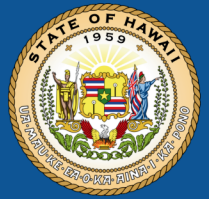


# COMMUNITY REPORT

## SENATE DISTRICT 18 | 2026 END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER

Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



*Michelle*  
**KIDANI**

**Senate Vice  
President**

**Vice Chair**  
Committee on  
Education

**Member**  
Committee on  
Ways and Means

**Join our monthly  
digital mailing list!**

To subscribe to our monthly digital newsletters, email [senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov) with your name, email, and mailing address.

### *Aloha Friends and Neighbors,*

With the conclusion of the 2026 Legislative Session, I am encouraged by the progress we achieved together on behalf of Hawai'i's families and communities. This year, the Legislature focused on strengthening education, improving public safety, supporting economic innovation, protecting Hawai'i's environment, and uplifting communities across our islands.

Throughout the session, we also made meaningful progress in supporting our public schools and working families. I am proud to support key initiatives passing through Legislature, including income tax reductions that will provide relief for working and middle-income households across Hawai'i. In addition, the Legislature passed my measure to honor our veterans, enabling eligible individuals whose education was interrupted during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War to receive a high school diploma.

In this newsletter, you will find a summary of major legislative accomplishments from this year's session, highlights from the state budget, and updates on Capital Improvement Projects that will directly benefit our district. These investments will help strengthen our schools, improve public infrastructure, and support the long-term well-being of our community.

With the school year now coming to a close, I also want to extend a warm congratulations to all graduates in our district, from Elementary to High School. Attending ceremonies at Kanoelani, Kalei'opu'u, Mililani Waena, and Mililani Uka Elementary Schools, as well as Mililani High School, was a wonderful reminder of the hard work, perseverance, and growth our students have demonstrated throughout the year. It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm and limitless potential of our young learners as they pursue their educational goals. Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Although the Legislative Session has officially ended, I remain committed throughout the summer months to advancing progress in public education, supporting opportunities for students and families, and strengthening the communities we call home. Mahalo for your continued support, and I wish you and your 'ohana a safe, restful, and joyful summer.

Mahalo,

*Michelle*



Mural at Kanoelani Elementary School, created and painted by Kanoelani Elementary student alumni

**Address**  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 214

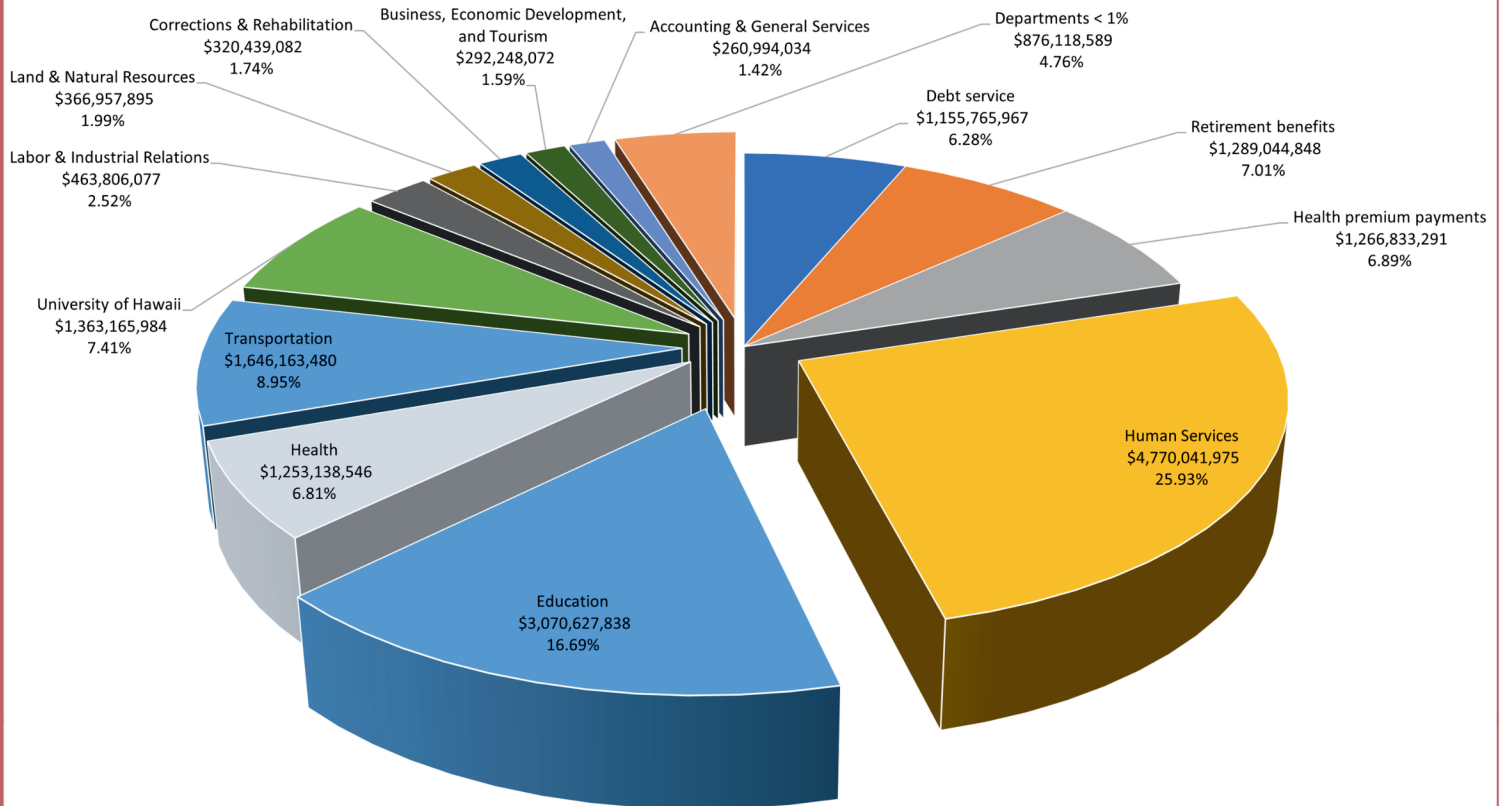
**Phone**  
(808) 586-7100

**Email**  
[senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Website**  
<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

The Legislature's total budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 for all means of financing is **\$20,315,201,838**



Department	FY27 \$	%
Debt service	\$ 1,150,442,640	5.98%
Retirement benefits	\$ 1,323,693,340	6.89%
Health premium payments	\$ 1,266,833,291	6.59%
Human Services	\$ 4,982,208,129	25.92%
Education	\$ 3,113,622,434	16.20%
Health	\$ 1,266,833,291	6.59%
Transportation	\$ 1,623,405,062	8.44%
University of Hawaii	\$ 1,365,113,062	7.10%
Budget and Finance (admin)	\$ 528,033,565	2.75%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 462,948,027	2.41%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 475,462,414	2.47%
Business, Economic Development, and Tourism	\$ 343,644,540	1.79%
Corrections & Rehabilitation	\$ 319,486,178	1.66%
Accounting & General Services	\$ 260,202,494	1.35%
Departments < 1%	\$ 741,792,739	3.86%
<b>Departments &lt; 1%</b>		
Attorney General	\$ 137,759,160	0.72%
Defense	\$ 119,333,766	0.62%
Commerce and Consumer Affairs	\$ 109,182,066	0.57%
Law Enforcement	\$ 100,508,785	0.52%
Taxation	\$ 43,779,325	0.23%
Human Resources Development	\$ 36,028,606	0.19%
Agriculture and Biosecurity	\$ 90,596,681	0.47%
Hawaiian Home Lands	\$ 97,167,008	0.51%
Office of the Governor	\$ 4,932,807	0.03%
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	\$ 2,504,535	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,223,721,206</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Charted to the left is department budget breakdowns for all categories during the 2027 fiscal year.**

# NOTABLE BILLS OF 2026

**SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill; CD = Conference Draft**

**SB3125 SD1 HD1 CD2: RELATING TO INCOME TAX:** This important measure preserves the income tax cuts enacted in 2024 for joint filers earning under \$350,000, heads of household earning under \$262,500, and single filers earning under \$175,000. This continues to provide critical financial relief for working and middle-income households across Hawai'i.

**SB2802 SD1 HD1 CD1: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I:** This bill establishes a Bachelor's degree program in agricultural science at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu.

**SB2614 HD2: RELATING TO EDUCATION:** Authorizes the Department of Education to award a High School Diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. *Senator Kidani introduced measure.*

**HB1891 HD1 SD1 CD1: RELATING TO EDUCATION:** Requires the Department of Education to implement dyslexia sensitive linguistically universal screenings and evidence-based intervention. In addition, it offers professional development and intervention.

**SB2613 SD1 HD3 CD1: RELATING PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER:** Revises tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are conveyed to the Department of Education pursuant to Act 307, Session Law of Hawaii 2022. *Senator Kidani introduced measure.*

**SB2075 SD1 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT:** Requires the Department of Education to implement dyslexia sensitive linguistically universal screenings and evidence-based intervention. In addition, it offers professional development and intervention.

**SB2125 SD1 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING:** To combat the teacher shortage, this bill allows the Department of Education and Charter Schools to hire unlicensed individuals as teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years. It further requires that unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis make continuous and verifiable progress toward satisfying licensing requirements.

**HB1800 HD1 SD1 CD1: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET:** Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

## ***Key Department of Education investments include:***

- Increasing Teacher Housing Revolving Fund ceiling by \$500,000 for teacher housing cottage repairs
- Increasing Education Design and Construction Project Assessment Revolving Fund ceiling by \$7,000,000 for architectural and engineering services to support CIP and deferred maintenance
- Adding 26.00 permanent positions and \$1,065,640 for Regional Kitchen operations
- Adding \$675,000 for the Community School for Adults statewide
- Adding 1.00 permanent Civil Rights Compliance Specialist for Title IX Athletics
- Adding \$1,500,000 for library security services
- Adding 2.00 permanent positions for Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan
- Adding 1.00 permanent Evaluation Specialist II for Early Learning System Coordination

## ***Additional statewide education investments include:***

- \$20,000,000 to support pre-kindergarten expansion
- Total of \$446,000,000 for improvements and repairs to school facilities statewide, including:
  - \$101,000,000 for deferred maintenance
  - \$85,000,000 for health and safety
  - \$21,000,000 to address compliance statewide
  - \$10,000,000 in project completion funds
  - \$81,000,000 for support facilities
  - \$8,000,000 for kitchen renovations

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

**Mililani High School:** \$3,000,000 appropriated to complete the Mililani High School covered patio

**Koa Ridge School:** \$1,300,000 appropriated for design funds for a new school development in Koa Ridge with an increase in student population

**Royal Kunia Agricultural Park:** \$15,000,000 appropriated for the plans, land acquisition, design, construction, and equipment for the Royal Kunia Agricultural Park

**Honowai Elementary School :** \$110,000 appropriated for design and construction of parking lot driveway resurfacing, ground and site improvements, and equipment

**Kanoelani Elementary School :** \$250,000 appropriated for resurfacing of parking lots, ground and site improvements, and equipment

## GOVERNOR GREEN RELEASED FUNDING:

**Interstate Route H-1 Kunia Interchange on O‘ahu :** \$1,500,000 appropriated to fund the preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the modernization and expansion. This important step will help identify the long-term solutions to ease traffic congestion, improve safety, and better serve the residents and commuters who rely on this corridor every day.

## Last Day of Session: Sine Die

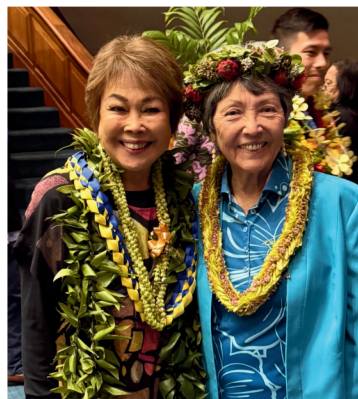
On May 8th, the 2026, Legislative Session officially adjourned Sine Die, bringing to a close a productive and impactful session at the State Capitol. This year, the Legislature passed a historic state budget focused on supporting Hawai‘i’s families and local communities, while advancing major initiatives that will have a lasting impact on our state’s future.

Throughout the legislative session, we worked together to strengthen education, expand access to healthcare, enhance public safety, support economic innovation, invest in technology, protect our environment, and uplift communities across Hawai‘i. These accomplishments reflect the collaboration and dedication of lawmakers, advocates, stakeholders, and residents from every corner of our islands.

Mahalo to my colleagues, community partners, and the people of Hawai‘i for your continued engagement and support during this session. Although there is still important work ahead, I am proud of the progress we made together and remain committed to building a stronger, more sustainable, and resilient Hawai‘i for generations to come.



[L-R]: Senator Dela Cruz, myself, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kim



With Senator Inouye



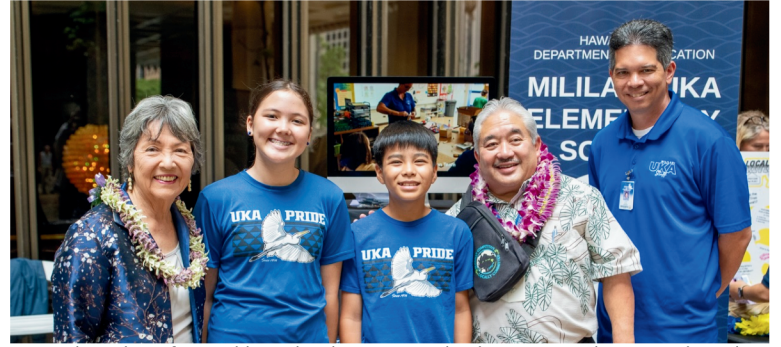
With Senate President Kouchi

## Senate Education Week

Senate Education Week recognizes the outstanding students, educators, and school communities across Hawai'i who continue to inspire excellence and achievement in public education. I was honored to serve as co-chair of this year's Senate Education Week alongside Education Chair Senator Kim. This annual event highlights the dedication, leadership, and innovation of students and education professionals who are making a lasting impact in our schools and communities. Their accomplishments reflect the collective efforts of teachers, administrators, support staff, families, and community partners working together to strengthen Hawai'i's public education system. Senate Education Week is a reminder that supporting our keiki and investing in their future is a shared responsibility. Congratulations to all of this year's honorees, and mahalo to everyone who helps prepare Hawai'i's students for success in college, career, and beyond!



Members of the Senate with Waipahu High School's Lotus Yasuda, United States Senate Youth Program delegate



With students from Mililani Uka Elementary School, Superintendent Hayashi and Principal Jacob Kardash



Students smile and shaka at our Student Showcase!



With Waipahu High School's LifeSmarts Competition winners, Principal Zachary Sheets and Senator Kim

## Amazing Shake Exhibition

It was a pleasure to attend the Amazing Shake exhibition at Waipahu High School this past February! Approximately 33 outstanding students from 11 schools came together to sharpen their professional skills in preparation for the Global Amazing Shake Competition. Inspired by the TV reality show *Survivor*, this year's national theme challenged students to think on their feet, communicate with confidence, and demonstrate resilience under pressure. Throughout the live competition, students faced high-pressure scenarios and were required to respond quickly and professionally to judges. Participants were evaluated on professionalism, confidence, communication, time management, eye contact, and handshakes, while showcasing their poise and problem-solving abilities. I am incredibly proud of these young leaders for stepping outside their comfort zones and representing their schools with excellence.



With Deputy Superintendent Tammi Chun



Observing students test their skills!

# Nourishing Hawai'i's Future Means of Agreement Ceremony

On May 15th, state leaders and legislators gathered at Mililani High School to sign a joint Memorandum of Agreement formalizing a statewide partnership to expand the use of locally sourced foods in Hawai'i public school meals and strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural and food systems. The agreement formalizes cooperative roles and responsibilities among the Hawai'i Board of Education, State Departments of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and DOE, Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), Health (DOH), Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and Transportation (HDOT), along with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR), and Community Colleges. Together, these agencies and organizations are working to build a stronger, more sustainable local food system that supports both our students and our agricultural community.



*With legislators, agencies and organizations leaders signing the Means of Agreement!*



*[L-R]: BOE member Elynne Chung, DOT Director Ed Sniffen, MHS students, myself, First Lady Green and Superintendent Hayashi*

This cross-department initiative reflects Hawai'i's ongoing commitment to improving food security by increasing the availability of fresh, locally grown produce in school cafeterias across the state. Expanding locally sourced meal programs not only benefits students, but also strengthens Hawai'i's economy by supporting local farmers, food producers, and agricultural businesses. This effort creates new opportunities for workforce development, increases demand for locally grown products, and encourages the creation of school menus that incorporate more native and Hawai'i-grown ingredients.



*[L-R]: UH President Wendy Hensel, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, myself, and Superintendent Keith Hayashi*



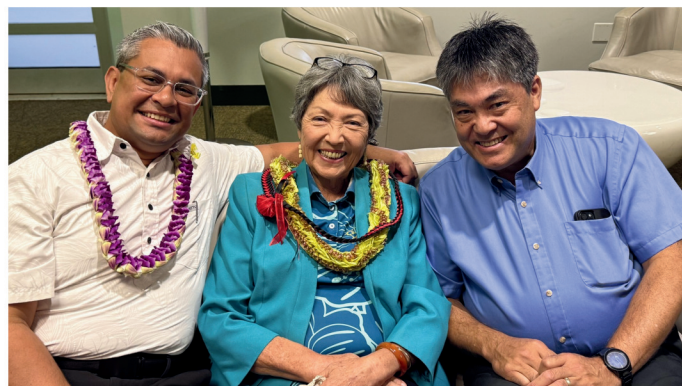
*With MHS Principal Fred Murphy*

## University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu

I had the honor of attending the 2026 Commencement Ceremony for the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, held at the Stan Sheriff Center. The morning was filled with excitement, pride, and a strong sense of accomplishment as graduates celebrated this important milestone. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 on all that you have achieved, and a heartfelt mahalo to the faculty, staff, families, and friends whose support helped guide them to this moment. The arena was full of energy, making it a memorable celebration of years of hard work and dedication, and I wish all graduates continued success, growth, and fulfillment as they begin their next chapter!



*Students waiting to be called to stage!*



*[L-R]: Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza, myself, and Vice Chancellor David McDonald*



*With Complex Area Superintendent Richard Fajardo*

## 2026 Elementary School Graduation Awards

As we conclude the school year, I extend my congratulations to the many District 18 students who have worked hard and accomplished so much throughout this year. It was a pleasure to visit Kalei'opu'u, Kanoelani, Mililani Waena, and Mililani Uka Elementary Schools to recognize outstanding students and present them with Senate certificates for their academic achievements! I am grateful to the principals, teachers, and staff whose dedication supports student success every day. To all graduates in our district, congratulations on reaching this important milestone. Ho'omaika'i!



[L-R]: At Kanoelani Elementary School with students Riane Esclanda, and Tyler Duldulao



[L-R]: At Mililani Waena Elementary School with students Sydney Pojas-Suan and Cyrus Suan



[L-R]: At Kalei'opu'u Elementary School with students Michael Retotal and Jherum Cabebe Jr.



[L-R]: At Mililani Uka Elementary School with students Kennedy Wheeler and Kashton Soberano



At Mililani Uka Elementary School presenting student awards!

## In Memoriam: Former US House Representative Colleen Hanabusa

At the State Capitol, we gathered to honor the life and legacy of former Congresswoman and Senate President Colleen Hanabusa, whose leadership and dedication to public service left a lasting impact on Hawai'i and its people. A proud daughter of Wai'anae, Colleen made history as the first Asian American woman in the United States to preside over a state legislative chamber, before going on to represent our state in the U.S. House of Representatives. While her accomplishments were extraordinary, many of us will remember her most for the person she was: honest, strong, kind, and never afraid to speak her truth. I will always remember her unyielding commitment to what she believed in and the example she set for so many in public service.

My heartfelt condolences go out to her husband, John Souza, and to all who knew and loved her. Mahalo, Colleen, for your friendship, leadership, and lifetime of service to Hawai'i. You will be deeply missed.



[L-R]: Myself, U.S. Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and former U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka in 2017.



[L-R]: Myself, Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon, U.S. Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and Danny Kaleikini in 2016.



**SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI**

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 214  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

*Congratulations to the Class of 2026!*



*Pearl City High School*



*Mililani High School*



*Waipahu High School*



**Senate Vice President Michelle N. Kidani • District 18**