

Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Aloha,

On March 15, we achieved our 100th day in office! It has been a productive and rewarding journey thus far, and I am pleased to announce that our full team is now in place and already working hard to serve you and our communities across Hawai'i.

Having a completely staffed office will help us move forward and accomplish the many important priorities we have outlined as the goals for our administration. Also, every individual who I have selected for an executive position within state government is now before the State Senate awaiting confirmation. These public servants will work tirelessly for the people of Hawai'i, and many of them already have been confirmed.

In this issue, we will share some of the bold actions we have taken in our first 100 days to move the needle. We have engaged with many individuals and diverse groups across our state and beyond to determine ways to collaborate and find innovative solutions – and we are just getting started. We hope you are encouraged by the many stories of compassionate leadership throughout the state to help restore trust in government and simply create a better future for you, your 'ohana, our kūpuna, and our keiki.

Thank you for this opportunity to create a new beginning together and for allowing us to share the stories that showcase the values that make our state one of the greatest in the country.

Mahalo for allowing me the honor to serve as your Governor,

Josh Green

Grants-in-Aid Release Provides Relief for Nonprofits and Dog Seeking a Forever Home

Governor Green worked with the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Budget and Finance to release \$50 million in stalled grants-in-aid. Many of the nearly 180 nonprofit organizations serve vulnerable populations throughout our state.

Beneficiaries of the larger (\$500,000 or more) grants include:

- *Special Olympics Hawai'i*
- YMCA
- *Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific*
- *Maui Economic Development Board*
- *Hāmākua-Kohala Health*
- *Adult Friends for Youth*



The Tokioka 'ohana with its newest family member, Sweetie the poi dog.

Our administration convened a news conference to honor the important work of the organizations that provide much-needed community services, and this occasion also resulted in a poi dog's adoption. Sweetie, who served as an ambassador for the Hawaiian Humane Society at the event, won the hearts of the Tokioka family and

was adopted within 72 hours of her appearance with Governor Green in media coverage.

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.





Homelessness

On Governor Green’s 50th day in office, during his State of the State Address on January 23, he signed an Emergency Proclamation to address homelessness by streamlining the construction process for select housing projects while ensuring that iwi kūpuna and significant cultural and environmental resources continue to be protected.

Housing

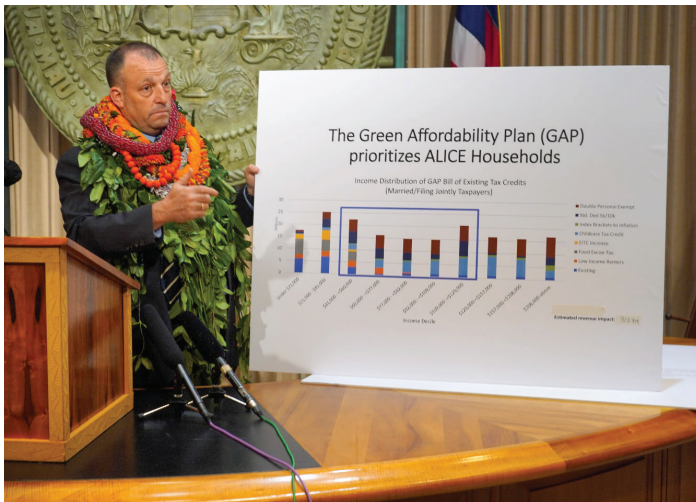
Governor Green participated in the blessing and groundbreaking of Kukuiola in Kealahou, the first kauhale to be built on Hawai‘i Island. The 48-unit village on the Kona Coast also includes an emergency shelter, on-site medical care, mental health services, and workforce training opportunities. The community is supported in large part by federal funding.

The governor’s vision is to build at least 12 kauhale statewide to help mitigate the housing crisis throughout Hawai‘i. O‘ahu is home to three kauhale, and Nani Medeiros, the state’s first Chief Housing Officer said a fourth kauhale development is currently in the works.



From L-R: Susan Kunz, Office of Housing and Community Development Administrator, Hawai‘i County Mayor Mitch Roth, Gov. Josh Green, M.D., Governor’s Chief of Staff Brooke Wilson, Chief Housing Officer Nani Medeiros

100 DAYS OF BOLD AC



Affordability

The Governor initiated a plan to address Hawai‘i’s high cost of living through the Green Affordability Plan (GAP), which provides historic tax relief for Hawai‘i residents. It is the largest investment in our local people by State Government in history, and will put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of working families and help stimulate the economy.



Environmental Protections

A new Climate Impact Fund of \$100 million to fight climate change through targeted investments in green infrastructure and support of existing conservation efforts was introduced this legislative session. Our administration is now supporting HB952 HD1, which appropriates funds to DLNR to address climate change. We are also working with legislative leaders to have direct appropriations in the budget for climate resiliency projects.





Health and Well-Being

We appointed Tia Hartsock as the first executive director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, established by the state legislature. Tia’s office will tackle some of the greatest challenges facing the health and well-being of our communities. This new approach is based on Governor Green’s philosophy and understanding of the root causes of trauma and his desire to truly make strides to improve health outcomes for our most vulnerable populations and for future generations.

Additional Actions Taken in the First 100 Days:

- Accepted the return of 363 acres of land on Moloka’i for Hawaiian Homes Commission beneficiaries
- Championed legislation to decrease the cost of access to government documents
- Signed an agreement with Haneda Airport to streamline travel and promote Made-in-Hawai’i products and improve the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport
- Joined with 20 other Governors to protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare
- Issued a Hawai’i Public Housing Authority Request-for-Proposal (RFP) for 10,000 homes
- Kicked off the procurement RFP for the delayed HTA contract issue

COMPLISHMENTS

Governor Green also took action to issue an Emergency Proclamation to help ensure emergency transportation for every critically ill patient; especially those in rural communities. Working collaboratively with state, county, and healthcare industry partners, they were able to successfully maintain air medical transport statewide.



- Proposed 147 bills during this first legislative session
- Responded to more than 2,500 constituent inquiries
- Hosted dozens of community and legislative events at Washington Place
- Engaged with diverse groups across our islands and beyond, including federal officials and leaders of business, academia, and philanthropy in Washington D.C., for solutions-driven conversations around top issues in states and territories
- Actively working with legislative, business, and community leaders to create a plan for construction of the next Aloha Stadium



DAGS District Offices Provide Critical Repair and Maintenance Services for Kaua'i High School

The DAGS District Office on Kaua'i pulled out the stops on the Sunday afternoon of the Presidents' Day holiday to coordinate and provide much-needed repair and maintenance services for Kaua'i High School. A water line leak discovered on campus could not be isolated, so water service to the entire school needed to be shut off to prevent continued loss of water. However, in order for the school to reopen, water restoration was required for health and safety reasons. Thankfully a local contractor, Cushnie Construction, had a crew ready to perform the emergency repair on Presidents' Day, and the Kaua'i Department of Water was available and willing to kōkua. The repairs were made expeditiously so that the students could return to classes the next day. Kudos to the contractor, school, DAGS, and the Department of Water, who worked together so the school could open with no disruption to learning!



Wahiawā Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Office Hangs Tough Despite Tragedy

Just as the pandemic was beginning in March 2020, the Wahiawā WIC Program team experienced another blow to its ability to provide much-needed services for women, infants, and children when its offices burned down. It was a critical time for the clients who needed services. Led by supervisor Laura Morihara, the crew at the Wahiawā WIC was determined to figure out how to keep working.

Supported by the WIC main office, they managed to get laptops enabling them to work remotely and even used personal cell phones to ensure the clinic could operate. Eventually, the supervisor was able to find another office in Wahiawā and get a work cell phone that could be used while arranging for replacement landlines. Team members worked hard to keep each other safe during the challenging times of the pandemic while having to modify how and where they worked. The team has been in its new office for a year now and celebrated its reunion in December 2022.



Photo of first Christmas together since the fire and pandemic. Front row, L to R: Miriam Hernando-Ocampo, Debbie Passmore, Laura Morihara. Center row: L to R: Obdulia Abalos, Sally Green, Wendy Baker, Joann Gomez. Back row (Santa hat): Veronica Matutino.

FestPAC 2024 to be Hosted by Hawaii



From March 14-16, Governor Green and First Lady Jaime Kanani Green were proud to host the Council for Pacific Arts and Culture here for meetings to discuss Hawai'i's plans to host the 13th Festival of Pacific Art and Culture (FestPAC). Inaugurated in 1972 and produced every four years since, the festival has traveled across the Pacific region and has grown to such capacity that it is the largest convening of indigenous peoples in the entire world. Hawai'i is proud to host the 13th FestPAC from June 6-16, 2024.



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

We invite you to stay connected with us!

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