



Courtesy Tyler Kuse

Capitol Connection with Gov. David Ige is a regular e-newsletter that provides you with updates from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. As the governor's office works to become paperless, the newsletter will be available on-line and via subscription. Check out the governor's website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe to this newsletter. Also, follow the governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and check www.facebook.com/GovernorIge for daily activities.

From the Governor: Working together to take action

Q. What do you want people to know about the accomplishments of the last legislative session?

A. What we saw this year was a true team effort to act on long-standing needs and not just “kick the can down the road.” I’m pleased that so many of our initiatives from the State of the State address can now move forward. They include:

- **Cooling the schools** – This was my top priority, and I’m so proud that we put our students first. We’re thankful the Legislature found the right funding source for the \$100 million to provide air conditioning, heat abatement and related energy efficiency measures for the schools.



Gov. Ige and legislators, along with Kaelepulu School students and parents, celebrate the “cool schools” bill signing.

- **Addressing Homelessness** – This remains an urgent issue. With the \$12 million appropriation, we can implement a coordinated, statewide strategy of housing, support services and public safety with community partners and measurable goals.

- **Providing affordable housing** – We’re finding ways to meet the housing needs of the average family, with \$75 million allocated toward this effort. We’re working with the private sector to streamline the process and make government tools more effective to build more affordable homes.

- **Decreasing the cost of government** – We’re investing in our children’s future by directing nearly a quarter-billion dollars to restoring the Rainy Day Fund and paying down unfunded liabilities now rather than burdening future generations.

- **Improving health care** – The \$160 million approved for the Hawai’i State Hospital will build a facility that’s safer for those who are placed there by the court system, the people who work there, and the surrounding community. We also welcome the approval of operating subsidies for hospitals statewide.

Q. Why do you think you were able to make progress on several major issues?

A. It helped that we were able to see things from the Legislature’s perspective. (Gov. Ige was former chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.) We could anticipate questions from House and Senate leadership to shape the budget. The state directors did a good job of explaining our priorities. I think it was a solid session. We want to show the public that government can work.

“We want to show the public that government can work.”

— Governor David Y. Ige

Governor's ESSA team formed, sets July 9 public summit

Gov. David Ige has named the members of his ESSA team — a group of community volunteers who will help develop a “blueprint” for Hawai'i public schools consistent with the new federal law that gives states more authority over public education. (See the governor's website for full list of names.)

The group will work with the state's Department of Education as the DOE reviews its strategic plan to align with the new Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA.

Already scheduled is an “Education Summit” Saturday, July 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hawai'i Convention Center to allow the public to participate, the governor said.

Dengue fight reaches milestone, but state remains vigilant

With no new cases of locally acquired dengue fever, the state and Hawai'i County announced a significant milestone in the campaign that began in October.

While that outbreak seems to have come to a halt, Governor Ige, along with other state and local officials, cautioned the public to not let down its guard in the fight against mosquito-borne illnesses.

“This milestone could not have been reached without teamwork by the Department of Health and the Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency,” said Governor Ige. “However, our statewide response must continue. We must remain vigilant in mosquito abatement practices, be ready to respond to the Zika virus, and continue working together as a state to ‘Fight the Bite.’”



State boards need volunteers

If you're interested in helping influence the future of Hawai'i, the governor's office needs you to consider serving as a volunteer on a state board or commission.

Among those of highest priority is the Board of Registration, which acts as an appeals board in each county during election years — especially if there is a question of residency for a candidate. With the primary election Aug. 13 and the general election Nov. 8, the boards of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui counties need to fill their vacancies. Applicants need to be registered voters and must be able to work on election day.

For a complete list of vacancies as well as an online application, go to <http://boards.hawaii.gov/> or email boards.commissions@hawaii.gov.



Gov. Ige with ESSA team: DOE students, teachers and principals, parents, legislators and community members.

The day will include national speakers on ESSA and sessions to encourage feedback on proposals. These will form the basis for follow-up town hall meetings throughout the state. For more details, check the ESSA section of governor.hawaii.gov.

Hawai'i sues over defective airbags

The state is urging consumers to check whether their vehicles have faulty Takata airbags and, if so, to have them replaced as soon as possible.

Hawai'i has become the first state in the nation to file a lawsuit against Takata Corp. and Honda Motor Co. Ltd., alleging they intentionally sold cars with defective airbags that could explode, according to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Office of Consumer Protection.

Hawai'i was one of four states that was the original focus of recall efforts because of the greater risks in areas with high humidity and high temperatures. Roughly 70,000 vehicles with Takata airbags have been sold to island consumers.

Car owners can check safercar.gov or contact their car dealer to determine if their vehicle is involved. For other questions and information, go to the DCCA website at cca.hawaii.gov/ocp/takata-recall-faqs/.

Restaurant website goes live



First, it was the green, yellow or red placards in restaurant windows. Now, customers can go online to check out whether their favorite eatery had issues with its health inspection.

Starting with O'ahu and extending to the neighbor islands later this year, the site will post the details of reports on more than 10,000 food establishments statewide.

“We're taking transparency to an entirely new level,” said Peter Oshiro, manager of the food safety inspection program for the Department of Health. “Information from the reports empowers consumers.” So if you're curious, just go to <http://hi.healthinspections.us/hawaii>.

Moving forward on the governor's major initiatives

The headlines read “Ige’s legislative scorecard turning out pretty good.” But for the governor, the process isn’t about scorecards and grades. Instead, he praised state legislators and department directors for working with him to produce results for Hawai’i’s people. “What we saw this year was true collaboration,” he said. “Now we can take action on some of our long-standing issues.” Here are some of the administration’s major initiatives funded by the 2016 state Legislature:

For the Sake of the Children: Cooler Schools—This was the governor’s highest priority, and legislators agreed. The \$100 million appropriation will be used for air conditioning, heat abatement and energy efficiency in at least 1,000 classrooms statewide.

Governing with Compassion: Taking Action on Homelessness—Legislators approved \$12 million to support the state’s effort to move homeless families and individuals into stable housing. The funds will support a coordinated strategy with concrete goals to address homelessness.

Creating More Affordable Housing—Substantial progress was made to meet the housing needs of the average family. Legislators allocated \$75 million to provide additional support to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF) for affordable rental housing and loans for low-income housing. They also approved expanding DURF funds for regional state infrastructure projects—considered a giant step forward in affordable housing.

Working with the Community: Kalihi 21st Century Initiative—\$5 million was approved for a feasibility study for a new jail facility. Legislators also funded improvements to correctional facilities statewide. In addition, the State Office of Planning will coordinate community efforts to identify state lands near rail transit stations for mixed-use development and sensible growth.

Improving Health Care—Legislators approved \$160 million for a long-overdue new facility for patient care at the Hawai’i State Hospital. They also approved \$31 million in operating subsidy for Hawai’i Health Systems Corporation hospitals statewide. An additional 20 positions for the Department of Health’s vector control branch were funded to strengthen the state’s fight against mosquito-borne diseases.

Managing state resources in better, smarter ways—Governing the right way means taking care of our obligations while managing effectively. Legislators approved \$150 million for the Rainy Day Fund and \$81.9 million to pay down unfunded liabilities.



MAKING PROGRESS: (top) Department of Health director Virginia Pressler, Sen. Jill Tokuda and other officials gather to mark the start of a new Hawai’i State Hospital facility. (above) Gov. Ige at Hale Mohalu II, an affordable rental in Pearl City — one of many planned statewide for the future.



Kalihi-Palama Health Center outreach workers visit some of the homeless individuals in Ewa Beach Park.

A step at a time to find homeless solutions

State homeless coordinator Scott Morishige said the \$12 million from the Legislature will be critical to making progress statewide — in helping families find stable housing, connect to services, and keep public areas safe for everyone.

Although media coverage may focus on the homeless “sweeps,” he said what people don’t see are the outreach workers on hand to help those displaced — an approach that seems to be working. “Since August 2015, the homeless population at Kaka’ako Makai has decreased by more than two-thirds,” said Morishige. “There were an estimated 300 people in the park a year ago, and now there are between 60 to 70 — mostly the chronically homeless.”

Morishige said the new resources requested by the governor will support coordinated efforts statewide, adding, “We know there are no quick fixes, but we’re committed to making these solutions work.”

People in the News

State's young leaders honored

Some of the state's best and brightest have been honored as part of a group of young community leaders. From members of the Ige administration to University of Hawai'i educators, these five state employees are among those recognized for making important contributions to life in Hawai'i.

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS' "40 under 40"

Farrah-Marie Gomes, interim associate vice president of student affairs, UH system – Newly appointed at the UH systemwide level, Gomes is a recognized leader in expanding educational opportunities through UH-Hilo programs.



Todd Nacapuy, State chief information officer – Nacapuy leads the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to implement the governor's vision of streamlining government services and providing a more "paperless" environment.



Maxine Burkett, professor, UH law school – A faculty member of the William S. Richardson School of Law since 2009 and worldwide expert on the impact of climate change on island communities.



Scott Glenn, director, Office of Environmental Quality Control – Brings his expertise in environmental planning to a key leadership role in Hawai'i.



HAWAII BUSINESS "20 for the Next 20"

Scott Morishige, governor's coordinator on homelessness – Morishige has made it his life's work to help families struggling with poverty. Now he is making an impact statewide with initiatives for those who are homeless.



Moloka'i college grads receive their degrees



(left) Student speaker Ekolu Ah Yee at the Moloka'i ceremony. Proud grad Shyla Kamakaleihiwa Purdy-Avelino with her aunt Wailana Purdy Kaai.

It was a ceremony filled with many chicken-skin moments as the 41 Moloka'i graduates received their hard-earned college diplomas last month. They were among 116 residents who completed their degrees between 2012 and 2016 through the Moloka'i Education Center, part of UH-Maui College.

The commencement, held every four years, honored recipients of 87 associate degrees, 17 bachelor's degrees and 12 master's degrees. The graduates ranged in age from 17 to 59, with 75 percent of them Native Hawaiian.

Valedictorian Ekolu Ah Yee said his mom went back to school and persuaded him to enroll, too. He became a math tutor at the college and said he discovered a love of teaching. In his speech, he said, "You teachers out there, when you see your students succeed, does it make you giddy inside? I may be only a tutor, but I get that feeling every time."

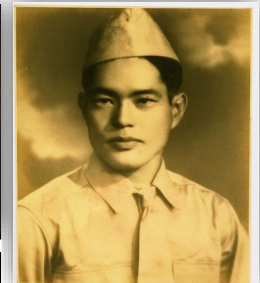
UH-Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana said he liked the ceremony's more informal feeling. "They call up their families. That's really special."

Celebrating Father's Day

A strong work ethic from Dad set the example



Gov. Ige and the first lady with his parents on opening day of the 1991 legislative session. (right) Tokio Ige, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.



Governor Ige said his dad never talked much about serving in the decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II, or about his Purple Heart and Bronze Star, or the challenges of raising six sons on a steelworker's paycheck.

But the governor said his father, Tokio, was a man who led by example and wanted the best for his family. "He made sure we had an education — one associate degree, five bachelor's degrees and six master's degrees — and the opportunities he never had."

The governor also remembers his dad as a man good with his hands who made the most of a tight budget. "We were catching crabs from the riverbank in Waiialua when he saw a man with a wooden boat. He said, 'We should do that.' So he built us a rowboat, and our catch really improved. We didn't have a whole lot, but my parents made sure we experienced the joys of living in Hawai'i."

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