

Working for you...

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

State of Hawai'i Senate | District 22

Miilani Mauka ~ Wahiawā ~ Whitmore Village ~ Waipi'o Acres ~ Wheeler ~ Poamoho



June 2019

Chair:
Committee on Ways and Means
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(808) 536-7852
Public Access Room
(808) 587-0478
Hawaii Freeway Service Patrol
(808) 841-HELP
Wahiawa Police Station
(808) 723-87000

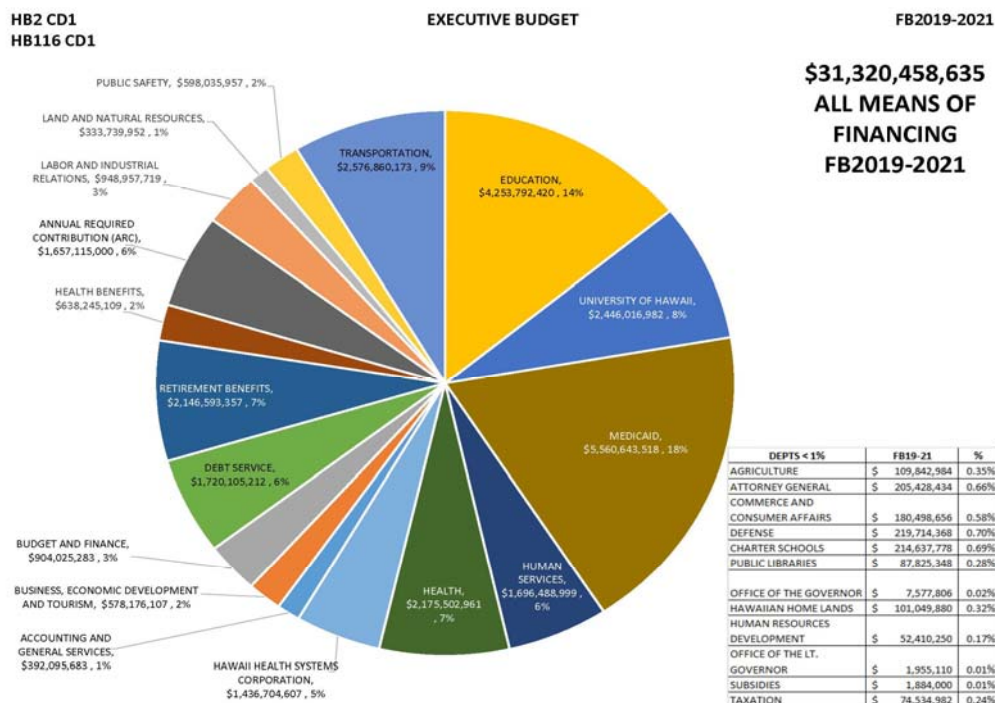
End of Legislative Session Recap

It has once again been a rewarding session and an honor to represent Senate District 22. As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I worked with my Senate and House colleagues to pass a balanced budget which addresses issues the Legislature prioritized relating to education and higher education, our kupuna, and human services and homelessness.

Working to ensure that college is affordable, we continued investing in the **Hawaii Nutrition and Employment Training (HINET) Program** and the **Hawaii Promise Program**. The **\$910,000** for the HINET Program enables community college students currently receiving or eligible for SNAP benefits to save over **\$4,700** every year and receive tuition assistance, workforce training, and reimbursements for books, supplies, and transportation. The Hawaii Promise Program is a "last dollar" scholarship that covers financial needs not met by other forms of financial aid. Last year, the program awarded on average **\$1,200** to approximately **1,500 students**. This year, there is **\$5,000,000** appropriated for the Promise Program.

Services for the Kupuna and homelessness are also highlights of this year's budget. The Legislature understands the services needed for our seniors. That is why this budget includes over **\$17,000,000** for the **Kupuna Care Program** and **\$1,500,000** for the **Kupuna Caregivers Program**. These two programs are critical as they fund **Meals on Wheels, transportation assistance, respite** and many other services and allow **family caregivers working outside of the home** to receive up to **\$210 per week**.

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Homelessness has become a growing concern of many in our community. That is why the Legislature funded over **\$25,000,000** in various homeless programs, debris removal services, and the state rent supplemental program. The policy is Housing First, and that means we are providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness and then ensuring the supportive services and connections.

In addition to these programs, we secured funding for major projects that benefit the Mililani community.

- **\$1,680,000** for **Mililani High School** for improvements to the softball field
- **\$1,200,000** for **Mililani Uka Elementary** for slope stabilization on the school campus
- **\$650,000** for **Mililani High School** to design and build a girl's athletic locker room
- **\$490,000** for **Mililani Middle School** for sidewalk improvement projects throughout the campus
- **\$350,000** to **Wahiawa General Hospital** to implement projects to ensure quality patient care, including
 - a nurse call system, pharmacy renovation, and bed replacements for the intensive care unit.
- **\$15,225,000** for the purchase of **Lot 17** in the **Mililani Technology Park**

Finally, with your support, **Mililani Middle School broke ground** on its new **15-classroom building**. The additional classrooms transition the school to a single-track calendar so families no longer have to struggle with a multi-track calendar. The building is slated to be ready for our students by School Year 2021 – 2022. We will work to completing this project for the benefit of future students and parents of our community. Mahalo for your continued support and I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf and the State of Hawaii.

