



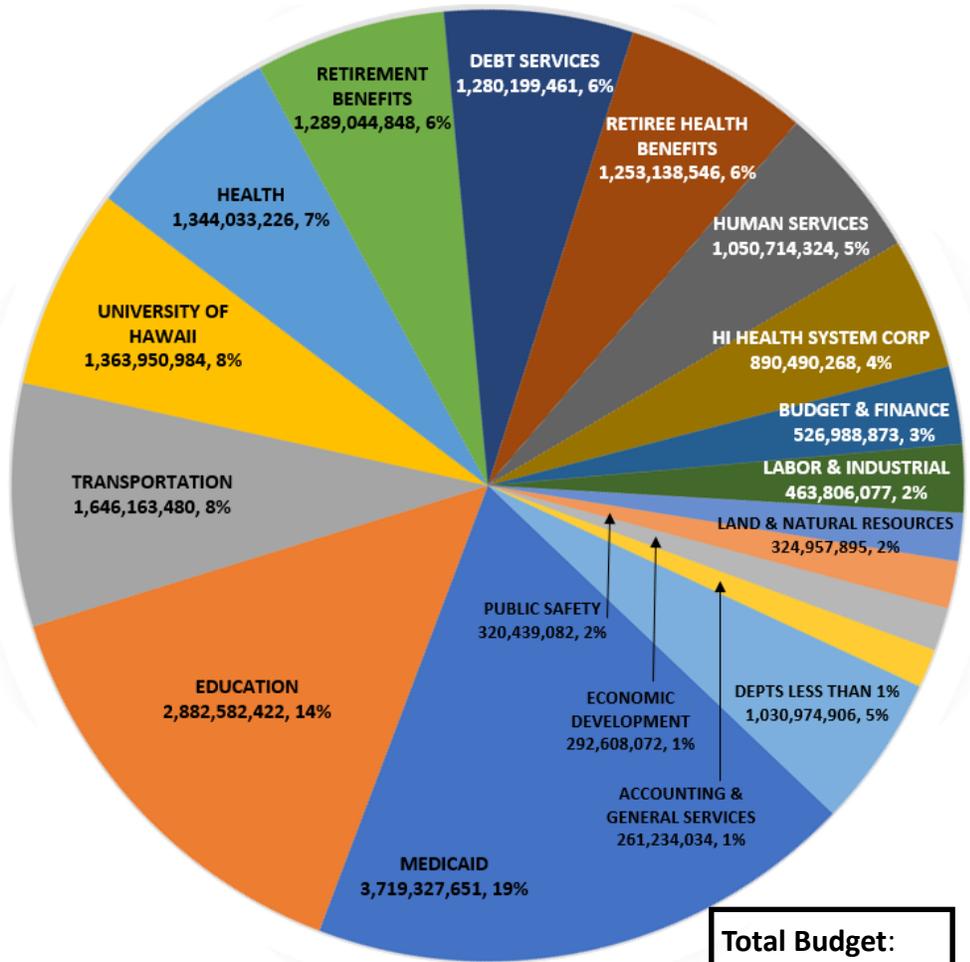
# Your 2025 Legislative Report

From Representative Jackson D. Sayama

District 21: St. Louis Heights, Pālolo Valley, Maunalani Heights, Wilhelmina Rise, Kaimuki

## FY 2026 Hawai'i State Budget

Despite a sluggish economy and uncertainty in federal funding impacts, the Legislature built a budget to prioritize areas of housing, public education, workforce development, houselessness, biosecurity, insurance, and public safety. Below is a breakdown of the budget for fiscal year 2026.



**Total Budget:**  
**\$19,940,654,149**

### Highlights

- \$400,000,000 for the Maui Wildfires Settlement Trust Fund
- \$240,000,000 for Rental Housing Revolving Fund
- \$150,000,000 for deferred maintenance for the Department of Education
- \$49,3980,000 for school food and nutrition development
- \$42,900,000 for the Kauhale Initiative to address houselessness
- \$50,140,000 for assisting non-profits providing critical services
- \$30,000,000 for the Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program
- \$20,000,000 for Skilled Nursing services
- \$13,264,299 for Preschool Open Doors program
- \$12,735,015 for biosecurity initiatives



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you and your family are in good health and good spirits. We successfully completed the 2025 Legislative Session, during which we addressed many important issues for our community and state. The Legislature allocated funding to provide free lunches for students who receive subsidized school meals and increase the pipeline for health care workers.

To resist the threat of federal funding cuts, the budget included additional funds for non-profits and other operational costs. While the federal budget continues to be debated, we anticipate potential cuts to critical programs like Medicaid and SNAP. Depending on the severity of these cuts, we may need to call a Special Session to reassess Hawai'i's budget.

Over the interim, I will be going door to door to listen to your concerns and ideas to understand how I can better serve you. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for the privilege of serving you and your 'ohana.

*Jackson Sayama*

Thank you,

# 2025 Hawai'i State Legislative Session: Bills

## HOUSING & INSURANCE STABILITY

### **(SB66) RELATING TO PERMITTING**

Delays in permitting have long stalled the creation of much-needed homes for local families. This bill established a clear and consistent process for single-family and multi-family housing developers to apply for expedited permits. By setting requirements for application completeness and deadlines for agency responses, this measure helps move housing projects forward more efficiently.

### **(SB1044) RELATING TO STABILIZATION OF PROPERTY INSURANCE**

With rising insurance costs threatening condominium affordability and safety, this bill empowers the Hawai'i Property Insurance Association to provide insurance policies for condominiums and reactivates the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund. The bill will appropriate \$20 million for loans, \$30 million in working capital, and \$5 million added to the Hurricane Relief Trust Fund.

### **(HB1298) RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

Establishes the Government Employee Housing Program to provide affordable and low-cost rental housing units to government employees and the general public on state-owned land, to be financed through the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund. This program aims to provide public employees additional incentives to address ongoing issues of filling vacant positions and retaining experienced employees.

## TRANSPORTATION

### **(HB958) RELATING TO E-BIKES**

As more residents turn to electric bicycles and scooters for daily travel, this bill sets clear rules to ensure safety for riders, pedestrians, and drivers. It establishes speed limits, sidewalk restrictions, helmet requirements for youth, and standardized definitions for electric mobility devices. The bill also prohibits high speed e-bikes and mopeds in certain areas and requires proper labeling and signage. This measure helps everyone share the road more responsibly.

### **(HB862) RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS**

Authorizes the use of small buses, motorcoaches, and vans for school bus services when the use of school vehicles is impractical due to the unavailability of school vehicles or due to economic factors. Allows exemptions from the school vehicle requirements for public charter schools.

### **(SB1216) RELATING TO NOISY MUFFLER**

Requires rules regarding safety check inspections to ensure that a vehicle or moped is not equipped with a noisy muffler. Suspends, revokes, or refuses renewal of a permit for repeatedly violating any rule regarding inspecting a noisy muffler. Increases the maximum fine for motor vehicle owners who violate noisy muffler laws.



*Rep. Sayama with members of HGEA, AFSCME Local 152, on Opening Day of the 33rd Legislature.*

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### **(HD806) RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

To combat the growing threat of illegal fireworks and protect public safety, this bill establishes a statewide Illegal Fireworks Task Force and provides \$500,000 per year for two years to support sting operations. It also allocates \$2 million for the construction of an explosives and firearms lab.

### **(HD1483) RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

To simplify enforcement of illegal firework usage, this bill amends multiple definitions and penalties for fireworks offenses, including heightened penalties if another person suffers substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death as a result of the fireworks offenses.

## HEALTH & KŪPUNA CARE

### **(HB705) RELATING TO MEDICAID/ MEDICARE ACCESS**

Establishes a Medi-Medi Project within the Executive Office on Aging to assist older adults, Medicare beneficiaries, individuals with disabilities, and other underserved populations who may qualify for various low-income subsidy programs to gain access to their benefits.

### **(SB1300) RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS**

This bill provides \$565,000 per year for two years to cover meal costs for students eligible for reduced-price lunches, and \$2.8 million in 2026-27 to subsidize meals for students in families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level. No child should have to learn on an empty stomach— this measure helps ensure more students are ready to succeed in class.

### **(SB1252) RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

This bill provides \$525,000 per year for two years to support two full-time positions at the UH Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine. These positions will coordinate and expand dementia-related training for health care providers and integrate updated Alzheimer's and dementia curriculum into UH programs.



*Rep. Sayama listening to policy proposals from students visiting the Capitol for Education Week.*

### **(SB119) RELATING TO NURSES**

To increase the workforce shortage in nursing, this bill provides \$600,000 to establish a bachelor of science in nursing degree at the University of Hawai'i Maui college.

## LABOR & WORKFORCE

### **(HB1424) RELATING TO INTERNSHIPS**

To better prepare students for the workforce, this bill allows the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to partner with private employers and apprenticeship programs to offer paid, hands-on internships. It also funds 90 full-time DOE staff positions to support internship coordination, with \$1.8 million appropriated for the upcoming fiscal year.



*Rep. Sayama helping Envision Kaimuki and neighbors with a park clean up at Mau'umae Park in Kaimuki.*

### **(HB316) RELATING TO GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS**

This bill appropriates \$2 million per year for two years to support the Green Jobs Youth Corps, a statewide program that connects young adults with paid opportunities in conservation, clean energy, and climate resilience. Participants gain valuable work experience while contributing to a more sustainable Hawai'i— from restoring native forests to supporting local agriculture and clean energy projects. This program empowers the next generation to build careers in green industries.

### **(SB1567) RELATING TO JOB RECLASSIFICATION**

To address the systemic issues of attracting qualified workers to fill vacant positions, this bill requires the Department of Human Resources Development to complete a comprehensive review of the classification and compensation systems for all civil service positions. This would update job descriptions and salaries for positions and ensure the State is a competitive employer.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

### **(SB897) RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Establishes a framework to encourage electric utilities and cooperatives to invest in infrastructure resilience to mitigate future wildfire threats and damage and for the Public Utilities Commission to establish a limit on aggregate liability for electric utilities for qualifying damages arising from a future catastrophic wildfire.



*Rep. Sayama speaking with local businesses at the 2025 Manufacturing Day at the capitol.*

### **(SB223) RELATING TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION**

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish an independent program relating to the prevention, control, and extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves. Authorizes DLNR to perform fuel reduction on lands not set aside to it. Requires the Administrator of Forestry and Wildlife to establish and maintain facilities for the performance of fire protection, fire prevention, pest control, and forest and range protection and enhancement activities.

### **(HB505) RELATING TO RED HILL**

Establishes a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator, in the Office of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, for coordination of initiatives of the Red Hill WAI. Creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund to be administered by the WAI Policy Coordinator to address contamination resulting from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

### **(HB427) RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and agricultural industry. This bill creates stronger safeguards by renaming and restructuring the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to prioritize biosecurity, establishing a Deputy Chair for Biosecurity, expanding inspections, and increasing penalties for illegal transport of plants and animals. It also authorizes emergency actions to stop outbreaks, creates a statewide pest dashboard, and enhances readiness through news partnerships and training programs.

### **(SB330) RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Authorizes the DOA to enter into agreements with the U.S DOA to assist in the enforcement of federal quarantines to prevent the introduction of invasive pests and diseases into the State. Authorizes the DOA to seize, destroy, or require treatment of articles moved from a federally regulated area if the articles were not moved in accordance with federal quarantine rules or, if certified, the articles were found to be infested with the pest.

## TOURISM & ECONOMIC GROWTH

### **(SB1396) RELATING TO TOURISM TAXATION**

This bill increases the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) rate for transient accommodations and resort time shares to 10 percent and assesses cruise fares at a rate of 11 percent. directs a portion of the TAT toward Hawai‘i’s climate initiatives—ensuring that tourism contributes directly to sustaining the natural resources it depends on. Funds will support programs that strengthen climate resilience, protect native ecosystems, and reduce the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather.

### **(HB1406) RELATING TO EXPEDITED PERMITTING**

Establishes the Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Task Force to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit processes.

# Being Involved in the Community

## Environmental Stewards

From Azama Park in Pālolo to Mau'umae Park in Kaimukī, I'm always eager to lend a hand to cleaning our public spaces. Due to limited public resources, it's largely up to local non-profits and neighbors to come together and take initiative. If you have spaces you'd like assistance to clean, please reach out to my office! We can connect you with local volunteers and supply you with equipment to make the clean up happen.



## New Email Outreach

In addition to these newsletters, social media posts, and door-to-door visits, I'm starting an email outreach service to share legislative updates, community events, and government resources. While newsletters are helpful, emails would allow for fast and direct communication with you. If you'd be interested in subscribing to this email service or have suggestions with what content you'd like to see in emails, please reach out to my office through email or phone.

**Aloha,**

My name is Jackson Sayama and I serve as the State House Representative for District 21. Adding to my mailed newsletter, social media, and door-to-door outreach, I'm starting an email service, to better communicate with you and the community.

**What to Expect in my Emails**

In these emails, I will share legislative updates, community events, and helpful government resources.

## Speaking with Community

The St. Louis Heights Community Association hosted a talk story with neighbors and community leaders to meet fellow neighbors and share stories. In addition to my attendance at neighborhood board meetings, I'll host talk stories to discuss the 2025 Session and share legislation I'm working on for next year. If there are issues in your community, please reach out to my office through email or phone. I look forward to hearing from you!



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## \$3.6 MILLION CIP FUNDS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

I'm proud to announce our ongoing commitment to fighting for our schools and advocating for our community. By dedicating over three million dollars in public funds to improve school facilities, we're ensuring that our children have safe and productive learning environments where they can thrive. Together, let's continue to prioritize education and invest in the future of our community.

### KAIMUKĪ HIGH SCHOOL

**\$1,715,000** for design and construction for auditorium reroofing and building L sewer line relocation

### KE KULA KAIAPUNI 'O 'ĀNUENUE

**\$1,010,000** for design and construction for building A

### JARRETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

**\$305,000** for design and construction for parking lot improvements

### PĀLOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**\$600,000** for repair and maintenance of building B restroom renovation.



*Congratulations to Principal Yim from 'Ānuenue School for winning the 19th Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award!*



*Congratulations to Ali'iolani Elementary's own Nicole Kamau Ha and Xiaochen Gong for joining the National Board Certified Teachers!*