the lives of Police. Firefighter Springer was awarded Firefighter of the year by fellow firefighters. He is known for giving selflessly into training youger recruits and fellow firefighters



with Governor Green at his Chili & Rice Fundraiser. All proceeds were donated to the Hawaii Foodbank.



With young advocates for the Hawaii YMCA.



Holding a joint Health & Human Services and Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs committee. On this day both committees voted to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 58 (SCR58), urging the counties to install and maintain a set of accessible recreational playground equipment in county parks. This measure would help to support physical health of youth with disabilities, while also encouraging inclusion and integration in the community.



This session, I introduced Senate Bill 295, to strengthen enforcement measures for Temporary Restraining Orders and better meet the needs of those who must seek these actions to protect themselves and their families. On the day of the Senate's final vote on SB295, we had the honor of welcoming the family of Theresa Cachuela, whose life was tragically taken by her abuser. With the support of Ms. Cachuela's family SB295 passed final reading and has been enrolled to the Governor.



Looking over the Puna district map with Representative Gregor Ilagan. This year, we secured funding for the study of alternates routes for Puna Mauka and Makai.



With Rep. Greg Takayama at the YWCA "Dress For Success" initiative donation drive. The initiative provides special attire donations to women re-entering the workforce. Programs such as these provide much needed support to women who are overcoming challenges such as homelessness, incarceration, and poverty.



Meeting with student advocates for access to school meals. Since our meeting the legislature passed Senate Bill 1300 (SB1300). SB1300 appropriates funding to expand access to free school meals and provide support for families classified as ALICE – Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed – working families who may not qualify for existing assistance programs but still struggle to meet their children's basic needs. These programs ensure that students have the nourishment to focus on their studies and create an environment where all students can attend school without feeling self-aware or anxious about their household incomes.



With Senate President Ronald Kouchi and my Committee Clerk Luis Lopes at the Senate Chamber podium. Earlier, Luis gave the moment of contemplation to open the session.



On the Senate floor congratulating former Big Island legislator Dwight Takamine on his appointment to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board.



## 2025 HEALTH CARE HEROES

The House and Senate recognize and congratulated this year's outstanding health care workers. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, I led a presentation honoring: Trevor Fujisaka, Darryl Glaser, Renee Kojima, Sarah Kuma, and Karen Oskins. I am inspired by the dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment that compels this year's Healthcare Association of Hawaii "Health Care Heroes" to go above and beyond for their patients and their families.

# 26th ANNUAL HAWAII WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS EASTER BASKET DRIVE

Every year the Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus collects baskets full of household and hygienic items to support families in need. Additionally, the Easter Basket Drive supports direct virtual donations to the Domestic Violence Action Center, Institute for Human Services, Parents & Children Together (PACT), The Salvation Army, and Mohala Mai Women's Prison Project.





I was honored to have met Former California Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris. She helped pioneer early screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences. Early intervention prevents a future of of trauma and potential crīnal activity. Studies have shown that early investment in childhood intervention when ACES us found saves the state money in mental health care and prisons

## Aloha Fridays Cultural Demonstration

Join us every Friday for a free cultural demonstration at VAC gallery in Hawai'i  
Volcanoes National Park, from 11am - 1pm.

Although the demonstrations are free, park entrance fees apply.

5/2 - Mae Castillo -Lau hala weaving

5/9 - Wes Awana - 'ukulele

5/16 - Desiree Moana Cruz - Botanical and`Ohe Kapala printing

5/23-Kuuipo - lau hala weaving

5/30 - Kaipo Chong- lei making

# APPLY ONLINE TODAY TO RECEIVE \$50

QR code linking to the Hawaii CWIP website.

**Hawaii  
CWIP**

[medquest.hawaii.gov](http://medquest.hawaii.gov)

**“KEEPING OUR GROWING KEIKI HEALTHY”**

\*To qualify for the Hawai'i Child Wellness Incentive Program (HCWIP) applicants must be a Medicaid/QUEST beneficiary and take their child(ren) 17 years or younger to complete an annual Well-Child Examination. For more information, Click on the QR code above.



## Learn How SUN Bucks Hawai'i Can Help Your Family!

**SUN Bucks Hawai'i** is a grocery benefits program to help families buy food during the summer when schools are closed. Families get a one-time benefit of **\$177** for each eligible school-age child for the summer. Children who get these benefits can still participate in other summer meal programs.

### How does SUN Bucks work?

In Hawai'i, **SUN Bucks** benefits are loaded onto a **SUN Bucks card** and **mailed to your home**. **SUN Bucks** benefits can be used to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other places that accept **WIC** or **SNAP EBT** benefits. **SUN Bucks** is a convenient way to help children get the nutrition they need when schools are closed.



### Is my child eligible for SUN Bucks?

Your child is eligible for **SUN Bucks** if:

- Your household already participates in **SNAP** and/or **TANF**, OR
- Your child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program, and your household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

**Do you have a new address?**

**Make sure your mailing address is up to date with your child's school, so your **SUN Bucks** benefits are sent to the right place!**

## How do I enroll my child in SUN Bucks?

Many families get SUN Bucks automatically if they are getting other benefits, but some families may need to apply.

### Do I need to fill out an application?

If your household already participates or participated in SNAP and/or TANF from July 2024, or you applied for and were approved free or reduced priced school meals for your child, your child will be automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks. You do not need to fill out an application. You will get a card in the mail in late May 2025. Watch for the card in the mail to the mailing address your child's school has on record.

If you are not automatically enrolled and believe your children are eligible, you can apply for SUN Bucks.

### How do I apply for SUN Bucks?

Click here to apply online starting April 1, 2025:

<https://sunbucks.dhs.hawaii.gov/>

When applying, you will be asked to provide your child's name, school, date of birth, address, and household composition. You will also be asked to report your household income. You will not need to provide any other documents or information including security number or pay stub to apply.

**To apply or to find out what's available for your family:**

SUN Bucks Hawai'i

<https://sunbucks.dhs.hawaii.gov/>

1-888-975-7328

PO Box 3144

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Get a paper application: <https://sunbucks.dhs.hawaii.gov/>





# 2025 SUMMER FUN PROGRAMS

## PUNA & KA'U DISTRICTS

### JUNE 9 - JULY 18, 2025

### MONDAY - FRIDAY

#### HOLIDAY CLOSURE: 6/11/25 & 7/4/25

**The following information is applicable to all sites listed below:**

**REGISTRATION:** Beginning on **April 7, 2025** call respective sites for a registration appointment. Registration will continue until enrollment is met.

**NOTE: All payments must be paid in cash, money order or certified check ONLY. (No personal checks accepted)**

Programs offer a variety of arts & crafts projects, indoor/outdoor games, sports, music, dance, special events, and excursions.

**Enrollment limit subject to change dependent on staffing.**



#### **KEA'AU ARMORY**

\$150.00 per participant

Completed Kindergarten to 6th Grade

Program Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Enrollment Limit: 60 Participants

For more information call:

Danalynn Aguiar at 808-966-5807

#### **REP. ROBERT N. HERKES**

#### **KA'U DISTRICT GYM**

\$40.00 per participant

Completed Kindergarten to 6th Grade

Program Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Enrollment Limit: 40 Participants

For more information call:

Nona Makuakane at 808-928-3102

#### **WILLIAM "BILLY" KENOI**

#### **PARK (Pāhoa)**

\$150.00 per participant

Completed Kindergarten to 6th Grade

Program Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Enrollment Limit: 80 Participants

For more information call:

Shannon Poe at 808-965-6348

#### **NĀ'ĀLEHU COMM. CENTER**

\$40.00 per participant

Completed Kindergarten to 6th Grade

Program Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Enrollment Limit: 40 Participants

For more information call:

Elijah Navarro at 808-939-2510

#### **PUNA TEEN ENRICHMENT**

#### **AT SHIPMAN PARK**

\$160.00 per participant

Ages: 13-17 years old

Program Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Enrollment Limit: 20 Participants

For more information call:

Kaiana Ako at 808-968-2000

#### **WEBSITE:**

<https://www.parks.hawaiicounty.gov/facilities-parks/recreation>

The Department of Parks and Recreation provides recreational opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion or disability. Please call the Recreation Division office at 808-961-8681 to discuss your need for reasonable accommodation or for more information on site accessibility.

**HAWAII COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**



# SCAM PHONE CALLS TARGETING LICENSES OF DENTISTS AND OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

DCCA is warning the public about phone scammers impersonating state officials and government agencies to target medical professionals, particularly those in the dental field.

If you have received any suspicious calls or are seeking to verify contact from DCCA, please call your respective licensing program or the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division at 808-586-3000.





QUEST Hawai'i

# STAY WELL STAY COVERED

Have you moved?  
Update your address  
for QUEST today.



**UPDATE:**  
Med-QUEST will be texting  
from **45421**

**Please be aware of texting scams from other numbers**  
**To contact our service center, call 1-800-316-8005**

# ALOHACARE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



YOU COULD RECEIVE UP  
TO \$10,000 FOR EDUCATIONAL  
EXPENSES!

Apply starting March 3 and submit  
your application by June 2, 2025

Visit [foundation.alohacare.org](http://foundation.alohacare.org)  
to apply, or scan the QR code above!

Contact AlohaCare if you have questions.  
Call us at **808-973-0712**  
or toll-free **1-877-973-0712**.  
TTY/TDD users call **1-877-447-5990**.

Follow Us! @AlohaCareHawaii



AlohaCare complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of: Race, Color, National Origin, Age, Disability, or Sex. (English) Do you need help in another language? We will get you a free interpreter. Call **1-808-973-0712** to tell us which language you speak. (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**). (Ilocano) Masapulyo kadi ti tulong iti sabali a pagsasao? Ikkandakayo iti libre nga paraipatarus. Awaganyo ti **1-808-973-0712** tapno ibagayo kadakami no ania ti pagsasao nga ar-aramatenyo. (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**). (Tagalog) PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyong tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa **1-808-973-0712** (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**). (Traditional Chinese) 您需要其它語言嗎？如有需要，請致電**1-808-973-0712**，我們會提供免費翻譯服務 (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**). (Korean) 다른언어로 도움이 필요하십니까? 저희가 무료로 통역을제공합니다. **1-808-973-0712**로 전화해서 사용하는 언어를 알려주십시오 (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**). (Vietnamese) Bạn có cần giúp đỡ bằng ngôn ngữ khác không? Chúng tôi se yêu cầu một người thông dịch viên miễn phí cho bạn. Gọi **1-808-973-0712** nói cho chúng tôi biết bạn dùng ngôn ngữ nào. (TTY: **1-877-447-5990**).



**Need to talk?  
Call or text 988.  
Confidential support 24/7.**

**988**  
SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE**



[nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention](https://nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention)

## Legislative Reference Bureau: Public Access Room

The Public Access Room (PAR) provides the public with information, facilities, and services to assist them as they engage and participate in the State legislative process. PAR's website includes guides on how to track measures, submit testimony, and subscribe to hearing notices.

To learn more, please visit:  
<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>



## Legislature's Website

The Legislature site provides quick and easy access to the information you need in order to participate in the lawmaking process.

[Visit the Legislature site](#)