



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor • March 2024

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



February 8 marked the six-month anniversary of the Maui wildfires. As we continue to work towards recovery, I was able to visit the island again and witness firsthand the efforts of many hands on the ground. While there, I attended a long-term recovery meeting with Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen, FEMA, and other federal agencies and stakeholders to

discuss the progress being made on Maui. I'm grateful that all partners continue to work towards the building of longer-term transitional housing options for our Maui survivors.

In addition to working toward more long-term housing, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is rapidly completing work on a new \$53.7 million project to serve as the temporary replacement for the King Kamehameha III Elementary School, which was destroyed in the fire. The new school is expected to provide classes for 600 students with a plan to open in April.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has also provided \$6.9 million to help house the homeless on Maui, and an 1115 Medicaid waiver has been granted, which allows states to use Medicaid funds for housing. The ability to use Medicaid funds for housing will decrease suffering and frequent visits to the hospital, and lower taxpayer costs related to caring for the homeless by up to 73%. As we continue to reiterate, we believe housing is health care.

While we have been making significant progress in several areas, there is still a long road ahead toward recovery. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to these efforts and continues to work on positive changes for a path forward for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Josh Green M.D.

Celebrating the Opening of Two New Kauhale - Ka Malu Ko'olau & Ho'okahi Leo



Left to right: Statewide Homeless and Housing Solutions Coordinator John Mizuno, Governor Josh Green, M.D., Community Member Mahealani Cypher, Kahu Charles Naumu, Project Vision Hawai'i Executive Director Darrah Kauhane, and HomeAid Hawai'i Executive Director Kimo Carvalho

In the middle of February, the Green Administration partnered with HomeAid Hawai'i, Project Vision Hawai'i (PVH), and the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center (H3RC) to open the state's second and third kauhale; Ka Malu Ko'olau (meaning the protection of the Ko'olau) in Kāne'ohe, and Ho'okahi Leo (meaning a community with one voice) in Honolulu.

The kauhale will provide housing for people from the community who are houseless and will benefit from compassionate support in a welcoming, safe, stable, trauma-informed environment, including 24-7 security, intake/management staff, and peer support. Residents will have restroom facilities, shower trailers, a laundry facility, and daily meals. Office space is provided for on-site care coordination.

Kauhale are just one part of Governor Green's comprehensive approach to addressing housing and homelessness in all segments of our community. Governor Green has a goal of decreasing statewide homelessness by 50% in his first term in office.

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Ke Ala Hou intends to elevate, recognize, and celebrate the hard work done by our state departments. Our goal is to share top achievements from our state employees, emphasize aloha and kindness in action, and demonstrate caring leadership at the state level. It is our hope that by sharing these stories, we build trust and understanding in what we do everyday in service to you.



Scan the QR code to view our digital newsletter.



Celebrating the Opening of Two New Kauhale Continued from page 1

“Homelessness should not be accepted as normal in our society,” said Governor Green. “We are seeing that Hawai’i’s communities are opening their eyes to those suffering around them and are coming together to support the kauhale effort. Some individuals have even come forward asking that we help their own loved ones and friends. I am glad to have them join me in saying, ‘yes in my backyard.’ Housing is health care, and this is truly the path forward for our state.”

Statewide Homeless Coordinator John Mizuno said, “Ho’okahi Leo will address the significant lack of deeply affordable community spaces that until now, has meant that homeless individuals were

often cycled in and out of temporary shelters, waiting for housing they can afford. This project and the Governor’s broader Kauhale Initiative will fill this gap, providing both deep affordability and a sense of community.”

At the Ho’okahi Leo kauhale blessing, Laura Mae Duclayan, who has lived un-housed for many years at Sand Island Beach Park said, “Many of us have waited years for a place to call home. Not a temporary shelter or transitional place, but somewhere that gives us stability and the opportunity to rebuild a sense of community. Many of us are ready for this move and to take kuleana for building a village together.”



Community member Laura Mae being recognized for representing her unhoused community to guide the purpose of Ho’okahi Leo.

HomeAid Hawai’i is the state’s lead development partner who planned and constructed both kauhale. Through pro bono labor and donated materials and supplies, HomeAid was able to reduce the cost of construction and development by tens of thousands of dollars.

PVH is the state’s operating partner for Ka Malu Ko’olau. PVH will coordinate with relevant stakeholders such as government entities, community organizations, and churches, to meet the needs of the community and the people served by Ka Malu Ko’olau.

H3RC serves Hawai’i communities by reducing the harm and fighting the stigma of HIV, hepatitis, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, and poverty in our community.



Left to right: HomeAid Hawai’i Executive Director Kimo Carvalho, Statewide Homeless and Housing Solutions Coordinator John Mizuno, Community Member Laura Mae Dunclayan, Governor Josh Green, M.D., Hawai’i Health & Harm Reduction Center Executive Director Heather Lusk, and Kahu Cordell Kekoa

OWR’s Mission to Make Hawai’i a Trauma-Informed State



On February 20, Governor Josh Green, M.D., signed an executive order declaring Hawai’i a trauma-informed state. Becoming a trauma-informed state will help alleviate some of the impacts of trauma, and build resilience in our families, communities, and state workforce. The order invites state employees to take a survey from the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to help determine what is needed to provide trauma-informed and healing-centered care to the people they serve – and this starts with supporting our own staff’s wellness and resilience.

“When we are well, we can be better for our families, the people we serve, and our state,” said Governor Green. “With the results, we will develop better services and programs that support the wellness and resilience of our people, including addressing community traumas we’ve lived through in the past several years, like the pandemic and Maui fires.”

Hawai’i’s Trauma-Informed Care Task Force was established in 2021, to develop and make recommendations for trauma-informed care in the state. OWR was established in 2022, as a semi-autonomous authority to adopt and implement the trauma-informed care framework created by the task force.

Although several departments, such as the Department of Education, Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, have been working on trauma-informed care for more than a decade, the executive order will accelerate this culture shift.

“One way of thinking about it is that when a child is acting up in class, we currently ask, ‘What’s wrong with you?!’,” said Tia L.R. Hartsock, director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience.



OWR's Mission to Make Hawai'i a Trauma-Informed State Continued from page 2



Office of Wellness and Resilience Director Tia Hartsock
“We tend to focus solely on the behavior alone. We want to move toward an approach that asks instead, ‘What happened to you?’ because we want to get to the root cause of the behavior, and we know that trauma may be one possible cause.”

Trauma-informed care is built on six principles that foster this shift: (1) safety, (2) trust and transparency, (3) empowerment, known as “voice and choice,” (4) collaboration, (5) peer support, and (6) honoring cultural, gender and historical issues.

OWR will work closely with state departments to conduct trauma-informed care assessments, starting with the statewide well-being and quality of life survey in February and March, with a special focus on the state workforce. Based on this initial feedback, the Office will work with each department to meet its own goals, including providing training and technical assistance to support trauma-informed policies, practices, programs and processes in each department. This may include trainings related to adverse childhood experiences and secondary traumatic stress, as well as workforce wellness strategies.

“Trauma-informed care acknowledges that our state agencies have the capacity to mitigate harm and promote healing on a systemic level,” said Hartsock. “By integrating what we know about trauma into our policies, procedures, and practices, we can help prevent trauma

and actively avoid re-traumatization. Adopting trauma-informed care can improve people’s engagement with public services, as well as health outcomes and our workforce’s wellness, making our state more resilient.”

Researchers at the University of Hawai'i (UH), in partnership with OWR, are interested in your thoughts about strengths and opportunities to better our well-being – in our homes, communities, and workplaces. Feedback from the state workforce, as well as community members statewide, will be used to create reports to inform and improve local programs and policies. For more information, visit: www.health-study.com, or email Trina Orimoto at UH: trinao@hawaii.edu.

The survey within the QR code takes about 15 minutes.



Mayor Wright Homes Redevelopment Approved



View of Phase 1 of Mayor Wright Homes redevelopment from the corner of Vineyard Boulevard and Pua Lane. Rendering courtesy of Highridge Costa.

The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and Highridge Costa Development Company have received approval from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting to move forward with the redevelopment plan for Mayor Wright Homes.

“We are taking a significant step forward to transform our existing public housing properties and create thousands of new homes for local individuals and families,” said HPHA Executive Director Hakim Ouansafi. “The approval of our plan to redevelop Mayor Wright Homes is a powerful demonstration of the collaborative efforts among state agencies, city departments and private developers to address the housing crisis in Hawai'i.”

This redevelopment project will transform the existing 70-year-old community, consisting of 364 public housing residences,

into a vibrant, mixed-income, and mixed-use, transit-oriented community in the Kalihi Pālama neighborhood. With 2,448 new homes for local residents and families, this redevelopment is a significant step forward in addressing the housing crisis in our state.

This new community will feature a variety of housing options, including affordable rental units and leasehold, for-sale condominiums, ensuring that individuals and families at various income levels have access to quality housing. The development will also include ample indoor and outdoor amenities, such as community rooms and barbecue areas, to enhance residents’ quality of life.

Located just a quarter mile from the planned HART Iwilei Station, the redevelopment will provide convenient access to public transportation. It will also offer more than four acres of public open space, retail spaces, and community services to create a vibrant and inclusive neighborhood.

The redevelopment will occur in multiple phases over the next 15 years, with Phase I expected to begin in late 2025. During construction, relocation professionals will work with current Mayor Wright Homes residents to ensure a smooth transition and provide support in finding suitable alternative housing.

Governor Josh Green, M.D., has been supporting these new upcoming housing development efforts that will help make Hawai'i more affordable for our kama'āina. HPHA is grateful for the collaborative efforts of our state agencies, city departments, and private developers that have made this project possible.



UH West O'ahu Forges Ahead With New State-of-the-Art Film Studio



Outside the new Academy for Creative Media West O'ahu building. The high tech 33,000-square-foot facility features the latest video, graphics, animation, social media, web and app development equipment and rooms.

Photo courtesy: ©Gensler / Ryan Gobuty

The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) took a significant step in making a state-of-the-art film studio a reality. The new film studio, Academy for Creative Media (ACM) West O'ahu building, will transform the campus and have a major impact on the film and television industry in the state. UH has selected the Island Productions LLC team — a diverse group with local and national experience in film studio and commercial development and operations — as the project developer.

Island Productions envisions a multipurpose entertainment campus for studio employees and the UH West O'ahu community consisting of a public-serving town square with live/work, retail, dining, lodging and office space, along with a

private, secured film studio that would include modern sound stages and other support facilities.

“This project is not only important for the local film industry and the state's economy, it will also support our educational mission by providing our students direct workforce experience with industry professionals for mentoring, networking, and internship and career development opportunities,” said UH President David Lassner.

UH will now begin negotiating the terms of a development agreement and long-term ground lease with Island Productions that must be reviewed and approved by the UH Board of Regents. As part of the expected agreement, Island Productions will design, build, finance, operate, manage, and maintain the project for the life of the lease. Ownership would revert back to UH when the ground lease expires.

“Combined with our adjacent \$37 million ACM Student Production Center at UHWO, this state-of-the-art studio complex will propel ACM to the top ranks of media schools globally,” said ACM Founder and Director Chris Lee. “Because one of the requirements of this partnership is integration with ACM, our local students will have enormous career opportunities to stay in the islands with living-wage jobs as talent both above and below the line. This combination will strengthen our vital production industry through workforce development and diversify Hawai'i's economy away from an over-reliance on tourism.”

Explore and Connect at Your State Public Library

Hawai'i's 50 vibrant public libraries are a great way to explore and connect. Libraries exist in many communities serving as lively hubs that cater to the diverse needs of people of all ages statewide. One can enjoy the library in person or explore it online. Hawai'i state libraries are a treasure trove of free entertainment, learning opportunities, and more.

Did you know that movie enthusiasts and binge-watchers can dive into a world of streaming videos and shows on Kanopy. The special Kanopy Kids collection offers family friendly movies and animated storybooks, perfect for quality family time. Visit Kanopy at <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/kanopy-stream-movies/>.

Newshounds can stay informed with free online access to The New York Times and other newspapers and magazines from around the world with PressReader. To learn more about PressReader, visit <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/2017/10/06/now-available-pressreader/>. In addition, the Mango Languages app allows people to connect with family and friends across borders by learning a new language. You can also enjoy free

Wi-Fi on your device or use the libraries' computers to surf the internet.

For book lovers, the libraries boast a large selection to fuel your imagination and take you on thrilling adventures. If you can't make it to the library, download popular e-books and audiobooks for free using the Libby app. Libraries continue to provide services that allow the public to expand their horizons through knowledge. Sign up today at librarieshawaii.org for immediate online access to these treasures. Hawaii State Libraries have served the community since 1913.



We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter! Scan the QR code to fill out our survey.



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

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