



Measuring progress in milestones statewide

How do you measure progress? Sometimes it's marked in headlines, other times with milestones that are under the radar. This issue recaps some major advances by the governor and his team over the past few months in housing, homelessness, infrastructure, sustainability and education. As we head into the holiday season, Governor and Mrs. Ige send their heartfelt message of Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou to our Capitol Connection readers and everyone in the state.

Q. Why are Aloha Stadium redevelopment, airport modernization and a new Hawai'i State Hospital facility so important?

A. Public infrastructure projects improve Hawai'i's quality of life overall for the future. They create jobs, provide economic stimulus and increase value for residents. A new stadium entertainment district will bring with it more retail, housing and other opportunities. The new state hospital building will provide better services for those with mental illness and a state-of-the-art facility to protect our workers. Improving airports statewide is important because they are such a vital part of our economy for both residents and visitors.



Q. Is there any progress to report on the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) situation?

A. More people are getting involved to help us with the complex issues associated with Mauna Kea — to find better ways to talk to each other as a community and bridge cultural divides. Mayor Kim's document, "The Heart of Aloha," describes a way forward that is "beyond a 'yes' or 'no' on the TMT project. It describes what needs to be done so cultural, scientific and environmental interests in Hawai'i can support each other. I have convened many of these discussions — with Native Hawaiian activists, community leaders and TMT partners. I know many people just want us to clear the Mauna Kea Access Road and the state is prepared to do that, but it has to be done in a way that ensures the safety of all involved. The TMT planners have agreed to many changes in the project to be respectful of Native Hawaiian concerns. They're also creating jobs and providing educational support for Hawai'i island. The challenge is to balance all of our people's interests and concerns and decide how best to use public resources for the greatest community benefit.

Q. Why were changes in Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) rules needed?

A. Getting people into homes is a priority, and providing affordable rentals, multi-family and other options expands what is available. Many beneficiaries have been offered leases but couldn't afford the mortgage. These approaches give them a way to find housing, gain financial stability and move to a Hawaiian homestead opportunity. DHHL continues to make steady progress in awarding lots to families on the waitlist. Their latest offering provided 23 vacant lots in a subdivision east of Kapolei Parkway — the fourth lot selection DHHL has held since June. Over 1,300 lots are in the department's pipeline for the next five years.

Q. What impressed you most about Emperor Naruhito's enthronement in Japan?

A. It was such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an honor to represent the United States as one of only seven Japanese-Americans invited. The ceremony, steeped in tradition, reflected the respect the people of Japan have for everything the emperor and empress represent. The strong relationship between Hawai'i and Japan enabled me to be part of this historic event, and I'm grateful my administration has been able to maintain that vital connection.

New DHHL rules to help beneficiaries on waitlist

New administrative rules to **expand housing options for Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries** have been signed by Governor Ige after two years of being developed. The new rules will expand residential lease offerings to include multifamily housing, along with rental and Kūpuna opportunities. An affordable rental project in Mō'ili'ili is planned to be the first developed under the new guidelines.

"I'm excited about this because it really expands choices for beneficiaries," said the governor. "I believe developing Hawaiian Home Lands is an essential part of addressing the state's affordable housing crisis." In 2019, DHHL will have awarded 395 lots and has more than 1,300 lots in its production pipeline. DHHL chair William Aila, Jr. said the agency is looking for creative ways to provide more housing for those on the waitlist, at Ige's urging,



Gov. Ige with Hawaiian Homes Commission chair William Aila, Jr. and commissioners Pauline Namuo (O'ahu) and Zachary Helm (Moloka'i).

First Hawai'i island 'Ohana Zone project opens



Mayor Kim, Brandee Menino of Hope Services and Scott Morishige with legislators Ruderman, San Buenaventura and Kahele.

The site of the old Hilo Memorial Hospital will serve people once again, thanks to \$2.5 million in 'Ohana Zone funds from the state. The **Keolahou shelter and assessment center** offers 50 emergency beds, case management and other resources for single men — a collaboration between the state, the County of Hawai'i, HOPE Services and other community partners. The facility provides medical attention, counseling, job connections, laundry facilities, legal guidance and food. More projects to address homelessness are also in the pipeline for the county, including emergency shelters in Kona to help families and individuals, and additional housing on the second floor of Keolahou.

Major solar projects push state toward energy goals

The Ige administration's goal of generating 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources took a giant leap forward in September with the completion of Hawai'i's largest collection of solar farms in Kawaiiloa, Waipi'o and Mililani. Governor Ige praised the projects — the result of a partnership between **Hawaiian Electric Co.** and the **Clearway Energy Group** — as "a glimpse into the future," generating enough electricity for use by about 18,000 O'ahu homes each year. "This project means thousands and thousands, probably millions of gallons of fossil fuel, will not be needed," the governor said. "We need to achieve these bold agenda items one step at a time for our children and future generations. It's about having a more sustainable way to live and share Mother Earth."



Advocates for clean energy turned out for the HECO-Clearway solar blessing.

Progress on Aloha Stadium, airports and State Hospital

Several major state capital improvement projects — the Aloha Stadium redevelopment, airport modernization and a new, safer facility at Hawai'i State Hospital — have made significant progress in recent months. Here are some quick updates:
New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) - Plans are proceeding to develop a **new 35,000 seat stadium in Halawa**. The new stadium will be part of a mixed-use project, including retail stores, residential buildings and other entertainment venues. The public-private team behind the project has launched a new website, nased.hawaii.gov, to keep people updated on progress. Crawford Architects is working with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority and the state Department of Accounting and General Services to replace the aging stadium.
Statewide airport modernization - As reported in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, spending on the **\$3.2 billion modernization of**

the state's 15-airport system has reached the halfway point and "most big-ticket items are slated to wrap up by December 2021. Governor Ige's ultimate goal for the state's airport system is to develop 'world-class facilities' and the DOT's Airports Division is committed to that goal." Among recent improvements are refurbished restrooms and free, faster Wi-Fi as well as energy-efficient strategies in line with the governor's sustainability priorities.
New Hawai'i State Hospital facility - Construction on a **new 144-bed building at the Hawai'i State Hospital** in Kāne'ohe for more dangerous, high-risk patients is expected to be completed by the end of 2020, with patients to be relocated by October 2021. The \$160.5 million project includes a new security system as well as no-climb fencing for the safety of patients, staff and the public.

From landslides to lava: HDOT handles the road ahead

Boulders the size of cars. Hanging chunks of concrete. That was the scene several months ago when heavy rains triggered a massive landslide onto O’ahu’s Pali Highway. The good news is that the state Department of Transportation (HDOT) is in the process of completing \$27 million in emergency repairs — 80 percent of which was covered by the federal government. “We’ve also taken landslide prevention measures in other areas statewide, such as on Maui, Kaua’i and other parts of O’ahu that were hit by floods last year,” said deputy director Ed Sniffen.

Rockfall prevention is just part of how HDOT is working toward **Governor Ige’s sustainable transportation goals**. When disaster strikes — whether it’s a volcanic eruption on Hawai’i island or record flooding on Kaua’i and other islands — the department is rebuilding infrastructure and incorporating additional safety and sustainability measures using new technology. After the Kīlauea eruption, HDOT installed heat-resistant roadway panels on Highway 130, restoring vital access. They’re also using carbon-injected concrete — a “greener” version of traditional concrete — to offset CO2 emissions. In addition, the department is focused on pedestrian safety through new raised crosswalks in three school zones and new traffic cameras to help motorists on Kaua’i and Maui via the GoAkamai.org website.



Gov. Ige inspects new rock shed protection at the Pali.

Macaraeg makes history; command change for DOD



Brig. Gen. Macaraeg, wife Bene and Chloe Anne with Governor and Mrs. Ige.

In a moving ceremony at Washington Place, Gov. Ige administered the oath of office to **Col. Roy J. Macaraeg, who was promoted to brigadier general** in the Hawai’i Army National Guard (HIARNG). He is believed to be the first Filipino-American soldier to attain the rank of General Officer in HIARNG’s history. Macaraeg, a graduate of Farrington High School and UH-Mānoa, will head to Washington, D.C. as an assistant director of the Army National Guard. During his 29 years of service, Macaraeg has held posts at the Pentagon, deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Kosovo and earned numerous awards.

Governor Ige has appointed **Brig. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara** to be the Adjutant General for the state’s Department of Defense, effective Dec. 6, 2019. He replaces **Maj. Gen. Arthur “Joe” Logan** who will retire from this position at the end of the year. Brig. Gen. Hara has served as deputy adjutant general since January 2015.



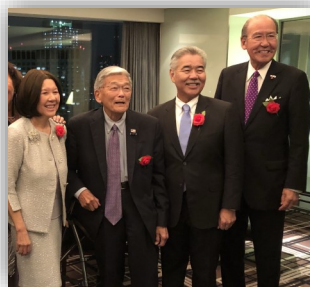
Brig. Gen. Kenneth Hara (top); Maj. Gen. Joe Logan

Brig. Gen. Hara has served in command positions during deployments to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. In addition, he played key roles in the response to Hurricane Iniki in 1992, and was Dual Status Commander of Joint Task Force 5-0 for the Kīlauea eruption and Hurricane Lane responses in 2018. Hara’s appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Maj. Gen. Logan, who has more than 36 years of military service, has been adjutant general, Hawai’i National Guard, Department of Defense since January 2015. He has overseen the training and readiness of more than 5,000 soldiers and air personnel and has been the Homeland Security Advisor to the governor.

Japan’s emperor enthroned

Governor Ige traveled to Japan in October as one of seven Japanese-Americans selected to represent the United States at the **enthronement of Emperor Naruhito**. The ancient ritual made Naruhito the 126th emperor of Japan in an unbroken line that dates back 14 centuries. The invited dignitaries included royalty from several countries, including Britain’s Prince Charles, diplomats and heads of state for the elaborate ceremony. So what was it like to be part of such a historic event? “It was thrilling to be one of the people invited worldwide to bear witness and represent Hawai’i and the U.S.,” the governor said.



Gov. Ige was among seven Japanese-Americans invited to the enthronement ceremony, including Irene Hirano Inouye, former U.S. transportation secretary Norman Mineta and businessman Thomas Iino. (Right) Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako in their royal robes.



Imperial Palace photos

'Ohana Readers to provide free books to Moloka'i keiki

The 'Ohana Readers pilot project launched by first lady Dawn Amano-Ige on Moloka'i in October has already registered more than 170 children — nearly 50 percent of the island's keiki up to the age of 5. "It's exciting to see the response so the children can start receiving their books in time for the holidays," said Mrs. Ige. "This gives us a model we can duplicate in other communities."

'Ohana Readers will deliver free books to children through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, in partnership with the Office of the Governor, the state Department of Human Services, the Hawai'i State Public Library System, the Friends of the Library, Rep. Lynn DeCoite's office, Learning to Grow and Read to Me International. Coordinator Kui Adolpho added, "Our Moloka'i community is proud to be the starting point of 'Ohana Readers, knowing we are part of something that promotes literacy for all families."



'Ohana Readers team with Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Mrs. Ige & coordinator Kui Adolpho.

Department of Human Services, the Hawai'i State Public Library System, the Friends of the Library, Rep. Lynn DeCoite's office, Learning to Grow and Read to Me International. Coordinator Kui Adolpho added, "Our Moloka'i community is proud to be the starting point of 'Ohana Readers, knowing we are part of something that promotes literacy for all families."

CC Chung named top teacher

If we're lucky, we've had at least one teacher in our lives who inspired us — a teacher like Cecilia "CC" Chung, the 2020 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year. Chung, a sixth grade teacher and technology coach at Ka'imiloa Elementary in Ewa Beach, will represent the state in Washington, D.C. next spring. Her selection came at a Washington Place ceremony where scores of families, friends and colleagues gathered to honor the top teachers from the state's 16 complex areas. (See photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/govhawaii/albums/72157711686042347>)



CC Chung with DOE Supt. Kishimoto and Governor and Mrs. Ige.

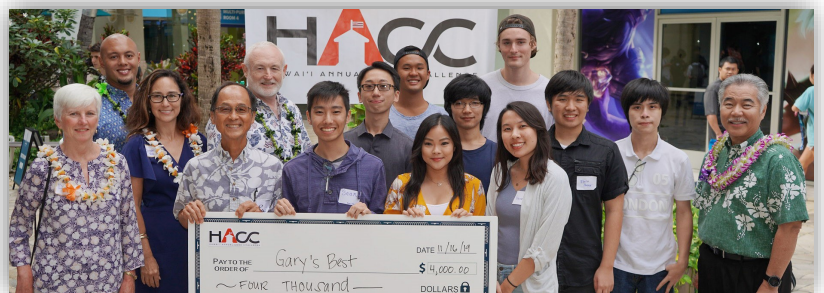
"What greater job is there than to take the dream of a child and help it grow into something real," asked Chung. Governor Ige and first lady Dawn Amano-Ige, as well as DOE superintendent Christina Kishimoto, were on hand to offer congratulations to all the honorees. "What you do means so much to our community. Thank you for choosing to be a public school teacher," said the governor.

Making your voice count

Looking for a way to make a difference? The governor's office is seeking qualified volunteers to fill vacancies on boards and commissions statewide. "Their service is an important way for Hawai'i citizens to have an active voice in government and improve our communities," said director Sharon Ibarra. "Everyone has something to offer, and we value their service to the state." For details, go to boards.hawaii.gov or contact Ibarra at boards.commissions@hawaii.gov.

A Washington Place Christmas

The community is invited to a holiday open house on Friday, Dec. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. sponsored by the Washington Place Foundation with a performance by the St. Andrew's school choir. For reservations, go to www.Eventbrite.com. For details, contact 536-8040 or wpfevent@gmail.com.



Gov. Ige congratulates UH team with \$4,000 top prize for its solution to monitor EV charging stations.

2019 HACC taps local talent for solutions

How do you develop creative tech solutions to government challenges? The answers come at the Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) where teams of student and community coders create fresh approaches to real-world issues. This year's teams competed Nov. 16 with solutions related to green loans, electric vehicle charging stations and sustainability ideas to share among schools. The HACC, conceived by Governor Ige and coordinated by the state's Office of Enterprise Technology Services, drew nearly 200 participants. "Our local talent is why I want to create more jobs for them here at home," the governor said. For more winners, see hacc.hawaii.gov.

Contact Us: Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0034 Fax: (808) 586-0006
Hilo Office (808) 974-6262 | Kona Office (808) 323-4542
Maui Office (808) 243-5798 | Kaua'i Office (808) 274-3100

Capitol Connection is a regular e-newsletter that provides you with updates from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. The newsletter is available on-line and via subscription. Check the governor's website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe. Also, follow the governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and <https://www.facebook.com/GovernorDavidIge>.