



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor · March 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Welcome to our administration's inaugural monthly newsletter! It is titled **Ke Ala Hou** – A New Path Forward. This publication represents one of the ways we hope to combine community and communication, to keep you informed about what your Executive Branch of government is doing and to help you stay more connected. We plan to share news

that reflects our administration's priorities, along with the good things happening in our community that are important for Hawai'i's future. It is our hope that these pages will shine a light on what we do and why we do it. The names and faces you will see in this publication are your friends and neighbors; their stories tell the tale of the State of Hawai'i working hard for you. As we shared in our first State of the State Address, we are poised for change through bold action over the coming years. Our vision is one of statewide unity as one 'ohana, where we take on the challenges we face with new ideas, fresh solutions, and decisive leadership rooted in shared values. We must act with a sense of urgency to fulfill our kuleana.

Mahalo for the honor of serving as your Governor,

Josh Green

VISION

Our vision is to take bold action to improve our state through new ideas, fresh solutions, and decisive leadership rooted in shared values.

- 1. Provide economic relief and restore hope to our people:**
 - Increase affordable housing
 - Create tax relief
 - Increase funding and support for services
- 2. Prioritize the health and well-being of our state:**
 - Mālama our land and water through climate change mitigation
 - Investment in people, programs, and infrastructure
- 3. Preserve our Islands for future generations.**

CORE VALUES

- **Bold Action**
- **Collaboration**
- **Compassion**
- **Decisive Leadership**
- **Diversity**
- **Integrity**
- **Kindness**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Unity**

About the Newsletter Design

Created by longtime local design firm Eric Woo Design Inc., the newsletter header, or nameplate, features symbolism that represents the title, "A New Path Forward." The background color transitions from dark to lighter green as a metaphor for moving toward a goal, or light. The lei encircling our major islands represents both the giver (Governor Green's Administration) and the recipient (the people of Hawai'i) and shows the connection guided by affection and respect. The repeated, orange triangular 'ohe kapala design visualizes a path to the future and reflects that forward movement is rarely perfectly straight.



The Office of Wellness and Resilience



Tia Hartsock

The Green Administration is prepared to deliver what's needed for Hawai'i. To this effect, the newly created Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) and its Director, Tia Hartsock, are now

in place to tackle some of the greatest challenges facing our people.

Hartsock is the first OWR Director and has served nearly 25 years in the pursuit of working to improve the child- and adult-serving systems in mental health and criminal justice. She also was appointed as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Hawai'i Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health and has lectured in both the bachelor's and master's programs since 2016. She holds her Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Chaminade University with a specialization in juvenile justice and her Master of Social Work from the University of Hawai'i with a specialization focus on mental health.

She is also a nationally certified Trauma-Informed Care trainer by the Gains Center at the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Formerly she was the project director on three other SAMHSA initiatives within the Department of Health to develop and provide mental health services for adolescent girls and oversaw multiagency collaborations to improve the delivery of services by Hawai'i's mental health system, to trauma survivors from a gender-specific and trauma-informed foundation.

In this role, she will use her many years of collective experience to address the unprecedented public health crisis facing our community. Hartsock believes in Governor Green's philosophy and approach to understanding the root causes of trauma, in order to address health and wellness and provide an opportunity for Hawai'i and its people to truly make strides to improve health outcomes for generations.

She is currently working on a strategic plan that will include partnering with community organizations, cultural practi-

tioners, and non- and for-profits to find innovative solutions to the various challenges her office will face. A few of the many goals the OWR has are to:

- Identify and coordinate existing trauma-informed care and resilience efforts happening throughout state departments and community organizations.
- Identify and meet with cultural practitioners, medical health facilities, university research staff and state departments, to identify current social determinants of health data.
- Establish an annual wellness and resilience summit.
- Support trauma-informed and resilience-related legislation and develop policies.
- Coordinate and develop procedures with Governor's office staff, specifically the Emergency Management Coordinator and Housing and Homeless Coordinators, to establish trauma-informed responses to community traumas and natural disasters.
- Participate in working groups to establish new practices to improve system outcomes in child welfare, mental health, and criminal justice systems

"I am extremely humbled and honored to be appointed as the first executive director of this newly established office," said Hartsock. "I look forward to collaborating with the many hands who have been working on solutions to improve outcomes of mental health, overall wellness, and resilience."



K9 Kahu Awaiting His Donated Safety Vest

The Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) K9 Kahu will receive a bullet- and stab-protective vest, thanks to a charitable donation from nonprofit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Kahu is assigned as NED's electronic storage device detection dog, and his main duty is to help with criminal investigations by locating hidden electronic storage devices. Delivery of the vest is expected within eight to ten weeks.



Hawai'i One of Eight States Joining the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) Executive Committee



Frank Pace

Frank Pace serves as the Administrator of the Office of Homeland Security, overseeing planning and operations, grants management, the Hawai'i State Fusion Center, and statewide interoperable communications. During his tenure, Pace led the development and implementation of the State Homeland Security Strategy, Targeted

Violence Prevention Strategy, and is charged with leading Hawai'i's cybersecurity efforts and initiatives to address malign foreign influence. Most recently, Pace championed coordination between the City and County of Honolulu, FEMA Grants Programs, and the Hawai'i congressional delegation to address concerns with recent changes to the FEMA risk methodology.

Pace's connection to the region also includes military service as a law enforcement advisor, antiterrorism planner, and in

military intelligence working with foreign nation partners throughout the U.S. INDOPACOM Area of Responsibility while assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific and the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

He is a 13-year resident, including intervals living out-of-state, who resides with his family on O'ahu.

The mission of the council is to act as a forum that brings together the governors' principal homeland security advisors and to provide a unified voice for states to inform and shape national homeland security policy. Administrator Pace's role will be part of a group that will keep all governors apprised of current environmental threats; the impacts of federal homeland security legislation, regulations, and policies on states; and share best practices, identifying emerging issues and reviewing and analyzing the impacts of federal homeland security activities on states.

Congratulations, Administrator Pace!

Homeland Security - Working for Hawai'i at the Community Level

Hawai'i's strategic location gives the state a seat at the national table of states sharing information about foreign and interstate security threats. However, the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) also plays a crucial role here at home. Communities as bustling as Downtown Honolulu, as quiet as places between Hilo and Kailua-Kona, or as remote as those on Moloka'i, are all able to benefit from the programs developed by the OHS, which is attached to the State Department of Defense.

State and federal tax dollars are spent here in our communities, not just on the latest equipment used by the military. According to OHS Administrator Pace, the funds are distributed equitably throughout the islands, implying that the usual 'who you know' is not in play. Rather, the goals of education and training and size of the entity needing that training are the criteria. "We are here to protect our keiki, families, and kūpuna," Pace said.

Threats to safety and security can come from within a community whether at home, at school, at a house of worship, or in the workplace. The best defense is proactive preparation, with plans developed by Homeland Security. Among the guidelines of the OHS are observational assessments of mental health in the hopes of helping troubled individuals before they create a danger to others. Teachers, mental health professionals, and local law enforcement are the moving parts that create an unseen but important safety net.

Pace observed that unlike in many mainland municipalities, many Hawai'i residents have a personal connection, or lack a negative experience with public servants. "There is a presence and a relationship," he said, and in doing so summed up the state-focused goals of his division.

Taking Action in Support of Health and Wellness



Pictured left to right: Back row – Melanie Martin (PSD Deputy Director for Administration), Susan Maracle-Sweeney (PSD Fiscal Management Officer), Indunil Liyanage (Re-entry Coordination Office Assistant), Tourn Chaidy (Re-entry Coordination Office Assistant). **Front row** – Kris Najim (Litigation Coordination Office Program Specialist), Heather Kimura (Corrections Program Specialist).

The Department of Public Safety's (PSD) Deputy Director for Administration Melanie Martin and Human Resources Specialist Virginia Kemmerlin have taken Governor Green's priority for health and wellness to heart. Starting with the PSD offices downtown, they have implemented a health and wellness program for their workplace called "Walk Healthy Wednesdays" that they are hoping to eventually expand to PSD offices statewide. They also take time to compile and email information on upcoming events that promote healthy activities going on in the community.





The millionth urchin was named "Vince" in honor of Vincent Goo, a fisheries technician at AFRC who died in 2021.

DLNR Restoring the Health of Our Land and Water

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is more than just a monolithic entity whose acronym conjures up vague ideas of land use and preservation, or mitigating a man-made disaster affecting the state's land and water.

The DLNR, through its agencies and divisions, frequently takes proactive steps to protect the 'āina and ocean with carefully thought-out projects that are then implemented by hundreds of workers across the islands.

One such effort is the restoration of the waters of Kāne'ohe Bay and off Waikīkī. Algae was clumping and matting together, blocking air and sunlight, causing destruction of coral and inhibiting sea life from thriving. Mechanically, pulling out invasive plants was one way to clear the ocean. The other inventive way was to use tiny sea urchins to eat away at the harmful plants. The small spiny urchins are native to local waters, but more urchins than spawn in the wild were needed to populate the bay.

Enter the 'Ānuenuue Fisheries Research Center (AFRC), a facility of the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). There, on Sand Island, the urchins are spawned and raised until they reach the juvenile stage. Of course, it takes a village to raise youngsters 24/7 - the village here being a multiagency cohort comprising DAR, Pacific Cooperative

Studies Unit (PCSU), NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (DOT).

One million and thirteen thousand tiny creatures later, the program is working and in full swing. Regular monitoring informs the team when there is algae regrowth and the need to "plant" more sea urchins.

And the millionth little guy, "Vince?" Not only was it a milestone number, but the name is a tribute to longtime DLNR employee Vincent Goo, a fisheries technician who died in 2021.

"Vince was one of the unsung heroes of the urchin hatchery," said hatchery manager David Cohen. "He took an interest from the very beginning and helped me and the project every step of the way."

A DLNR video of the sea urchin program can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/799337621>



DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources planted the one millionth native sea urchin in Kāne'ohe Bay. Photos courtesy DLNR.

Our First Lady Focus

Meet First Lady Jaime Kanani Green

First Lady Jaime Kanani Green is honored and excited about the opportunity to serve the people of Hawai'i and support her husband in his first term as Governor. She has already been busy hosting events at Washington Place,



Jaime Kanani Green

helping to transition the Governor's office, and engaging in programs and issues that are important to Hawai'i's people.

There have already been opportunities

for her to connect with several former First Ladies of Hawai'i, other First Ladies from across the nation, including First Lady Jill Biden, as well as community leaders and foreign dignitaries. She has been welcoming advice from many sources and building relationships across our communities.

As a child advocate, she is looking forward to continuing her work to support keiki and families, and serve as a champion for increased services and prioritizing children's issues and programs. She recently shared some of her thoughts and goals with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. To view the complete interview and learn more about the First Lady, scan the QR code below.

Facebook: @firstladyofhawaii
 Instagram: @firstladyofhawaii
 Twitter: @firstladyofhi



Ke Ala Hou is a monthly publication of the Office of Governor Josh Green, M.D.

We invite you to stay connected with us!

Phone: 808-586-0034
 Email: gov.communications@hawaii.gov
 Website: governor.hawaii.gov
 Facebook: @govjoshgreen
 Instagram: @govjoshgreen
 Twitter: @govjoshgreenmd

