





## COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE



The Mililani COVID-19 Vaccination Site was a success as it administered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in its first 3 weeks before transitioning to the Moderna vaccine on April 15th. I had a wonderful site visit to Mililani Recreation Center 5 and am so grateful to our community partners for their support! Thanks to Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, the Department of Health and Times Pharmacy, we offered 2 additional vaccine dates on April 22nd & 29th. A big mahalo to Mililani Town Association for making Rec 5 available!

## MILKEN TEACHER OF PROMISE

The Milken Teacher of Promise award recognizes teachers who showcase educational excellence and the highest qualities of an educator during their first four semesters in the classroom. **Jenna Oskey** is a special education teacher at Kanoelani Elementary School whose incredible leadership and desire to cultivate student learning in a digital environment helped guide veteran colleagues through the pandemic. I was thrilled to attend Kanoelani's surprise celebration to present Jenna with a Senate certificate on April 14th. Congratulations, **Jenna!**



Senator presenting Jenna Oskey with a Senate Certificate on April 14th. Photo Credit: Department of Education

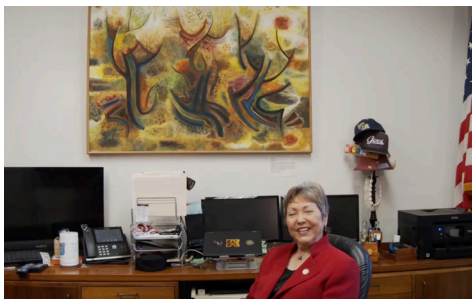
## 9 FEMALE SENATORS IN THE LEGISLATURE



This year we celebrated a new milestone at the Legislature, with a record 9 female Senators out of 25 members in the State Senate for the first time in Hawai'i's history. It is truly an honor for me to serve with these dedicated women. (Back Row L-R: Senators Acasio, Shimabukuro, Baker, San Buenaventura and Moriwaki. Front Row L-R: Senators Kim, Misalucha, myself & Senator Inouye)

## ART AT THE CAPITOL 2021 VIRTUAL EVENT

This year, the annual "Art at the Capitol," was a virtual event shared online from April 14 -16. State Senators and Representatives shared heartfelt video messages regarding significant art pieces loaned to us by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts! Head to my [Facebook Page](#) to learn about my own personal favorites that hang in my office at the State Capitol!



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

### 1. [State of Hawaii COVID-19 Portal](#)

The official Hawai'i state portal for all the latest updates, vaccine PODs and information on COVID-19:

<https://hawaiiicovid19.com>

### 2. [One Oahu](#)

The City & County of Honolulu's official COVID-19 Response Team site offers pandemic updates and helpful community resources:

<https://www.oneoahu.org>

### 3. [Hawaii State Department of Health](#)

The official DOH website notes the most recent health updates as directed by CDC and FDA guidelines on COVID-19 for the state of Hawai'i:

<https://health.hawaii.gov>

### 4. [Kupuna Vaccine Hotline](#)

Open 7am-10pm seven days a week, the hotline is available to assist kupuna ages 65+ with vaccine registrations as well as for those with limited access to technology, language barriers, those without transportation or family. **Call 211 for help today!**

### 5. [Department of Labor and Industrial Relations](#)

Access all of the necessary Unemployment Insurance benefit programs you may be eligible for and schedule an appointment online 3wks in advance for benefit assistance.

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/covid-19-ui-benefit-programs/>



# WLC EASTER BASKET DRIVE



The Women’s Legislative Caucus (WLC) is a bipartisan group led by myself, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Representative Lauren Matsumoto and Representative Linda Ichiyama. Our annual Easter Basket Drive collects donations for organizations that help women and children in need. This year we were excited to support the Domestic Violence Action Center, Institute for Human Services, Parents and Children Together, and Salvation Army Hawai‘i. Lawmakers gathered on March 25th to distribute baskets with Representative Patrick Branco and Senator Chris Lee dressed as our festive Easter mascots!

## WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to **Eunice** and **Taylor Fukunaga** as well as **Principal Keith Hayashi** of Waipahu High School, whom I was proud to honor with Senate certificates alongside Senator Nishihara! **Eunice** was awarded the Hawai‘i Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Administrator of the Year award for her exemplary efforts in establishing various certifications and work-based learning opportunities for students. This includes CPR certifications, a Pharmacy Technician program with Kapi‘olani Community College, as well as a Medical Assistant program with Hawai‘i Pacific Health. Her daughter, WHS junior, **Taylor Fukunaga**, became the first high school student in the nation ever elected as an international officer for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)! **Taylor** is enrolled in the Early College Program and is currently taking college courses, qualifying her to serve on the prestigious collegiate honor society board representing all PTK chapters in the Pacific region!



**Principal Hayashi** was recognized with the Shirley B. Gordon Award by the PTK Honor Society. The award celebrates college presidents whose leadership has demonstrated academic success and student advancement on their campus. With Waipahu serving as Hawai‘i’s Early College pioneer in HIDOE schools, Hayashi is the first high school Principal to receive this distinguished award. Thanks to his steadfast support, his students have made incredible strides in their educational pursuits, earned countless awards and are embarking on promising careers.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**U.S. PRESIDENTIAL**  
**SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**SEMIFINALISTS**  
  
**WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL:**  
Jeyan Francis Antonio Cornelio  
Royce Daniel Bueno Ilaga  
Reyan Lee

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

- Rental & Utility Relief**  
The City & County of Honolulu reinstated the Rental & Utility Relief Program which provides rent and household utilities support for O‘ahu residents. Call **768-CITY** seven days a week between 8am-4:30pm or head online for more details: [www.oneoahu.org/renthelp](http://www.oneoahu.org/renthelp)
- Next Steps to Your Future: Career Exploration**  
Hawai‘i public high school graduates are invited to take a free online UHCC class this summer to explore career options or summer advising and earn college credits <https://nextsteps.hawaii.edu>
- Summer Fun Program**  
Registration begins this month for keiki 6-13 to participate in the City’s FREE Summer Fun program weekdays from 8:30am-2pm running June 7th-July 27th. Head to their website for quality childcare throughout the summer with fun activities your kids will enjoy! <https://pros.hnl.info>
- Third Round of P-EBT**  
The Department of Human Services and the Department of Education announced a third round of Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT) benefits for keiki who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, or attend a Community Eligibility Provision school during the pandemic. <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/1961-2/>



# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD & PURPLE UP! DAY



April is the official Month of the Military Child. To recognize Military children and youth for their heroism, sacrifice and resilience, lawmakers were encouraged to join us for Purple Up! Day on April 21st by wearing purple. This color symbolizes all branches of service—a combination of Army Green, Marine Corps Red, and Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard Blue. I was proud to bring awareness to this important cause and to highlight the incredible sacrifices of our Military children and families. I am grateful to my fellow Senators for joining me in recognizing this cause and celebrating together on Purple Up! Day.

## MILILANI GRADUATE VOLLEYBALL AWARD



Mililani High School graduate **Aysia Miller** has made incredible strides in her first year of collegiate womens volleyball. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMHBC) freshman earned the “Setter of the Year” title in the the America East Champions conference with a career-best 58 assists. It is thrilling to see our Hawai‘i students continue on to do big things in their post-secondary studies, and **Aysia** is representing Hawai‘i with pride! We wish her the very best as she continues to further her athletic and academic career.

## A HUI HOU, SENATOR ENGLISH

After 25 years of public service, **Senator Kalani English** announced his retirement from the Hawai‘i State Senate on April 27th. I have deep respect and gratitude to **Senator English** for his dedication and heart for the people of Hawai‘i and the amazing work we accomplished together over the years. He has been a dear colleague and friend whom I admire and will miss greatly. I wish him good health and much aloha in his wonderful next chapter!



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

### 1. [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#)

This Federal Communications Commission program provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households towards internet service and equipment rentals as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 for computers and devices. To begin applying and enrolling head to their website:

[www.getemergencybroadband.org](http://www.getemergencybroadband.org)

### 2. [HECO Payment Plans](#)

With the HECO moratorium on disconnections for nonpayment ending on May 31st, customers with a past due balance on their electric bills are urged to set up a payment plan to stretch installments over the coming months. Visit HECO online to schedule your plan without disconnections starting June 1st.

<https://nextsteps.hawaii.edu>

### 3. [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Expectations & FAQs](#)

One Oahu offers information regarding Hawai‘i’s distribution plan, vaccine safety, as well as what to expect when receiving the vaccine and a list of FAQs to address community vaccine concerns. It is important to note that people who have recovered from COVID-19 are still urged to receive the vaccine with new variants being introduced into the country and natural immunity varying between individuals. Mask-wearing and hyper hygiene is still urged after receiving a vaccination.

Download the Aloha Safe app to your smartphone to stay updated with contact tracing & how to keep your ‘ohana safe from COVID-19!



# 2021 BILLS OF INTEREST

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## **SB807: RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Requires each school to include, as a part of their academic plans, an accounting of all resources that will be used to address and achieve their desired outcomes for their students. Schools retain full control over what outcomes they wish to achieve. This bill simply ensures that we collect the data on what the resource needs are for our schools and where there may be opportunities to bring schools together to address similar issues.

## **SB808: RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AGENCY**

This bill clarified the roles and responsibilities of the school facilities agency, as established last year as Act 72. This bill also renames the School Facilities Agency as the School Facilities Authority, allowing it to compete for additional Federal funds and loans. I continue to have great hope that the School Facilities Agency will fulfil its mission to modernize and improve our schools to meet the needs of our students.

## **SB811: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

With in-person learning expanding across our State, it is more important now than ever to ensure that students, parents, and staff know when there is a reported COVID-19 case at their school. The DOE continues to report these cases by complex area, which can span significantly large geographic areas. By requiring weekly school-level reporting, we are able to provide our students, parents and community with the information they need to make informed decisions on whether or not to send their students back to in-person learning.

## **SB814: RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

I have heard from many in the charter school community that there are on-going issues that must be addressed with the charter application process. At the same time, we must balance it with a fair and open process that respects the autonomy of the commission as the authorizer of charter schools in our State. I believe that SB814 is a good compromise that removes the letter of intent process from the application period and allows applicants to go directly to the application process.

## **SB1127: MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

This bill makes an emergency appropriation for the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for fiscal year 2020-2021 to address the budget shortfall for support of the general assistance program (HMS 204) in the Department of Human Services.

## **SB1387: RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION**

Microchipping is an effective and low-cost way to ensure that animals, who become separated from their homes, have a safe way to be reunited with their families. SB1387 requires all cats and dogs to be microchipped, and is an important step in ensuring that our shelters and other service providers are able to contact their owners and keep pets from being euthanized unnecessarily.

## **SCR151: ENCOURAGING THE DOE TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL-WIDE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**

It is important that our schools have supportive practices in place as a standard policy for students. Restorative practices include multiple levels of interventions and programs to ensure that students who are struggling have access to supportive staff and programs, and that students who are justice-involved have a safe and thoughtful plan for continuing their education. School must be seen as a solution for struggling students and this resolution encourages the DOE to be systematic in its approach to offering services.

## **HB961: RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

This bill exempts dependents of military service members from state residency requirement for government employment if the military service member is in Hawai'i on bona fide military orders. Effective January 1, 2022, a spouse of an active duty service member in the military who accompanies the service member a permanent change of station to Hawai'i and holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure on an expedited basis in the State.

## **SCR152: URGING DOE TO COORDINATE WITH THE DCCA TO IMPLEMENT A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF FINANCIAL LITERACY**

Having some financial literacy is important for every person to be financially stable and avoid becoming victims of fraud. In 2015, I introduced a resolution that formed a working group to look into possible courses and information for students. Unfortunately, the Department of Education has been slow to roll this programming out and provide this opportunity to our students.



## CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Waipahu High School:** \$23M in funding for phase 2 of the new Integrated Academy Facility as well as renovation and relocation costs for the Academic Health Center. This funding is critical to ensuring that these projects stay on track and that students have access to the facilities and equipment needed to be prepared for careers. (FY22)
- Kaleiopuu Elementary School:** \$2.139M in funding for critical infrastructure improvements on the campus including roofing or re-roofing, renovations, ground and site improvements, and hazardous materials remediation. (FY22)
- Kipapa Elementary School:** \$3M for design and construction of a covered play court and other related improvements. This is important not just to protect against rain but also to provide shade and shelter for students. (FY22)
- Mililani High School:** \$3.5M for the design and construction of funding for a much a needed expansion of the high school administration building. (FY22)
- University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu:** \$3.5M in funding to provide much needed repair and maintenance funding for the facilities at UH-West Oahu. While the newest campus in our system, this does not mean it escapes the need for repair and maintenance to ensure we achieve the maximum lifespan for these buildings. (FY22)

## HB613: RELATING TO EDUCATION BUDGET:

The Department of Education took a substantial budget hit at the start of this session. Facing the Governor's cut of 10% of their budget, we were looking at potential cuts of thousands of school-level personnel and reductions to important statewide programs in STEM, CTE, and Early College. I am grateful for the partnership with fellow Mililani Senator Donovan Dela Cruz for his commitment in working with me to ensure that we passed a budget which restored funding directly to our schools. To do this, we utilized both our general fund budget as well as Federal Relief funds known as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. The general funded budget is found in HB200 and federal ESSER funds are allocated through HB613.

- \$35M to restore the cuts made by the Governor to Weighted Student Formula (EDN100), which is the primary funding mechanism for schools. This is critical to ensure that our schools have the resources to hire necessary staff, provide programming opportunities, and have funding on-hand to address any issues that arise throughout the school year.
- \$110M to be used to prepare schools for a safe reopening. This money can be used to address transportation requirements, air quality issues including air conditioning (with appropriate filters), food services costs, PPE needs, and more.
- \$100M divided up amongst the 15 complex areas to address student needs in areas of social-emotional health, academics like STEM and CTE, and other services to support students' return to in-person learning or remain hybrid or virtual learners.
- \$19M to increase virtual learning services, address connectivity issues, digital device refresh and replacement, and online subscriptions to virtual learning programs as approved by the DOE's Office of Curriculum, Innovation, and Design.
- \$20M for programs targeting under-served and minority populations who may need further engagement to return to school.
- \$4.6M to be allocated by formula to each school to address small repair and maintenance issues. Elementary schools will receive \$12K, middle/intermediate school will receive \$15.5K, and high schools as well as combined/mixed schools will receive \$22K. An additional \$12K will be allocated to schools with public pre-kindergarten classrooms on campus.

## HB200: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

More than ever, balancing the state budget was a challenge given our starting point in January. Thanks to a favorable outlook from the Council on Revenues and additional Federal relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the legislature was able to pass a budget that restored several critical programs, provided ESSER and assistance for our local small businesses. Here is a summary of the highlights from the budget:

### Department of Accounting and General Services

- \$2.38M restore sex assault treatment service contracts to continue 24/7 stabilization information and referral services, case management, counseling services, and late-night services.
- \$870K and (9) positions to establish the complex litigation, fraud, and compliance unit which will focus on civil and criminal cases and fraud and ethics violations within government.
- Over \$531K to change the means of financing for the Medicaid fraud control unit to investigate and prosecute Medicaid fraud and patient abuse or neglect in health care facilities, or board and care facilities.

### Department of Budget and Finance

- \$313.6M for the repayment of a working capital loan.
- \$93.2M in FY22 and \$122.625M in FY23 for debt service payments.

### Department of Human Services

- \$500K for FY22 in funds for the Rent Supplement Program for low income families.
- \$5.4M for FY22 for General Assistance payments for temporarily disabled individuals to maintain the current benefits.

- \$14.3M for continued homeless services including the Housing First Program, the Rapid Re-housing Program, the Homeless Outreach Services and Civil Legal Services, and the Stored Property and Debris Removal Service.

### Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

- \$700.2M in FY22 and \$5.09M in FY23 to repay the loan principal and interest of the unemployment insurance program.

### University of Hawai‘i

- \$1M to offset lost revenue at the Waikīkī Aquarium.
- \$3.1M in each fiscal year for the Hawai‘i Promise Program.
- \$1.2M for University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization for economic analysis

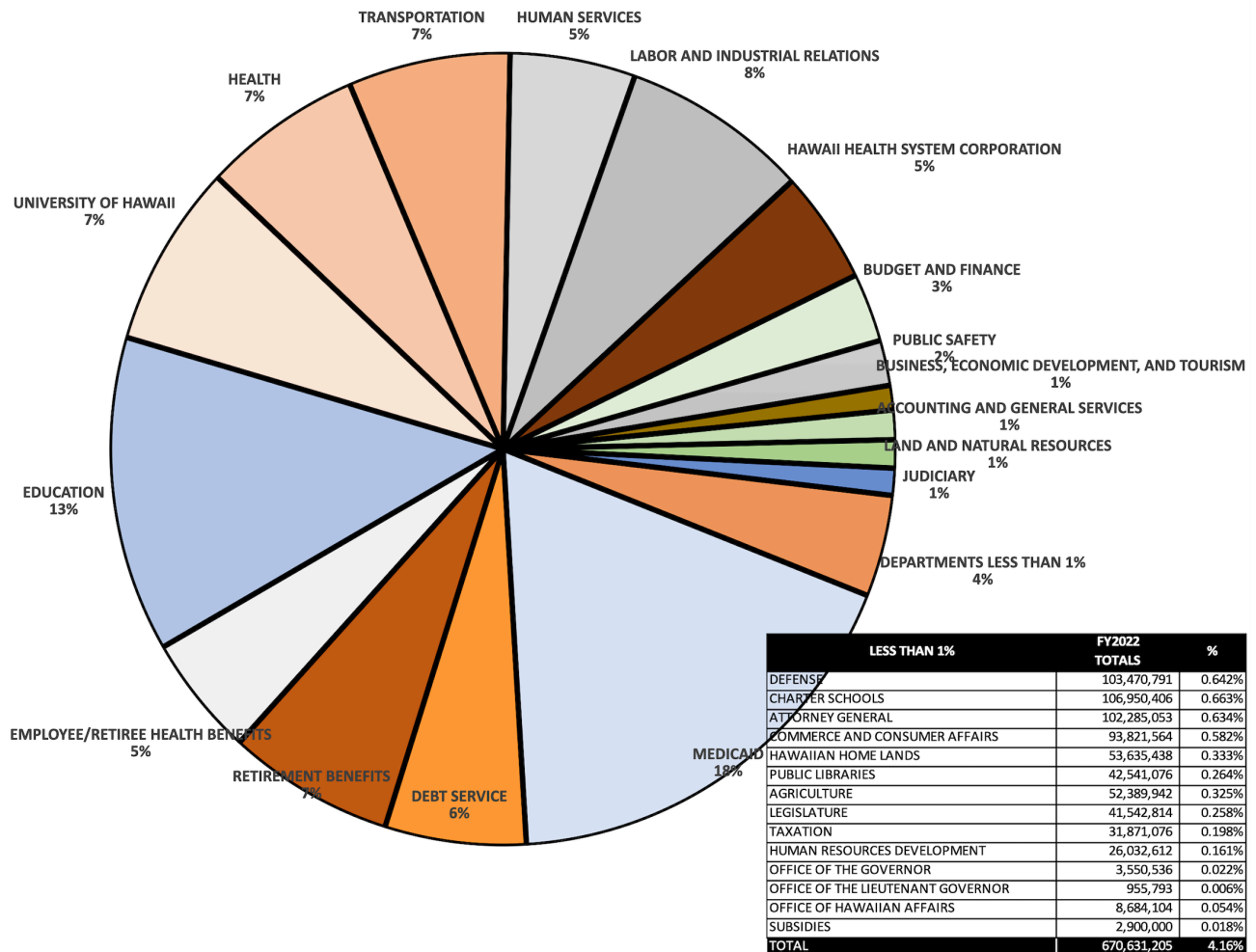
### Department of Education

We must find ways to address the trauma and stress that our students have faced over the last year and a half. We cannot expect schools to be able to assist their students without appropriate resourcing. That is why the legislature allocated \$3M for FY22, \$6M for FY23 to expand Alternative Learning Programs and \$400K for Trauma-Informed Care Services. In addition to this, we understand that we must continue to address the physical health needs of our students as well.

- An additional \$2,482,554 was allocated to continue the Hawai‘i Keiki Program, which promotes the health and wellness of our keiki and aims to reduce the amount of absences statewide.
- The Legislature also appropriated \$2,594,198 for the Early College Program which offers over 400 college level courses to 43 High Schools statewide to encourage their post-secondary studies
- Cuts to Special Education services (EDN150) were restored in the budget to ensure that all students have access to a free public education system that is responsive to their needs.

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

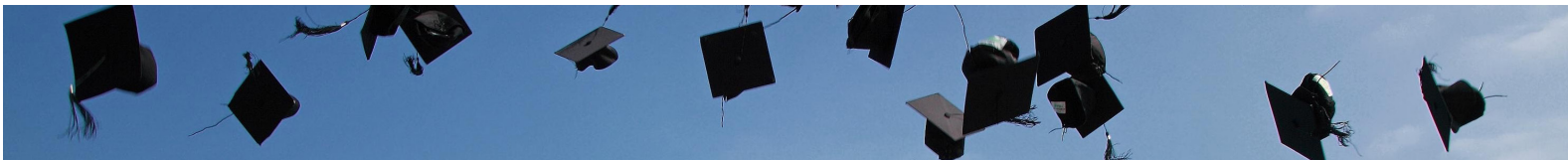
The Legislature’s total budget for the fiscal year 2022 for all means of financing is \$16,129,396,071



## SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St. Rm 228  
Honolulu, HI 96813

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021



As the 2020-2021 school year comes to a close, my heartfelt congratulations goes to all of the class of 2021 graduates! The resilience, innovation and determination you have demonstrated throughout the difficulties of the past year have been no small feat to overcome, yet the class of 2021 has taken it all in stride. It has been so inspiring to watch you adapt and evolve with these changing times, utilizing technology with ease and transitioning to online platforms not only for classroom learning, but hosting musical performances and competitive events and celebrations. You are a class of leaders, entrepreneurs and creatives who are sure to make an impact on the world as you embark on your post-secondary goals. I have no doubt that you will achieve tremendous success in any pathway you choose with that same dedication and grit. I look forward to celebrating your glowing achievements along with your proud family, friends and the local community as we celebrate your upcoming graduations when they are streamed this month. We will be cheering for you all, graduates! Congratulations to the Mililani High School and Waipahu High School class of 2021!

