

HAWAI'I STATE SENATOR
KAIALI'I KAHELE
SENATE DISTRICT 1 - HILO



Newsletter

July 2019

Aloha!

We have just completed the 2019 Legislative Session and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve our amazing community in the Hawai'i State Senate.

The legislature passed a \$15.6 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2020, which includes much needed funding for education, housing and health care services to name a few. This newsletter highlights some of the grants and capital improvement projects the East Hawai'i delegation were able to secure for Hilo this session.

During the interim, please feel free to contact my office. I welcome your ideas and look forward to working with you to build a better future for Hawai'i.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Former Governor George Ariyoshi inducted into the Aloha Order of Merit
L-R: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Former Gov. George Ariyoshi and Former First Lady Jean Ariyoshi

**Senate District 1- Hilo
Majority Floor Leader
Chair, Senate Committee
on Water and Land**

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East Hawai'i Grant-in-Aids

Boys and Girls Club
of the Big Island
\$500,000

Big Island Resource Conservation
and Development Council
\$300,000

Project Vision
\$300,000

Hawai'i Island Portuguese
Chamber of Commerce Cultural
and Educational Center
\$150,000

Going Home Hawai'i
\$125,000

Big Island Substance Abuse Council
\$100,000

Legislative Timetable

June 24, 2019: The 35th day after adjournment sine die, the deadline by which the Governor must inform the Legislature of his intent to veto.

July 9, 2019: The 45th day after adjournment sine die, the day on which the Legislature must act on any veto transmitted by the Governor.

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Fiscal Biennium 2020-2021 State Executive Budget

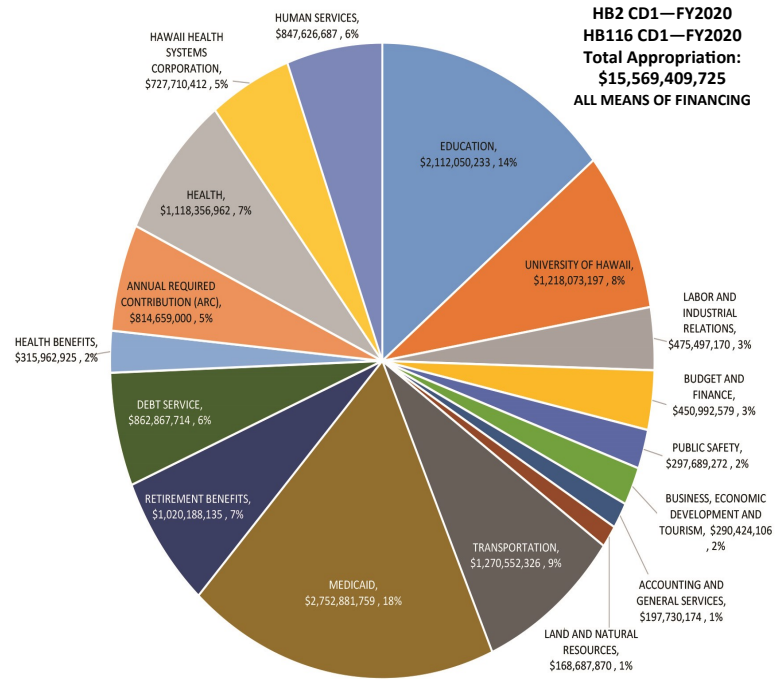
The Legislature passed a \$15.6 billion state budget that includes operating monies and \$2.3 billion in capital improvement funds to run the state government for fiscal year 2020.

House Bill 2 CD1 and House Bill 116 CD1, the state budget bill, includes funding for homelessness and housing, critical health and human service needs, support for keiki and kūpuna caregivers, and protection of our culturally important natural resources.

Investing in our children, \$487,832 was allocated for fiscal year 2019-2020 and \$444,832 for FY 2020-2021 for Leadership Development and Support for Talent Management. Over \$20 million has been allocated over the next two years for per-pupil adjust at Hawai'i's charter schools. To help students in higher education, \$500,000 was appropriated in each fiscal year for student mentors and tutors at the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, and \$634,171 for the North Hawai'i Education Resource Center for University of Hawai'i Community Colleges.

Lawmakers included funding for our natural resources by including \$1,000,000 in funding to support critical invasive species projects statewide. An additional \$205,000 was allocated to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Committee.

To support our seniors, \$3.8 million in additional funds were appropriated for Kūpuna Care and \$1.2 million for the Kūpuna Caregivers Fund.



Recognizing that Capital Improvement Projects are essential to our economy and play a pivotal role in building social infrastructure, maintaining critical public works facilities, and helping to strengthen communities, the Legislature provided substantial funding for a variety of projects across the state.

In particular, the Legislature focused on better addressing the backlog of repair and maintenance needs of the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i System. It also includes funds to spur redevelopment of Aloha Stadium, improve important agricultural infrastructure, and continue upgrades and improvements at State airports and commercial harbors.

Support for affordable housing came in the form of \$100 million in bond funds for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and \$67 million for the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.

Senate Leadership

President: *Ronald D. Kouchi*
Vice President: *Michelle N. Kidani*
Majority Leader: *J. Kalani English*
Majority Caucus Leader: *Dru Mamo Kanuha*
Majority Policy Leader: *Les Ihara, Jr.*
Majority Floor Leader: *Kaiali'i Kahele*
Majority Whip: *Lorraine R. Inouye*
Assistant Majority Whip: *Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran*
Assistant Majority Whip: *Brian T. Taniguchi*
Assistant Majority Whip: *Clarence K. Nishihara*
Minority Leader/Floor Leader: *Kurt Fevella*



Governor Ige signs Hawai'i Island Natural Disaster Bill



Legislative Session Highlights

Senate Moves on Landmark Measures

Members of the Hawai'i State Senate passed several bills in the 2019 Legislative Session that position the Legislature to be a national leader in supporting safe, sustainable communities.

In passing [Senate Bill 1246 SD2 HD2 CD1](#), the Legislature established telehealth promotion as a State policy, establishing the State Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council to advise the Governor in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to establish telehealth as a high quality, cost effective, and reliable means of accessing health care.

* With [House Bill 1383 HD2 SD1 CD1](#), Hawai'i joined the growing number of jurisdictions around the country that have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana; under the new law, possession of up to three grams is punishable by a monetary fine of \$130. It also provides for the expungement of criminal records pertaining solely to the possession of three grams or less of marijuana.

* [House Bill 748 HD2 SD2](#) amends Hawai'i law to prohibit civil asset forfeiture unless the covered offense is a felony for which the property owner has been convicted.

[Senate Bill 693 SD2 HD1 CD1](#) clarifies confusion surrounding pedestrian-control signals. The updated law clarifies that pedestrians cannot cross the roadway once the countdown timer begins, and further clarifies that pedestrians who have partially completed crossing when the timer starts shall finish before the countdown ends.

[Senate Bill 1223 SD2 HD1 CD1](#) extends the scheduled sunset date of Affordable Housing Tax Credit program to July 1, 2024, extending the requirement that the counties issue affordable housing credits to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for each residential unit or vacant lot developed by DHHL.

** Indicates the bill is on Governor Ige's intent to Veto list. Governor Ige has until July 9, 2019 to make a final decision.*



The Senate passed a number of significant measures that address other priorities in the Senate Legislative Program:

Access to effective health care remains a serious concern for many in Hawai'i, particularly those in rural areas. [Senate Bill 1246 SD2 HD2 CD1](#) helps address these issues by establishing telehealth promotion as a State policy and establishing the State Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council to advise the Governor in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to establish telehealth as a reliable means of accessing health care.



The Legislature demonstrated its continuing commitment to early childhood education by passing [Senate](#)

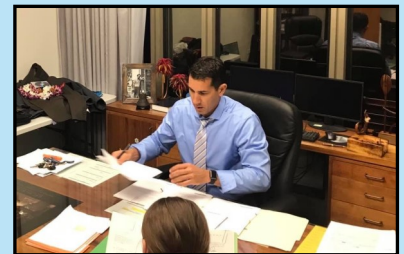
[Bill 78 SD2 HD2](#) which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning as the administrative authority for state-funded pre-kindergarten programs in the public schools.



To continue to address Hawai'i's on-going teacher shortage, [House Bill 1070 HD1 SD1 CD1](#) provided \$600,000 in each fiscal year for the continuation of the Grow Our Own Teacher Initiative, which recruits long-term substitute teachers, education



assistants, and education staff who have their Bachelor's Degree but need to complete their "fifth year" for full certification as a teacher.



The Legislature passed [House Bill 710 HD1 SD1 CD1](#) which adds reproductive health decisions to the list of categories that are protected against workplace discrimination.



The 2019 List of Acts is available at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Appropriations for Senate District 1

EDUCATION

• Ha'aheo Elementary School: Construction, equipment and electrical upgrades for a four classroom building and library; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 22,710,000
• Hilo Intermediate School: Plans, design, and construction for Building L replacement of 2nd floor ceilings; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 400,000
• Kapi'olani Elementary School: Design and construction for softball field improvements.	\$ 750,000
• Keaukaha Elementary School: Construction to replace AC in portables; ground and site improvements; equipment and appurtenances.	\$ 140,000
• Waiākea Elementary School: Construction to replace playground equipment behind Building B; ground and site improvements; equipment appurtenances.	\$ 150,000
• Waiākea High School: Design and construction for girls athletic locker room.	\$ 5,000,000
• University of Hawai'i at Hilo: Construction for improvements to the UH Hilo Pharmacy, including renovation of existing modular buildings from offices/classrooms into research laboratories.	\$ 3,000,000
• University of Hawai'i at Hilo: Plans, design, construction, and equipment for improvements. Projects include improvements to interior and exterior structures, roofs, mechanical and electrical systems, pedestrian pathways, roadways, grounds and upgrade existing temporary and new facilities.	\$ 13,000,000
• University of Hawai'i at Hilo: Construction, equipment and necessary repairs and maintenance for UH Hilo Aeronautical Science, Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Sciences Program.	\$ 321,000

STATE FACILITIES

• Hilo International Airport: Design and construction for improvements to the terminal and other related improvements.	\$ 23,800,000
• Hilo Baseyard: Construction of a new bulk fuel storage tank.	\$ 150,000
• East Hawai'i Historic Preservation Center: Design for development of facility for proper storage of State Historic Preservation documents and artifacts.	\$ 250,000
• Hilo Harbor: Plans, land acquisition, design, and construction of capital improvement program projects that will provide for safer, more efficient use of existing and/or additional operational areas.	\$ 53,950,000
• Wailoa Small Boat Harbor: Construction for installation of new structural plastic lumber fenders to replace damaged wooden fenders.	\$ 500,000



Waiākea Elementary School



Keaukaha Elementary School



Kapi'olani Elementary School



University of Hawai'i at Hilo



Hilo International Airport



Hilo Harbor