

Hawaii State Representative

Adrian K. Tam

House District 24



2026 LEGISLATIVE RECAP



Aloha Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you as your State Representative. The Regular Session of 2026 convened during a period of continued fiscal uncertainty, driven in large part by anticipated reductions in federal funding, evolving national policy priorities, global geopolitical instability, and the immediate impacts of severe weather events across the State.

Together, with my colleagues, we worked to carefully balance the need for fiscal prudence with the ongoing demand to provide essential services and support local families. The back-to-back Kona Low storms spurred the urgent need to support recovery efforts and strengthening the State's capacity to respond to future emergencies.

The Legislature adjourned Sine Die on May 8, 2026, and passed 268 bills focused on various matters impacting the State. This newsletter includes a brief selection of noteworthy achievements, which I hope you find informative. Over the interim period I will continue to work closely with you and our neighborhood in preparation for the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

Contact us

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



The most important bill passed this year is the State Budget (HB 1800). Here are some highlights:

- Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) increase Special Land and Development Special Fund ceiling by \$2,000,000 for a National Disaster Economic Recovery Strategy Update and Implementation (Green Fee)
- DLNR Add 2.00 permanent positions and \$133,566 for the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
- DLNR Add \$42,000,000 in FY26 and \$87,000,000 in FY27 to be deposited into the Special Land and Development Special Fund for Green Fee project implementation, which will be distributed to appropriate departments for specific projects
- Department of Defense Add 2.00 permanent positions and \$400,000 for Hawaii Emergency Management Agency emergency preparedness
- Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) add 10.00 permanent positions and \$1,854,490 for a partnership with University of Hawaii College Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to protect agricultural lands from pests and invasive species
- DAB Increase Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund ceiling by \$9,000,000 for biosecurity implementation
- Department of Education Add 2.00 permanent positions for Hawaii Early Childhood State Plan and Add 1.00 permanent Evaluation Specialist II for Early Learning System Coordination

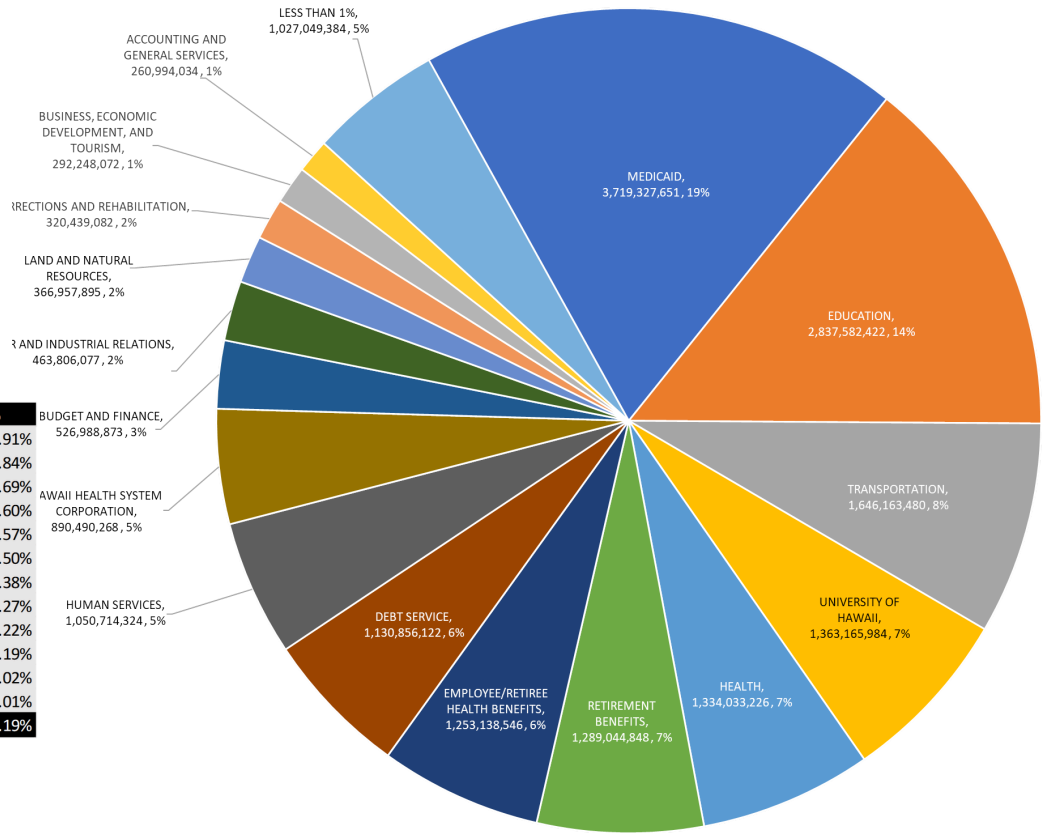
Capital Improvement Programs

- \$7 million for Waikiki Aquarium
- \$50 million for financing Affordable Housing programs (Rental Housing Revolving Fund)
- \$13 million for the State Library System
- \$365 million for airports
- \$646 million for state highway system

2026 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

HB1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.
 Executive Budget; Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2026. Addresses the State's pressing needs by appropriating funds for Executive Branch operating expenses, capital improvement projects, and grants- in-aid to ensure priority initiatives are met and the structural stability of the State's financial plan is maintained.

Less Than 1%	FY 26 Totals	%
CHARTER SCHOOLS	179,194,834	0.91%
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	165,159,472	0.84%
ATTORNEY GENERAL	135,475,160	0.69%
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	119,071,633	0.60%
DEFENSE	113,204,466	0.57%
LAW ENFORCEMENT	98,176,615	0.50%
AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY	75,708,926	0.38%
PUBLIC LIBRARIES	53,850,582	0.27%
TAXATION	43,040,091	0.22%
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	37,052,068	0.19%
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	4,551,872	0.02%
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	2,563,665	0.01%
Total	1,027,049,384	5.19%



2026 CIP & GIA FOR THE DISTRICT

This year, my fellow legislators and I were able to secure major funding for Capital Improvement Projects and State Grants for state facilities, state projects, and community organizations. Here is a breakdown of that funding for our district:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\$1,906,000 - Design and construction for covered walkway re-roofing and perimeter fencing replacement; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.



Ala Wai Elementary School

\$750k - Design and construction for library AC replacement and P2, P4 re-roofing; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.



GRANTS-IN-AID (GIA)

- \$150k - Project Vision Hawai'i
- \$70k - Waikiki Community Center
- \$400k - Waikiki Business Improvement District Association
- \$300k - Kūhiō Beach Preservation Society
- \$275k - Weed and Seed Hawai'i, Inc

ALA WAI CANAL WALL REPAIR

\$5M Plans, design and construction for Ala Wai SBH Canal wall repair and haul-out removal; equipment and appurtenances.



WAIKĪKĪ BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT

\$7M Plans, design and construction of structures above the shoreline.

What is an appurtenance? An appurtenance is a permanent, non-movable improvement, or right, attached to a piece of land or property that transfers with it upon sale.



Below is a selection of bill highlights that will have significant impacts on our district and community. Many of the measures included in this publication are pending (approval or potential veto) by the Governor.

For an up-to-date status of the bill please check the Capitol Website

Bill Status: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

HB1960 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Requires the Department of the Attorney General to develop a Human Trafficking Awareness Training Program, or approve externally developed programs, to educate and train workers in the transient accommodations sector. Requires transient accommodations employers or transient accommodations third-party contractors to periodically provide the human trafficking awareness training to certain employees and contract workers, keep records of the training, post signage, and develop and implement a human trafficking prevention policy that includes procedures for the reporting of suspected human trafficking. Establishes penalties. Requires the Department of Law Enforcement to adopt rules.

SB2259 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM.

Establishes the Hawai'i Dementia Initiative Business Recognition Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Appropriates funds.

SB3025 RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT.

Requires the Office of Wellness and Resilience to develop, implement, and administer a Medical Debt Acquisition and Forgiveness Program to acquire and forgive outstanding medical debt for residents of the State, subject to the availability of program funds. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

HB2505 RELATING TO ASSISTED COMMUNITY TREATMENT.

Clarifies that community mental health outpatient programs that have agreed to provide mental health services to a defendant as part of an assisted community treatment order may prepare a certificate for assisted community treatment and provide the certificate to a defendant and may file an assisted community treatment petition with the Family Court.

SB2367 RELATING TO STATE BOATING FACILITIES.

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement a project to improve portions of Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor while ensuring public access, as envisioned by the 2022 University of Hawai'i Community Design Center Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor Vision Report. Authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lease the remaining portion of Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor; provided that the lease shall expire on or before 6/30/2046. Repeals provisions relating to the leasing of certain fast and submerged lands of Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.

SB3001 RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Requires operators of AI companions in the State to issue certain disclosures to users. Requires operators to develop certain protocols to respond to user prompts regarding suicidal ideation or self-harm. Establishes protections for users and minor users of AI companions. Beginning 1/1/2028, requires operators to submit annual reports to the Behavioral Health Administration of the Department of Health containing certain information. Establishes that violations are to be considered unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

SB2861 RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

Requires the Office of Wellness and Resilience, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to develop a comprehensive plan by 6/30/2027 for the establishment of a Kakou Pilot Program to support families and children in need. Requires the Office to submit preliminary and final reports to the Legislature on the plan and identify an administering agency or agencies for the pilot program. Beginning 7/1/2028, authorizes the Department of Human Services to expend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program funds for the purposes of the Kakou Pilot Program.

HB1511 RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION.

Prohibits entities from distributing unsolicited mail or electronic mail that employs high pressure tactics or is reasonably likely to cause a consumer to believe that the sender is affiliated with another entity that the sender is not actually affiliated with and the entity is asking the recipient to pay for goods, services, or forms of legal authorization, including but not limited to vehicle warranties, service contracts, home warranties, and government-issued licenses or registrations, unless certain disclosures are met. Makes contracts that fail to meet disclosure requirements voidable at the option of the consumer.

HB1753 RELATING TO SOCIAL MEDIA.

Requires certain social media platforms to provide an accessible mechanism for users to delete their accounts on the platform and permanently erase all personal information and sensitive personal information associated with deleted accounts. Prohibits certain deceptive practices by social media platforms that obstruct the deletion of user accounts. Authorizes the Attorney General to pursue civil actions and seek injunctive relief and penalties for violations. Effective 7/1/2027.



Rep. Tam and Rep. Ilagan in conference.



Getting bills signed



Meeting with students from Iolani School



Sen. Moriwaki & Reps. Tam, Grandinetti, and Olds with the Waikiki Community Center for a organizing for the Kona Low



Rep. Tam hosting a Legislative Townhall for the community