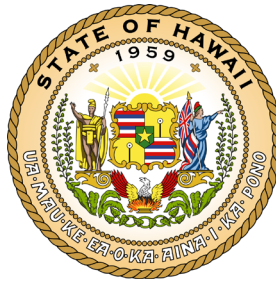


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Proudly serving District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihe'e, Waiehu, Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapū, parts of Kahului

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

May/June 2021

Aloha! The 2021 legislative session concluded, sine die, on April 29. Over 2,800 bills were introduced and throughout the vetting process of public testimony and negotiations between the House and Senate, 265 bills passed out of both chambers and have been sent to the governor for final consideration. The governor has until July 6 to sign any bill, veto, or allow the bill become law without his signature.

When the legislative session started in January, there were many uncertainties, including how the state budget would be balanced with a loss of revenue from our visitor economy. Fortunately, the federal government approved a critical stimulus package which helped to balance the state's budget and critical programs were able to be sustained. Many important bills also passed this year that will greatly help our community. A few are highlighted in this newsletter.

Although the 2021 session has ended, work has already begun for next year and I welcome any ideas. My office continues to be here to assist you, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Mahalo,



With Rep. Woodson, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, and Senator J. Kalani English on sine die. Senator English is retiring after 21 years in the legislature. The community will miss his leadership, but we wish him the best of luck and good health.

DMVL open on Saturdays

The County of Maui Division of Motor Vehicles and Licensing will open on the first and third Saturdays of each month, beginning May 1. Under Governor David Ige's 19th proclamation, expiration dates have been extended for driver's licenses, learner's permits and state identification cards until June 8.

The temporary hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is expected to remain in effect for three months. Customers will be taken by *appointment only*. Walk-in or stand-by tickets will not be issued. Saturday appointments are reserved for individuals completing a single transaction for themselves.

Appointments are made available four days prior through the DMVL website at: <https://mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing>. For more information, contact the DMVL Call Center at (808) 270-7363.

Congratulations Class of 2021!

A note from Rep. Hashimoto: I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate and celebrate the Class of 2021 for your resiliency in adapting to this unpredictable year! You made it! The entire community celebrates you and your many accomplishments and achievements. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors. Over the next few months, this newsletter will spotlight a few of our community's graduating seniors.



Community
Spotlight:

Aden Kinoshita
H.P. Baldwin H.S.



Aden Kinoshita of Wailuku Heights is a proud member of Baldwin High School's Class of 2021 and experienced a very unique junior and senior year.

"My feelings toward having a shortened junior year were happy at first because I got a longer spring break and a three-month summer. Although it was good for the first couple of months, having a modified senior year made me feel pretty bummed because I was looking forward to making more memories with the class," he said.

Aden kept busy during COVID-19 by improving his music skills and staying connected with friends and family online. In a normal school year, Aden would have been busy with cross country, soccer, tennis and student government. In the fall, Aden plans on attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa to study computer engineering or business. His plans have changed because of the pandemic, choosing to stay closer to home.

When asked about any advice on life after the pandemic, he offered, "be grateful for every opportunity that you get to spend with people in-person and be willing to adapt to change."

In the future, Aden would like to work in a field with computers and technology, as he enjoys problem solving and hopes to one day serve in government. Aden is on his way to a bright future and is already community focused, "one way that we can work together to have a positive future is by working together and doing things for the greater good of the community," he said.

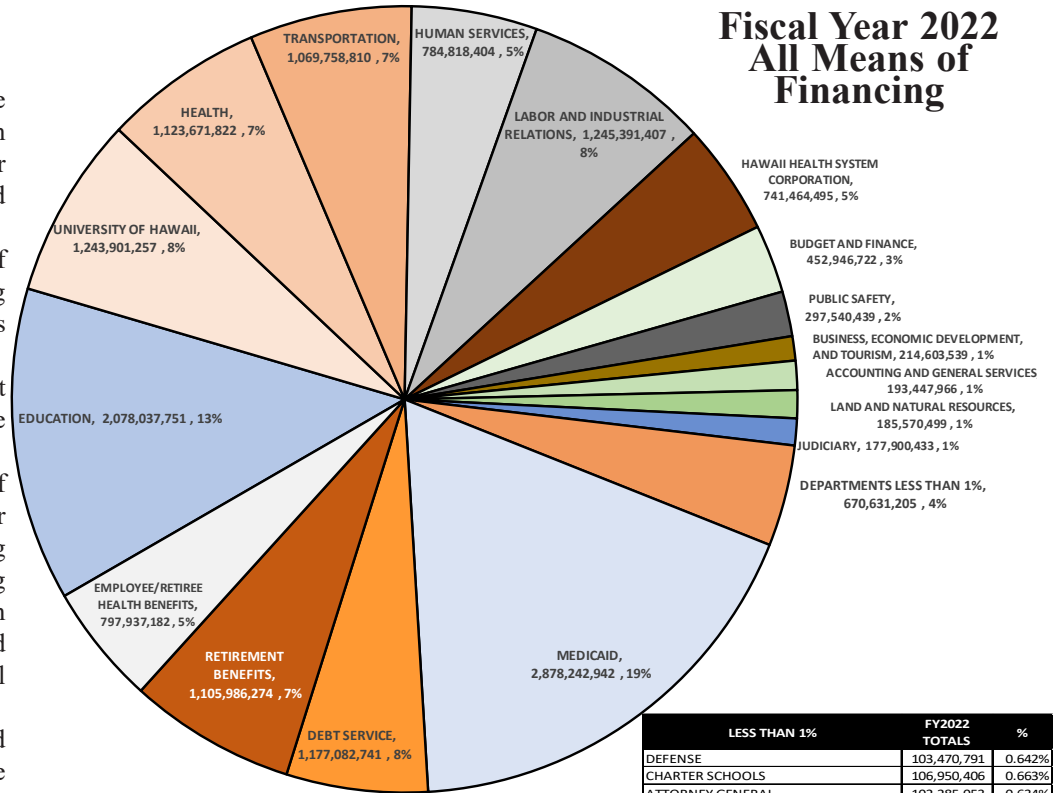
Legislature approves balanced budget

The legislature passed House Bill 200, which is the State Budget for fiscal years 2021-2023. During the height of the pandemic, Governor Ige proposed staff furloughs and deep cuts to programs and social services. Through a reduction of vacancies, targeted reductions in agency budgets, and the deployment of American Rescue Plan federal funds, the legislature was able to maintain critical social services and avert any furloughs. This budget appropriates \$7.4 billion in fiscal year 2022 and \$7.5 billion in fiscal year 2023 in general funds. Federal American Rescue Plan funds were used to fill the gaps, with \$1 billion in fiscal year 2022 and \$290 million in fiscal 2023. The capital improvement projects budget allocates \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 2022 and \$294 million in fiscal year 2023.

H.B. 200 HD1 SD1 CD1

Highlights:

- **\$5.5 million** for the Early College Program and Hawai'i Promise Program which helps to provide scholarships for students with financial needs to attend UH Community Colleges.
- **\$410 million** for the Department of Education for special education, funding for classrooms, early learning programs and Hawai'i Keiki Program.
- **\$500,000** in fiscal year 2022 for the Rent Supplement Program for low income families.
- **\$14.3 million** in each fiscal year of American Rescue Plan funds for 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.
- **\$70 million** in fiscal year 2022 and **\$35 million** in fiscal year 2023 for the Unemployment Insurance Program Call Center.
- **\$11.58 million** in fiscal year 2022 and **\$8.923 million** in fiscal year 2023 for the Maui Health System operating subsidy
- **\$4 million** in general funds and **\$10 million** in federal funds for HIV prevention and care services.
- **\$1.5 million** for kupuna care programs.
- 1 Alzheimer's Coordinator position within the Executive Office on Aging.



LESS THAN 1%	FY2022 TOTALS	%
DEFENSE	103,470,791	0.642%
CHARTER SCHOOLS	106,950,406	0.663%
ATTORNEY GENERAL	102,285,053	0.634%
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	93,821,564	0.582%
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS	53,635,438	0.333%
PUBLIC LIBRARIES	42,541,076	0.264%
AGRICULTURE	52,389,942	0.325%
LEGISLATURE	41,542,814	0.258%
TAXATION	31,871,076	0.198%
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	26,032,612	0.161%
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	3,550,536	0.022%
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	955,793	0.006%
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS	8,684,104	0.054%
SUBSIDIES	2,900,000	0.018%
TOTAL	670,631,205	4.16%

Community Capital Improvement Projects

A critical component of the state budget is capital improvement projects for communities across the state. Most CIP projects are paid for with borrowed bond funds and it must be a large scale renovation, repair, or new construction. Here are a few Central Maui projects included in the state budget.

- ✓ **\$5.2 million** for design and construction of a campus wide electrical upgrade for future campus wide air conditioning at *H.P. Baldwin High*.
- ✓ **\$150,000** for due diligence for acquisition of land adjacent to *Pu'u Kukui Elementary*.
- ✓ **\$800,000** for the design of a covered playground at *Waihe'e Elementary*.
- ✓ **\$2.5 million** for design and construction for parking lot improvements; **\$2 million** for design and construction for installation of a campus wide air conditioning; **\$2.8 million** for design and construction for electrical upgrades at *Wailuku Elementary*.
- ✓ **\$200,000** for design and construction for refurbishments and renovations of the *Wailuku Public Library*.
- ✓ **\$2 million** to acquire *Nā Wai 'Ehā watershed*, with additional support being sought from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Grant Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Program, along with the County of Maui. A combined funding total of **\$9.3 million** to purchase the watershed.
- ✓ **\$1.2 million** for construction for renovations of patient rooms, new bed system for the intensive care units, COVID care units and COVID intensive care units at *Maui Memorial Medical Center*.
- ✓ **\$72.9 million** for the design and construction of improvements and renovations at *Kahului Harbor*.
- ✓ **\$5 million** for design and construction for security improvements and parking structure renovations at *Hoapili Hale (Wailuku Court House)*.

Over 260 bills pass in the 2021 legislative session

Highlighted are a few bills that have an impact on our community. The governor has until July 6 to sign into law, veto, or allow a bill to become law without this signature.

H.B. 485 HD1 SD1 CD1

Relating to Taxation.

Increases the \$5 rental vehicle surcharge by 50 cents every year through 2027 to \$8. The increase will help the state to fund capacity building projects such as the completion of the Lahaina Bypass, Paia Bypass, and Puunene Ave. expansion.

H.B. 490 HD2 SD1

Relating to Crimes Against Seniors.

Creates more stringent penalties for certain crimes of violence or financial exploitation when a senior is victimized, and the offender reasonably should know the victims age. The bill also lowers and standardizes a crimes against senior age to 60. Initially an initiative of the Maui County Prosecutor's office, this bill was a priority for the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus.

H.B. 613 SD1 HD2 CD1

Relating to Education.

Makes appropriations from federal relief funding to the Department of Education. Including \$7.8 million to the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui complex area, in addition to funding for repair and maintenance, school-level programming including STEM courses, summer hubs to address learning loss, computers for students, virtual learning and school-level needs for safe re-opening.

H.B. 817 HD2 SD2

Relating to Agriculture.

Requires each state department purchasing fresh local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, or food products shall constitute a minimum of 50 percent of the total produce purchased by the department by 2050.

H.B. 862 HD2 SD2 CD1

Relating to the State Government.

Authorizes the counties to establish a transient accommodations tax not to exceed three percent. Appropriates \$60 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to the Hawaii Tourism Authority instead of the Tourism special fund, which was depleted due to downturn in tourism.

H.B. 1022 HD2 SD2 CD1

Relating to the Taking of Natural Resources.

Clarifies that any officer of the Department of Land and Natural Resources may, stop and temporarily detain any person who the officer reasonably believes is, or recently has been engaged in, hunting or fishing for a natural resource inspection.

H.B. 1376 HD2 SD2 CD1

Relating to the Landlord-Tenant Code.

Requires free mediation through federal American Rescue Plan funds as a prerequisite to filing a court action for an eviction. The program begins once the state's eviction moratorium ends. Amends the notice period from five days to fifteen days to allow for tenants to respond to a notice of eviction.

S.B. 159 SD1 HD1 CD1

Relating to Voting.

Makes voter registration a part of all state identification card or driver's license applications. The legislature believes voting is a fundamental right and a vital part in preserving the democratic institution of our state and our country.

S.B. 651 SD1 HD1

Relating to Renaming Kahului Airport Access Road.

Provides that route 3800, known as the Kahului airport access road, to be renamed Mayor Elmer F. Cravalho Way.

S.B. 793 SD1 HD1 CD1

Relating to the Minimum Wage.

Repeals the exemption for individuals with disabilities from being paid a sub-minimum wage and requires those with qualified disabilities to be paid at the state's minimum wage level. This will bring fairness and parity among those within the disabled community who are employed.

S.B. 1034 SD1 HD2 CD1

Relating to Sunshine Law Boards.

Authorizes county councils, boards and commissions to use interactive conference technology to remotely conduct meetings under the State's open meetings law. Amends the requirements for public notices of board meetings and for in-person board meetings held by interactive conference technology. This will allow meetings to continue to be conducted remotely even after the governor's emergency proclamation expires.



Painting with Mayor Victorino and Councilmember Tasha Kama for "quick build" safety improvements on S. Papa Ave. designed by artist Matthew Agcolicol.



Negotiating in Conference Committee with the Senate on various House Bills with Rep. Nadine Nakamura.

Delivering Easter baskets with Senator Gil Keith-Agaran to the annual Easter Basket Drive at the State Capitol.





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Maui County Emergency Rental Assistance

The Maui County Emergency Rental Assistance Program can provide help with current, future, or past rent and utility bills for households impacted by COVID and have a household income of 80 percent of the area median income. Households who have received previous assistance from other relief programs and need further assistance are encouraged to apply.

For qualified households, the program pays up to:

- Past rent and utility bills: \$2,500 a month. The program can pay bills going back to March 13, 2020.
- Current and future bills: \$2,000 a month for rent and up to \$500 a month for utilities.
- Up to 12 months of total support is available.
- Payments are made directly to the landlord or utility.

For more information or to apply go to:

***[https://mauicounty.gov/
MauiRentHelp](https://mauicounty.gov/MauiRentHelp)***

The Maui County Emergency Rental Assistance Program Help Line:

(808) 873-4673

Inter-County travel exemption

As of *May 11*, individuals fully vaccinated in the State of Hawai'i may travel inter-county without pre-travel testing or quarantine starting 15 days after the completion of a vaccination. Travelers who arrive before they are fully vaccinated or before 15 days after the completion of their vaccination, will be placed into mandatory quarantine for 10 days, unless they pre-travel test or considered an essential workers as determined by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Vaccinated individuals traveling inter-county will need to:

- Provide a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card with name, birth-date, type of vaccine, date(s) vaccine was administered and lot number(s) for each vaccine dose.
- Create an online account and register with the State of Hawai'i Safe Travels Hawai'i web program.
- Affirm that they are fully vaccinated, and that the uploaded CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card is accurate and authentic.
- Upload a PDF file or digital image of a properly filled CDC Vaccination Record Card to the Safe Travels Hawai'i web program.
- Bring a digital image as well as the original CDC Vaccination Record Card with you in case you are asked to produce it.

Travelers age 5 and under may bypass quarantine requirements, provided they are traveling on the same itinerary as a parent/guardian who has met vaccination verification requirements. Travelers over age 5 who are not yet eligible for vaccinations may participate in the pre-travel testing program and meet county testing requirements if seeking an exception to mandatory quarantine requirements.

The trans-pacific program is still in development and may begin this summer, and the international program is set to begin later this year.

Please be aware that State of Hawaii DOES NOT charge fees to apply for the Safe Travels program, or to create a Safe Travels account, or to access the Safe Travels application, or for Safe Travels information. The official websites for the State of Hawaii's Safe Travels Program are <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/travel/> and <https://travel.hawaii.gov/>.