



Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 332 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
 Phone: (808) 586-9444 | Fax: (808) 586-9499
 Email: rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

Proudly serving District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihe'e, Waiehu,
 Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapu, parts of Kahului

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM

Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

March 2020

Aloha!

The month of March marks the half way point in the legislative session. All bills originating in the House have crossed over and now will be considered by the Senate and vice-versa. Although many initiatives did not make it to this point, there are many important bills that are still moving through the process. I appreciate your feedback on legislation that is important to you, as it helps me to make informed decisions and understand how a proposal may impact our community.

The issue of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, continues to be top of mind as it spreads throughout the world. The State Department of Health along with Lt. Gov. Josh Green will be leading the efforts on any health impacts. The Legislature understands the urgency of this situation and is making emergency appropriations in the event additional funds are needed to keep our communities safe. Bracing for the economic impacts is also a major concern. In response, the House of Representatives has created a select committee to find ways to minimize the economic impacts of COVID-19 (see pg.3 for more info). I will continue share any additional information as it is available.

Please know that my staff and I are here to help to in any way we can. If you have questions or concerns, please contact my office at (808) 586-9444 or RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,



Spotlight on our community

Congratulations to Jonathan Merchant for bringing the Little Free Library program to Wailuku town as part of his Troop 40 Eagle Scout Project! Little Free Library is a neighborhood book exchange accessible to anyone who wants to leave a book or take a book. Be on the lookout for Jonathan's three Little Free Library locations: Market Street near Kipuka Square/Iao Theatre, Wailuku Hongwanji, and Noho'ana Farm in Waikapu.



The Ka Ipu Kukui program, visited the State Capitol and met with members of the Maui Delegation to discuss the importance of public service. Congratulations to the 2020 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows:



Mackenzie Ajimura, Lauren Akitake, Farron Cabral, Riley Coon, Jason Hew, Carissa Holley, Teana Kaho'ohanohano, Rebecca Kiili, Jeeyun Lee, Tyson Miyake, Randall Parabolici, Buddy James Nobriga, Chris Sugidono, and Ashley Takitani. Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows is a year-long leadership development program uniquely designed to cultivate and inspire emerging leaders to contribute to a thriving future for Maui County.



Congratulations to the Maui District High School Honor Band for an amazing performance last month! Mr. Ted Manzano, retired Maui Waena Band Director and current Maui Community Band Director, conducted the Honor Band. Special appreciation goes out to current band directors, **Mr. David Kuraya** (Baldwin HS), **Mr. Casey Nagata** (King Kekaulike HS) both pictured, **Mr. Kerry Wasano** (Maui HS) and **Mr. Myron Carlos** (Lahainaluna HS) for all of their hard work. I am always impressed with the talent we have right here on Maui!

FY 2020-2021 State Budget highlights

H.B. 2200 HD1, known as the State Budget, funds operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. The Budget recently passed third reading in the House and appropriates \$15.574 billion for FY 2020 and \$15.673 billion for FY 2021. The bill will now crossover to the Senate which will incorporate their changes. Below are a few highlights from the House proposal. The final bill likely will be different and will be highlighted in a future update. Several notable Maui-specific appropriations include:

Department of Education

\$200,000 for security cameras at Iao Intermediate School

\$200K

Department of Land and Natural Resources

\$1.6 million for Rapid Ohia Death surveys and control

Rapid Ohia Death was first discovered on Maui in July 2019. Though no additional cases have been reported since then, these funds will help to counteract this invasive fungus that continues to kill our native plants.

\$3.7 million

\$2.1 million for lifeguard services contracts at State Parks statewide

Department of Public Safety

15 Adult Correction Officer positions for Maui County Correctional Center

15 positions

Adequately addressing MCCC's overcrowding problem has been an ongoing challenge. Additional guards are needed to create additional capacity to keep the facility safe and secure.

University of Hawai'i System

\$1.4 million and 8 positions to establish a medical education and residency support program on Maui

These funds will help establish a new UH medical school cohort, including a residency program, on the island of Maui. The medical school expansion is aimed at helping to address Maui's physician shortage. Reports show that Maui County had a deficit of 153 physicians in 2018 alone, growing exponentially from only 12 physicians in 2017. The School of Medicine reports that 80 percent of physicians who attend medical school and perform their residency training in Hawai'i remain here. If funding is approved in 2020, the first class could start in July 2021. The program will keep growing each year, with plans to add six new students per year.

\$4.8 million & 13 positions

\$1.5 million for mental health services systemwide

UH Maui College currently has only one mental health professional to serve its 3,000 students. These funds would help ensure students have adequate mental health services.

\$1 million for security services at community colleges

\$907,400 and 5 positions for operations and maintenance of community college facilities

Department of Agriculture

\$2.4 million for statewide pest programs

Maui is experiencing various invasive species threats such as little fire ant infestations and coqui frogs. The funds will help to mitigate these threats.

\$2.4 million

Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)

H.B. 2725 HD1, appropriates funds for CIPs statewide. It recently passed third reading in the House and has been transmitted to the Senate for their consideration. Here are a few highlights that impact our community:

Iao Intermediate School

\$4 million for renovations to the old cafeteria Building C to provide additional classrooms.

\$75,000 for due diligence for land acquisition.

Pu'u Kukui Elementary

\$75,000 for due diligence for land acquisition.

Wailuku Elementary School

\$450,000 for parking lot improvements and addition of new stalls.

\$270,000 for ADA accessibility designing.

Waihe'e Elementary

\$420,000 for drainage improvements to prevent flooding.

New Central Maui Middle School

\$3 million for plans and design for a new middle school.

Division of Forestry and Wildfire Maui Baseyard

\$55,000 for installation of standby generator.

\$55,000 for restroom renovations.

Nā Wai 'Ehā Land Acquisition

\$4 million for acquisition of 8,898 acres of the Nā Wai 'Ehā watershed in Wailuku. *This funding is a portion of a county, state, and federal partnership to acquire and preserve important pieces of land.*

Kahului Harbor

\$14.5 million for improvement program projects that will provide for safer, more efficient use of existing or additional operational areas.

Maui Health System

\$6 million for facilities repair, renovations, upgrades as well as new facilities.

Maui Regional Public Safety Complex

\$5 million for plans, land and design for new Maui Regional Public Safety Complex in Pulehunui.

Pu'unene Avenue

\$40 million for the widening of Pu'unene avenue from Kamehameha Avenue to Kuihelani Highway from two to four lanes, and for the installation of safety improvements.

Stay safe: Coronavirus preparedness

There is much uncertainty related to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. In response to the global concerns, Governor David Ige issued an emergency proclamation on March 4, which allows the state to work quickly and efficiently to prevent, contain, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide emergency relief if necessary. This includes authorizing the expenditure of state funds on equipment and supplies as needed.

Mayor Michael Victorino also issued a Public Health Emergency Proclamation on the same day. This will give the County of Maui and statewide partners the ability to take action to suspend any county law that impedes on the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The Legislature is also taking swift action to ensure appropriate funds are set aside for any necessary actions to deal with the health impacts. The Senate passed **S.B. 75 SD2** which appropriates **\$10,568,750** and the House passed **H.B. 1629 HD1** which will serve as a vehicle bill in case additional funding is needed as session moves forward. The United States Congress is also working to provide **\$8.3 billion** in federal funding to help states combat the virus. Hawai'i may receive up to **\$4.5 million** under this emergency supplemental appropriations measure.

In recognition that COVID-19 will likely hurt our tourism based economy, **H.R. 54** was passed by the House to establish a **Select House Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness**. The committee will serve as the legislative working group that monitors the Coronavirus, identifies the potential economic impacts, and develops mitigation plans.

Please remember a few basic tips for you to stay healthy:

- For healthy people, **wearing a face mask is not recommended to prevent infection**. Keep in mind that supplies are limited and we need to make sure there are enough masks for our front-line health care workers. If you are sick then wear a mask to protect the people around you.
- The best preventive measures are to **wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, cover your nose and mouth with your elbow or a tissue** when coughing or sneezing, **limit your contact with sick people**, and **stay home if sick**. If you are sick, wearing a face mask can help prevent others from being infected.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Be sure to have a **14-day emergency supply of household essentials** in case of possible quarantine or shortage.

For the latest updates and to sign up for daily updates please go to www.health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/



*With the current seasonal flu activity, it is likely there will be confusion as persons with flu will exhibit some of the same symptoms as COVID-19, such as fever and cough, so **remember to get your flu shot to prevent flu and related confusion.***

To find out where to get vaccinated near you, visit:

vaccinefinder.org

Feedback needed: Should the general excise tax be increased?

The County of Maui is asking the State Legislature for the opportunity to enact a general excise surcharge up to a half percent for use on County projects. On two previous occasions the Maui County Council declined to enact a surcharge during the designated timeframe, while the other counties have enacted the tax. Oahu currently can only use their surcharge to fund rail construction, while Hawai'i and Kauai County fund public transportation expenses, including the operation of public buses, construction of roadways, bicycle paths, and sidewalks. The surcharge statewide is slated to expire in 2030.

Two bills are moving to consider this request, **S.B. 2140** allows Maui County to enact the surcharge and use the revenue in a similar manner as Hawai'i and Kauai County. However, in consideration of the affordable housing crises facing our community, the House passed **H.B. 1776 HD1**, which proposes the Maui County surcharge to be specifically focused on the creation and development of affordable housing infrastructure. The intent is if a developer uses any of these funds, the cost cannot be passed onto the end user.

Since the general excise tax is applied on every transaction, it has a broad impact on our community. I would like to receive your feedback on if the County of Maui should be given this opportunity and if so, which option would be more beneficial to the community. If passed, the Maui County Council and Mayor must pass legislation to ultimately enact the surcharge.

I welcome your feedback on this measure, which has the potential to greatly impact the financial resources of our community. **Please email any feedback you may have to rephashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov or call our office at (808) 586-9444.**



With BJ Ott, Dr. Aaron Altura and Cassie Savell from the Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center (Community Clinic of Maui).



With Senator Keith-Agaran and Head of School Kekai Robinson at Ke Kula 'O Pi'ilani in Iao Valley, the only independent Hawaiian Immersion School on Maui.



With Teena Rasmussen, President of the Maui County Farm Bureau during Agricultural Day at the State Capitol.



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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

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RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

*If you would like to be added to our email list,
please email us, and we will gladly add you.*



/rephashimoto

@reptroyhashimoto

Get counted in 2020 Census!

The 2020 Census is quickly approaching! Under the United States Constitution, each living person in the U.S. must be counted every 10 years. The information is used by the federal government to fairly distribute federal funding across the U.S. relating to housing, education, transportation, employment, and healthcare. The U.S. Census Bureau statistics reports that Hawai'i's population was *undercounted* by at least 2.1 percent in 2000 and 0.44 percent in 2010. For each percentage point not counted, **Hawai'i is estimated to lose \$37 million each year for ten years.** By participating in the Census, YOU are helping to secure important resources for Hawai'i that will benefit our community!

CENSUS 101	CENSUS 101	CENSUS 101
<p>Everyone counts.</p> <p>The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.</p> <p>United States Census Bureau</p>	<p>Taking part is your civic duty.</p> <p>Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"</p> <p>United States Census Bureau</p>	<p>It's about redistricting.</p> <p>After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.</p> <p>United States Census Bureau</p>

Important 2020 Census Dates!

March 12-20: Households will begin receiving detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census via the U.S. Mail.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your household online, by phone, or by mail.

May-July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.