



## TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

May Update 2020

### REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Aloha Neighbors,

I would like to again thank all of the essential workers and medical professionals for their hard work and continuing to serve our community. I would also like to thank everyone in the community for extending aloha to those who have been impacted greatly due to the pandemic.

This month's newsletter features the House and Senate Committees on COVID-19's commitments for the next steps on Hawaii's economic recovery and beyond.

Although the number of cases are dropping here in Hawaii and as you hear talks of the slow reopening of businesses, we urge you to continue to social distance and practice good hygiene.

My office continues to serve as a resource during these times. If you have any questions or need resources regarding unemployment insurance or other matters, please give us a call or send me an e-mail.

Warm regards,

Handwritten signature of Kyle T. Yamashita in black ink.

Please assist us in our initiative to 'GO GREEN,' and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email.

Call: (808) 586-6330

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



### Addressing the Economic Impact due to COVID-19

[House Resolution No. 54](#) established the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness to work with representatives from local and state government, private industry, and nonprofit agencies and organizations to inform the House of Representatives on the State's economic and financial preparedness due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Hawaii.

The Select Committee is tasked with examining economic and financial issues including:

- 1) Identifying the potential economic and financial impact to the State;
- 2) Developing short-term and long-term mitigation plans; and
- 3) Monitoring COVID-19 conditions and outcomes.

Each week, the House Select Committee hosts a number of guests to present on what they are doing to combat the COVID-19's impact on our community and how we can work together to help stimulate Hawaii's economy upon reopening.

Presenters include: Alan Oshima (*Economic and Community Recovery and Resiliency Navigator*), Scott Murakami (*Director of the State Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations*), Hawaii Food Industry Association, and others.

To view all resources posted and members of the House Select Committee, including agendas, videos and committee reports, please visit:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> and select 'House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness'.



Representative Kyle Yamashita on call with the Maui Legislators on COVID-19.

## Senate Special Committee on COVID –19

Appointed by Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi on March 18, 2020, the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 will assess and advise the Senate regarding the State of Hawaii's COVID-19 plans and procedures to include, but not be limited to:

- 1) Confirm the development of the state departmental plans and procedures;
- 2) Review and assess current state departmental plans and procedures;
- 3) Review and assess whether state departmental plans and procedures are properly and timely implemented to safeguard public health and safety; and
- 4) To communicate and disseminate information obtained therefrom.

The Senate Special Committee meets two to three times a week to hear presentations and ask questions from State Departments and other leaders in our community. They have heard from Dr. Bruce Anderson (*Director of the State Dept. of Health*), Major General Kenneth Hara (*Hawaii COVID-19 Incident Commander*), Scott Murakami (*Director the State Dept. of Labor*) and others.

To view all resources posted and members of the House Select Committee, including agendas, videos and committee reports, please visit: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> and select 'Senate Special Committee on COVID-19'.

### Unemployment Insurance Help

As the State begins the process of discussing reopening businesses, many in the community are still experiencing problems with claiming Unemployment Insurance. Many are still unable to get through and we understand the frustrations. Volunteer State workers are working to review over 10,000 claims each day. DLIR will be creating two shifts for staff to process claims, which will be staffed with 60 people per shift and will alleviate the flow of traffic via online and at the call center.



Here are a few resources and tips to help if you are unsure of what to do or if you need to know the status of your claim.

- To file a UI claim: <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>
- A step-by-step guide is available to walk individuals through the process of filing, certifying and obtaining unemployment benefits: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/main/covid-19-how-to-obtain-unemployment-ins-benefits/>.
- To check on the status of an individuals claim: <https://huiclaims2020.hawaii.gov/status>.
- Three distinct email addresses are available for claimants with specific challenges with their claims:
  - ◆ This email address is for those who would like to have their claim backdated. [dliir.ui.backdate@hawaii.gov](mailto:dliir.ui.backdate@hawaii.gov)
  - ◆ This email address is for those who have received an email, letter, or other message (please provide a screenshot) that says that they are disqualified from UI. [dliir.ui.disqualified@hawaii.gov](mailto:dliir.ui.disqualified@hawaii.gov)
  - ◆ This email address is for those who would like to request language assistance from UI. Individuals are to submit their full name, telephone number (including area code), and the language that would like to receive interpretation services for [Dliir.ui.languageassistance@hawaii.gov](mailto:Dliir.ui.languageassistance@hawaii.gov)
- For independent contractors and self-employed persons or to those who may have been disqualified, you may still be able to receive UI benefits from the PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) program. <https://pua.hawaii.gov/>
  - ◆ Please read through the FAQ on PUA eligibility and other inquiries: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-assistance-faqs/>
- Keep in mind, Governor David Y. Ige waived the one week waiting period to claim UI, so you will be paid from the first week you qualify for UI. If you are experiencing trouble accessing the UI website, you will still **be paid for the weeks you qualify for**.
- DLIR UI Phone Numbers:
  - ◆ HUI PASSWORD RESET: (833) 901-2272
  - ◆ UI GENERAL QUESTIONS: (833) 901-2275

To help stimulate Hawaii's economy, the House of Representatives have identified Shovel-Ready projects across the state. Construction projects have been suggested by many as a viable economic stimulant and to help Hawaii get back on it's feet outside of the Tourist industry. Below is a snippet of projects identified in Maui.

HAWAI'I HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - MAJORITY  
**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**SHOVEL-READY CIPs**

- facebook.com/hihousedems
- @hihousedems
- @hihousedems
- hawaiihousedemocrats.com

MAUI SHOVEL-READY PROJECTS	
FUNDED	\$131,158,735
PARTIAL FUNDED	\$34,004,121
UNFUNDED	\$97,047,732
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$262,210,588</b>

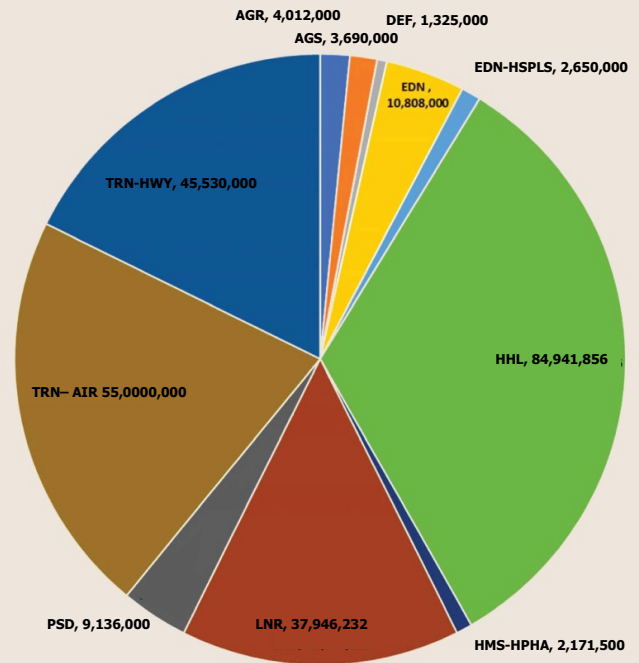
MAUI PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT	
AGRICULTURE	\$4,012,000
ACCOUNTING & GENERAL SERVICES	\$3,690,000
DEFENSE	\$1,325,000
EDUCATION	\$10,808,000
LIBRARIES	\$2,650,000
HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS	\$84,941,856
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY	\$2,171,500
LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	\$37,946,232
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$9,136,000
TRANSPORTATION - AIRPORT DIVISION	\$55,000,000
TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION	\$45,530,000
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII	\$5,000,000

**SPOTLIGHT ON COUNTY OF MAUI SHOVEL-READY CIPs**

**KAHULUI PUBLIC LIBRARY** - Replace A/C system  
 ✓ FUNDED \$1,400,000

**MAUI COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
 Various Roofing System Renovations & Related Improvements to Dorms 1-3, Mechanical & Electrical Systems Repairs & Improvements  
 ✓ FUNDED \$836,000

**EAST MAUI WATER CENTER IMPROVEMENTS** - Improve Auwai Systems and Ensure a More Reliable Source of Irrigation Water & Serve the Taro Farmers in the East Maui Area  
 ✓ FUNDED \$2,900,000



*Project information gathered based off of data available as of 4/13/2020. Additional information and details pending.*

The complete report on Shovel-Ready Capital Improvement Projects produced by Representative Kyle T. Yamashita's office is available on the Capitol's House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness webpage.

**Representative Kyle Yamashita**

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 422  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 586-6330



## Congratulations, King Kekaulike High School Graduates!

Virtual Ceremony and Drive-Through Diploma-Cover Pickup

**Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

Students and parents will be notified on further details by the school.



### COVID-19 INFO:

**CALL** 2-1-1  
**TEXT** 877-275-6569  
**CHAT** [www.auw211.org](http://www.auw211.org)  
**EMAIL** [info211@auw.org](mailto:info211@auw.org)

*Daily from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.*

[health.hawaii.gov/covid19](http://health.hawaii.gov/covid19)

## It's Wildfire Preparedness Month!

Tip #14:

Did you know 99 percent of wildfires in Hawaii are started by people, mostly by accident? Be careful and regularly maintain machinery that could cause a spark— from weed whackers and chainsaws to grinders, welding equipment, and ATVS. Be aware that dry vegetation is extremely flammable and all it takes is one spark to cause widespread damage.

This helpful tip from the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization.

View more helpful tips at:

<https://www.hawaiiwildfire.org/>

