

Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

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



GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

My team and I visited Maui last month to commemorate the one-year mark of the Maui Wildfires. During my visit, I had the opportunity to connect with numerous members of the community. Listening to their stories and sharing in their grief was a profound experience.

The tragic events from a year ago remind us of the importance of community, compassion and solidarity. Each life lost in the wildfires was an indispensable part of our community. Their absence is keenly felt and we will always remember them as family.

I'm deeply touched and constantly reminded by the bravery and strength displayed by the community over the past year. Let's continue to support one another and nurture hope. Together, we've shown that we can overcome the most challenging of circumstances and by doing so we are honoring the memory of those we lost by continuing our recovery.

Mahalo to the countless partners who helped Maui recover by clearing the debris and building several housing projects to house Maui's displaced residents, a new school and a new health clinic. I'd like to thank every individual who has served and sacrificed for others.

While we have made significant progress — and I am immensely proud of the work that has been accomplished — there is more work to do. I am confident that we will get to a place where Maui can once again be a safe, nurturing and thriving environment for its people, where families can celebrate and share their culture and traditions and where every member of our community feels supported and loved.

Mahalo and aloha,

Josh Green M.D.



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.



Governor Green and the Department of Transportation Host Federal Funds Summit



Left to right: Office of the Governor Chief of Staff Brooke Wilson, Hawai'i Rep. Kyle Yamashita, U.S. Rep. Jill Tokuda, U.S. Congressman Ed Case, Hawai'i Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Dept. of Transportation Director Ed Sniffen and Dept. of Budget and Finance Deputy Director Sabrina Nasir.

Governor Josh Green, M.D., his Federal Funds Team and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), in collaboration with Hawai'i's congressional delegation, federal agencies and the White House, hosted a three-day federal funds summit in July. The summit was a part of the Governor's Investing in Hawai'i's Future initiative to maximize federal funding for the state.

During the summit, experienced state, county and community grants leaders conducted various workshops on the federal grant application and administration process, including strategies for securing matching funds, grant writing logic models and lessons learned.

Federal partners from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Transportation, and Treasury as well

as from the Environmental Protection Agency and Executive Office of the President, presented on their respective programs, offering local grants teams the opportunity to meet federal partners face to face, ask questions and advocate for community projects.

"From mauka to makai, keiki to kūpuna, federal funding is a huge benefit to Hawai'i," emphasized Governor Green. "While this year's summit is pau, the conversations and collaborations it catalyzed are only beginning. Together, we will build upon this momentum to secure as many federal resources for Hawai'i as possible."

Reflecting on the importance of federal agencies' participation in the summit, HDOT Director Ed Sniffen said, "Federal funding presents unique opportunities for Hawai'i to advance our communities and infrastructure, even though navigating the process can be challenging. At the summit, our local grants teams were able to engage directly with federal partners, address our specific needs and discover new opportunities that align with our state's vision. This dialogue is essential as we work together to bring transformative projects to life across Hawai'i."

Approximately 500 in-person and virtual attendees registered for the summit, indicating strong statewide interest in federal funding. Given the summit's positive reception, Governor Green's administration plans to host a summit annually to continue to facilitate connections and knowledge sharing.

To learn more about Governor Green's Investing in Hawai'i's Future initiative, please visit governor.hawaii.gov/federal-funds.

State of Hawai'i Health and Social Services Job Fair



Above: Puafisi "Pua" Tupola from Dept of Human Services presenting to interested attendees. Photo courtesy: DHRD



Left to right: Corliss Yoshiura, Donna Gusman, and Christy Martinez. Photo courtesy: DHRD

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) hosted a Health and Social Services Job Fair at Leeward Community College in August to support recruitment efforts for registered nurses, social workers, human service professionals and social service aids and assistants. These four classes of workers predominantly assist Hawai'i's residents through various professional and support services at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services and Leeward Community College Human Resources Office.

Interested applicants were asked to apply online in advance of the fair. Applicants who met the minimum qualifications were invited to the job fair to meet with departmental staff, schedule an interview, listen to speakers from the various state departments and ask questions. Individuals who did not apply in advance could still attend the job fair and apply on-site.

This targeted job fair model aims to shorten the recruitment process timeline and get qualified applicants into state jobs faster, which in turn helps support the needs of our residents.

These jobs and many others are on continuous recruitment, as the state is always looking for qualified and dedicated employees. Visit the DHRD recruitment website to view current job openings at jobs.hawaii.gov/careers.

To stay informed of state recruitment efforts and upcoming job fairs, please follow DHRD on social media by visiting linktr.ee/hawaiidhrd.



Hawai'i Receives Green Light for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce has given the green light to Hawai'i's Initial Proposals for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, which is a key part of the Biden-Harris Administration's "Internet for All" initiative. This approval allows Hawai'i to apply for funding and begin the implementation of the BEAD program, which marks significant progress in bridging the digital gap and working toward the President's objective of providing affordable, dependable, high-speed Internet access to all Americans.

The BEAD program is a \$42.45 billion state grant, of which Hawai'i was allocated more than \$149 million.

"We are grateful for the collaboration between the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the University of Hawai'i and Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism on our statewide broadband initiatives, so that programs can be implemented effectively with the generous support from the federal government, for the benefit of Hawai'i's communities," said Governor Josh Green, M.D.

"The Biden-Harris Administration and the NTIA have been exceptional partners in our efforts to develop and build the

necessary infrastructure to bridge the digital divide across the islands – from Hanalei to Hilo, mauka to makai, and everywhere in between," said Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke. "With this unprecedented federal funding, we are making a significant leap toward eliminating barriers and tackling inequities within our communities."

Once deployment goals are met, any remaining funding can be used on high-speed internet adoption, training and workforce development efforts, among other eligible uses.

"Today, Hawai'i can move their 'Internet for All' efforts from planning to action," said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator Alan Davidson.

To learn more about the BEAD program, visit <https://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-program/>.



Above: Plus Power's Kapolei Energy Storage System in West O'ahu, operated by Hawaiian Electric, powers 17% of O'ahu's peak load, helping to balance the island's power grid and enabling the continued growth of rooftop solar and utility-scale renewable energy. Photo courtesy: Plus Power Kapolei Energy Storage.



Photo courtesy: Plus Power Kapolei Energy Storage.

HSEO Launches Interactive Web Pages for 2023 Decarbonization Report

HSEO has launched three interactive web pages that bring the 2023 "Pathways to Decarbonization" report to life. The "Report Development, Assumptions and Methods" page allows visitors to dive into a comprehensive overview of the report's creation. On the "Results and Key Findings" page, users can explore the detailed quantitative and qualitative results. Users can also discover actionable recommendations to drive our decarbonization efforts forward on the "Recommendations and Follow-up Actions" page.

The decarbonization report included 30 recommendations focused on state policy and action. The recommendations recognize the role of the community, the private sector and other governing bodies in achieving decarbonization success.

Users can also still access the "Overview Page" to learn more about and stay updated on the state's ambitious journey toward its goal: to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045.

For data enthusiasts, the Pathways model outputs are now available for download in an Excel format. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in engaging with the data and learning more about the continued actions needed to move Hawai'i toward a cleaner future.



UH Breaks Extramural Funding Record for Third Consecutive Year with \$615.7M in FY 2024

The University of Hawai'i (UH) set another extramural funding record with \$615.7 million in fiscal year 2024 (FY 2024). This marks the third consecutive year that UH has topped half a billion dollars in funding with a record-setting total that is a \$99.8 million or a 19.3% increase over UH's previous record of \$515.9 million set in FY 2023. Governor Josh Green, M.D., attended the August 12 news conference at UH Mānoa where UH officials made the announcement.

Extramural funding comprises investments from external agencies such as the federal government, industry and nonprofit organizations that support research and training activities conducted by university faculty and staff.

"Having the best and the brightest researchers at UH boosts our state's economy and provides access to valuable insight and expertise in dealing with problems facing our community, like COVID-19, climate change, conservation and renewable energy," said Governor Green. "It also demonstrates to our young people, considering their futures, that coming to UH and staying in Hawai'i to advance their careers is indeed an option."

Based on the findings of a 2021 economic impact report published by the UH Economic Research Organization, \$615 million in extramural funding is estimated to generate \$947 million in total business sales, \$434 million in employee earnings and \$53 million in state tax revenue, and is currently supporting more than 10,000 jobs.

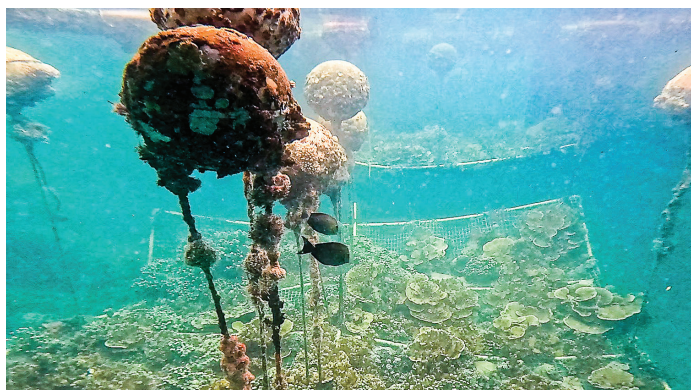


Photo courtesy: UH

"This steadily increasing investment in UH by external organizations, now totaling well over \$1.5 billion dollars in the past three years, demonstrates global recognition of the greatness of Hawai'i's public higher education system," said UH President David Lassner. "Every one of these dollars is a testament to the intellectual capacity and capability of our entire UH community to address the challenges and opportunities facing Hawai'i and our planet."

UH Mānoa, UH's flagship university, led the extramural award amounts this year with \$464.9 million. The UH System brought in \$71.2 million, UH Community Colleges totaled \$51.1 million, UH Hilo received \$22.6 million and UH West O'ahu totaled \$5.9 million.

Office of the Governor Highlights!



Sabrina Nasir

Congratulations to our Department of Budget and Finance Deputy Director Sabrina Nasir for being accepted into the Hawai'i Leadership Forum Omidyar Fellows program.

The program aims to create an environment where Hawai'i can flourish by providing leaders with the necessary skills and cross-sector connections to create societal change. After a thorough application process, individuals from for-profit, nonprofit, and government sectors were chosen based on their achievements, innovative abilities, capacity to collaborate with other leaders and motivation to make a positive impact.



Erica Yamauchi

Congratulations to Erica Yamauchi, the Office of Wellness and Resilience director of Communications and Engagement, for receiving the prestigious Presidential Leadership Award at the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) 41st annual Koa Anvil Awards!

This award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to the success of the chapter and the profession. The awards are determined by their four rings of excellence: research, planning, execution, and evaluation. This honor is presented annually at the discretion of the PRSA Hawai'i president in consultation with the chapter's Board of Directors.



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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