Engineering Hawai'i's Future

December 2015

Capitol Connection with Gov. David Ige is a regular e-newsletter that provides you with updates from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. As the Governor's Office works to become paperless, the newsletter will be available on-line and via subscription. Check out the Governor's website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe to this newsletter. Also, follow Governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and check the Facebook postings at www.facebook.com/GovernorIge for daily activities.

Governor David Y. Ige celebrates his first year in office.

From the Governor: The View from Here

It was one year ago this month that I took the oath of office as your governor. My administration has been working hard to improve services and plan for the future. This list provides some first steps on the road ahead as we find ways to move Hawai'i forward.

• **Housing & homelessness** - A series of new initiatives has been launched statewide to help homeless individuals and families, including expanded outreach services and shelter placement, increased funding for Housing First efforts, and coordination with landlords to accept more low-income and homeless tenants. We've also increased public-private partnerships for more affordable housing and redeveloped low-income housing.

• **Environment** - A landmark Turtle Bay agreement was signed to preserve in perpetuity nearly 630 acres of open space on O'ahu's North Shore. Other ongoing work includes shoreline and coral reef protection and stream restoration.

• **Fiscal accountability, transportation** - The state and the Airports Division earned an improved bond rating and financial outlook, which means more funds for infrastructure projects such as roadways, schools, and airport modernization. Rating agencies cited the state's sound fiscal policies, financial management and strong airline passenger growth trends as major factors.

• **Efficient, effective government** - Departments reported improved efficiency in completing state transportation "pipeline" projects, reduced overtime in the Corrections Division, expanded "paperless" document management and initiated tax system modernization.

• **Economy & Energy** - The state engaged in international trade partnerships, student exchange programs, and clean energy agreements to boost economic development and sustainability. It has also initiated a statewide training program for the next generation of skilled smart grid technicians, electrical engineers and managers. Departments received multimillion dollar federal grants for workforce, small business and entrepreneurship development.

• **Health** – The Department of Health published the Hawai'i State Hospital Master Plan, worked to transform health care on Maui with a new delivery system, and improved technology for the Medical Marijuana Registry and other programs.

• **Human Services** – The Department of Human Services increased Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, helped spearhead juvenile justice reform and created an integrated, long-term care program for the state's Medicaid beneficiaries.

• **Agriculture** – The Department of Agriculture conducted a food sustainability baseline study to map farms statewide for food production. The information will be used to develop metrics for doubling local food production by 2020.

David Y. Ige

Governor David Y. Ige

Department of Human Services awarded $660,422 SNAP bonus

More low-income families will receive crucial nutritional support, thanks to a federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) bonus of $660,422 awarded to the state's Department of Human Services' Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD).

DHS director Rachael Wong said Hawai'i's program placed among the top six in the nation for timeliness of applications. She credited the system's increased effectiveness to the leadership of deputy director Pankaj Bhanot.

From center: DHS director Rachael Wong, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture administrator Jesus Mendoza, Gov. Ige, DHS deputy director Pankaj Bhanot and the team from BESSD.

"Two million documents have been scanned, filed and used, which saves paper, increases efficiency and aligns with Gov. Ige's initiative to streamline government services to benefit those whom we serve," she said.

State expands "Choose Healthy Now" program

Before you reach for that candy bar or bag of chips, First Lady Dawn Ige and the state administration want you to "Choose Healthy Now."

Mrs. Ige with DOH Carolyn Donohue Mather, Healthy Hawai'i Initiative nutritionist.

The campaign aims to increase consumer access to healthy food and beverages as well as raise awareness by labeling food and drink items as healthy, moderately healthy, or less healthy — that is, Green ("Go"), Yellow ("Slow") or Red ("Uh-oh"). The labels provide visual cues to help people make better choices about the foods they eat.

The program began as a partnership between the Health Department and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Human Services' Ho'opono Vending Program. It started with six snack shops in state and federal government buildings on O'ahu and has expanded to an additional 12 sites this year. Aloha Petroleum and Castle Medical Center have also joined the project.

First Lady Dawn Ige presented a certificate of recognition during the Food Day Celebration at Castle Medical Center to promote healthy eating.

Health Department launches new website for community health data

Information is now just a computer click away through the Department of Health. Called the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse (HHDW), the web site "gives Hawaii residents easy access to health information, including the ability to track our progress towards meeting state and national goals," said Health Director Dr. Virginia Pressler.

The site provides information on a wide range of subjects — from chronic diseases to healthy lifestyles and children's well-being — and statistics related to Hawai'i's population by age, ethnicity, geographic region and more.

There's an on-line step-by-step guide to walk users through the process and even a way to create custom reports with charts, data tables and maps. To learn more, go to HHDW.org or visit the Hawaii Department of Health home page.

Hawai'i Fraud Prevention and Resource Guide available online for consumers

Three state agencies have joined together to produce a comprehensive guide that helps protect consumers against fraud. The booklet, available online at http://cca.hawaii.gov/sec/files/2015/10/Fraud-Guide-2.pdf, covers everything from preventing identity theft and financial fraud to protecting seniors and others from scammers.

It also includes a comprehensive resource section with current contact information for state, federal, county, and non-profit organizations.

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs the Department of Health and the Attorney General's office partnered to publish the updated guide.

Todd Nacapuy, State Chief Information Officer

Waialua High graduate Todd Nacapuy left a lucrative career as a tech entrepreneur in Seattle to come home to Hawai'i, work for Microsoft— and, as it turns out, now has a unique opportunity to give back.

Appointed by Gov. David Ige as Hawai'i's chief information officer, Nacapuy, 38, is leading the state's technology team to set the right systems and resources in place for a more effective, efficient and open government.

One of his first moves has been to initiate consolidation of the Office of Information Management and Technology (OIMT) and the Department of Accounting and General Services' Information and Communication Services Division (ICSD) into a single, cohesive Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

"Enterprise" refers to statewide initiatives that leverage economies of scale and reduce waste, but it also reflects Nacapuy's goal of changing state government's culture to one that resembles a "commercially viable" business model. "We need to ask what is the return on investment of resources by the state," he explained."It doesn't have to be a straight dollar value but more what are the cost-benefits to the state and taxpayers."

Wasting no time, the office has already launched an electronic signature program, eSign Services, as part of the state's move to a more efficient "paperless" environment. In addition, the office significantly accelerated the Executive Branch's migration to Office 365, a single communications platform that not only provides long-term budget sustainability but also fortifies security, expands applications and services, and adds tools for collaboration.

CIO Todd Nacapuy and his team demonstrate eSign Services for the governor and his staff.

Nacapuy said the goal is also to "change the culture of IT workers in Hawai'i" by ramping up workforce development and creating career pathways for state employees — from help desk staff to system architect. He said the idea is to help people up the career ladder — whether it's within state agencies or the private sector — because, in the end, the whole community benefits.

"The governor reminded me that his kids will be graduating soon and will want to come back home. No pressure, right?" he said, laughing.

Nacapuy said he decided to join the Ige administration after talking with the governor and seeing the caliber of the cabinet members and the values they represented. "It all comes down to leadership," he explained. "I was impressed with the governor's integrity and his goal of wanting to restore public trust in government. And when I saw his cabinet appointments — the best of the best — I knew I wanted to join the team."

Beautifully decorated Norfolk Pine Christmas tree at Washington Place.

At Washington Place

A Christmas Open House for the community

Washington Place Foundation is hosting a Christmas Open House from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 586-0248 by Wednesday, Dec. 16. The Cathedral of St. Andrew's choir directed by John Renk will perform from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Following a tradition set 157 years ago for the children of Honolulu, visitors are invited to see the home with a Christmas tree reminiscent of the 1858 tree decorated by Mary Dominis, widow of Capt. John Dominis, who built Washington Place.

Free parking will be available at the State Department of Health parking lot by entering off Miller Street.

People in the News

New State Sheriff administrator sworn in

There's a new sheriff in town. She's Renee Sonobe Hong, who will lead the Public Safety Department's Sheriff Division.

"Renee will bring valuable experience in her new role as sheriff," said PSD Director Nolan Espinda. "She adds a wealth of criminal justice experience to our department."

Sonobe Hong most recently served as a deputy attorney general for the Public Safety Department, Hawaiian Home Lands and the Housing Division of the Attorney General's Office. Before that, she served as first deputy Corporation Counsel for the City and County of Honolulu. She also served 20 years with the Prosecutor's office .

Renee Sonobe Hong is sworn in as the new administrator of the State Sheriff Division by Public Safety Department director Nolan Espinda.

Scott Glenn named to environmental post

Gov. Ige has appointed environmental planner Scott Glenn to lead the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). His appointment is subject to confirmation by the state Senate.

OEQC Director Scott Glenn

"Scott is passionate about working with diverse stakeholders to plan together for a better shared future," said Gov. Ige. "His education, work experience and volunteer service have prepared him to make a difference in this position."

Glenn has extensive experience with multi-million dollar projects for clients in the public and private sector. Most recently his focus has been on integrating climate change adaptation into federal asset decision-making tools. He also currently serves on the State Environmental Council.

Progress across the State

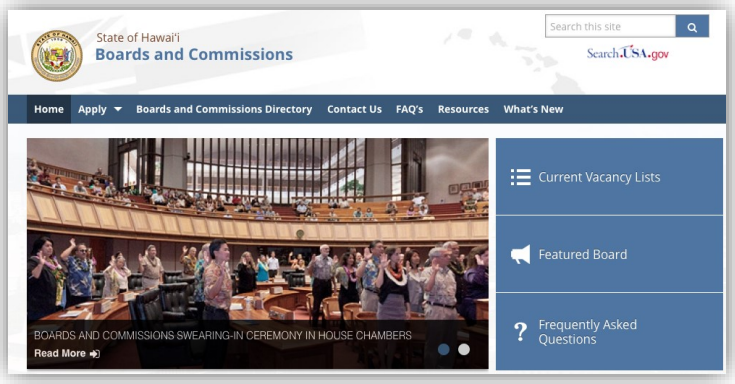
Wanted: Boards & Commissions volunteers

The governor's office is looking for qualified volunteers to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees statewide.

"It's a way for Hawai'i's citizens to influence decisions that shape the quality of life in the islands," said Sharon Ibarra, director of Boards and Commissions. "Everybody has something to offer."

Garth Yamanaka, a real estate agent on the Big Island and his county's representative on the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, said he's finding the experience invaluable. "The board deals with a wide range of issues, so it's a way to gain a better understanding of how the whole system works," he explained.

For a complete list of vacancies as well as an online application, please go to http://boards.hawaii.gov/. If you have questions, contact Ibarra at sharon.s.ibarra@hawaii.gov.



In our Neighborhoods

Community Connection draws crowd at HCC

Governor Ige and members of his cabinet held their second community forum called "Community Connection" at Honolulu Community College on Nov. 19, 2015. The interactive event which included a real time text-in poll, drew a large crowd of students and community members who asked a wide range of questions on topics that included rail, education, traffic and homelessness.

The Community Connection series continues with forums being scheduled across the state. To watch the Nov. 19 event, click: http://bit.ly/1X3cNBP

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