



Courtesy Tyler Kuse

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](http://governor.hawaii.gov) to subscribe to this newsletter. Also, follow the governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and check [www.facebook.com/GovernorDavidIge](https://www.facebook.com/GovernorDavidIge) for daily activities.

## From the Governor: Action today for Hawai'i tomorrow

Most of us can only imagine what it's like to be governor — whether it's dealing with Hepatitis A or hurricanes or homelessness — knowing decisions today can affect the future of the whole state. In this month's Capitol Connection, the governor talks about some of those real-time challenges and planning for Hawai'i's future.

**Q: Is planning for the future, such as food production and sustainability, just a distraction from focusing on issues now?**

**A:** Having a vision is important. Planning for the future begins with a vision that helps us set priorities today. If we know the goal is to **double local food production**, for example, then we need to take action now to achieve that — both short- and long-term. That means we need some baseline metrics to know where we are and how to make more agricultural land available, with access to water. We know we have to find and support a new generation of farmers because we're transitioning from sugar and pineapple plantations to diversified agriculture. We're on track to meet our goals in some areas, while others need more work. Also now, for the first time, we have put together a **coordinated interagency biosecurity plan** to protect our state from invasive species.



Gov. Ige on Maui for the Ag Fest with students and staff from the 4-H Dirt Devils. Photo by Troy Hashimoto

*Island Fresh*  
**Buy Local It Matters**  
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**Q: Has your perspective on state issues changed from your years in the Legislature?**

**A:** As governor, it's about creating a common vision of the Hawai'i we want to leave for our children. I'm optimistic because I see great opportunity for our state. I am pragmatic because, as an engineer, I work to find solutions — a win-win that allows our community to move forward. It's about setting policies and encouraging actions that can add value to our community.

**Q: What would you say to folks who worry about progress on current problems?**

**A:** We're taking action on pressing issues, whether it's Hepatitis A or homelessness or cooling our schools, but there's always more to be done. We're also laying the foundation for long-term improvement in education, housing and sustainability. Our ESSA team (Every Student Succeeds Act) has held community meetings with large turnouts across the state. For homelessness, the emergency proclamations gave us flexibility to help more people and launch the Kaka'ako Family Assessment Center. We have a clearer understanding of how we can measure effectiveness and keep making progress with service providers.

**Q: Do you think the workers in the various state departments share that sense of optimism about the future?**

**A:** Our employees are the most valuable assets we have in state government. They are committed public servants working hard every day to make a difference. They know the changes needed to make government more efficient and effective. We need to provide modern tools and find ways to support them so government can be more responsive to its citizens.

# Obama creates world's largest marine sanctuary

President Barack Obama returned to his home state last month to announce his decision to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, surrounding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The area will become the largest marine sanctuary on Earth, totaling 582,578 square miles — roughly twice the size of Texas.

“Few people understand the stakes better than our Pacific island leaders, because they’re already seeing the impact of rising temperatures and sea levels,” said Obama. “(This action) allows us to save and study the fragile ecosystem threatened by climate change.” The area is home to more than 7,000 marine species, one-quarter of which are found only in the Hawaiian archipelago.



President Obama announces Papahānaumokuākea expansion.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz submitted the expansion proposal supported by a coalition of several thousand Native Hawaiians, scientists, environmentalists and small-scale local fishermen. Governor Ige agreed that the plan provided a balanced approach for the long-term health of the ecosystem and protection of “our natural and cultural resources for our keiki and our collective future,” he said. To learn more about the site, go to [papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://papahanaumokuakea.gov). Also, in Hilo visit the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center or Honolulu’s Bishop Museum for “Journeys: Heritage of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands” through Jan. 29, 2017.

## IUCN’s legacy and the work ahead: ‘One canoe, one island, one planet’

For 10 days last month, Hawai‘i was at the center of global attention as more than 10,000 participants from 192 countries met at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to discuss how to move the planet from “a tipping point to a turning point,” with the link between island culture and the natural world at the forefront.



Lalakea Foundation dancers drew a standing ovation.

Joining the delegates were 1,000 students who attended a “Students’ Day Youth Challenge.” As part of the Congress Legacy Initiative, First lady Dawn Amano-Ige announced \$60,000 had been donated from Kamehameha Schools, the Harold K.L.Castle Foundation and the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation to fund school conservation projects.

The governor told the international audience, “The conclusion of the IUCN Congress is the beginning of the real work. Hawai‘i is committed to working with our global partners to make change happen.”



Gov. Ige at IUCN Congress.

The governor detailed his **Sustainable Hawai‘i Initiative**, which includes:

- Protecting 30 percent of our highest priority watersheds by 2030;
- Effectively managing 30 percent of our nearshore ocean waters by 2030;
- Doubling the state’s local food production by 2020;
- Developing the first Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan to prevent, detect and control invasive species;
- Reaching 100 percent renewable energy use in the electricity sector by 2045; and
- Joining the Global Island Partnership to develop locally and culturally appropriate models for sustainability.

Why 30 percent? According to scientists, this number represents a “tipping point” or crucial marker beyond which it is difficult to reverse negative effects. One thing is certain: Hawai‘i left its mark on a world stage at the Congress, along with a set of 100 commitments approved by the delegates to chart a better course for Island Earth.



(from left) Singer Jack Johnson (center, back) joined the the Students’ Day planning team; artist Wyland showed DLNR’s Kekoa Kaluhiwa and Suzanne Case his mural at the Hawai‘i- Pacific Pavilion; Irene Inouye, Japan’s first lady Akie Abe and Hawai‘i’s first lady Dawn Amano-Ige at the Ocean Summit; and Hōkūle‘a navigator Nainoa Thompson with the governor and first lady.



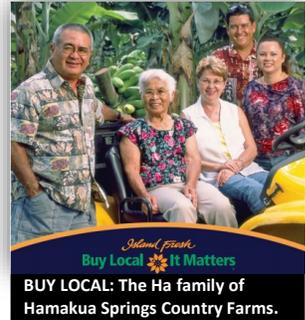
# Grow local, buy local drives ag department's goals

Photo by Grady Timmons

When you live in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, food security takes on a whole new meaning. Currently, about 85 percent of the food we consume locally has to be imported from outside Hawai'i. The state's goal is to double local food production by 2020 — transitioning from sugar and pineapple to diversified crops that can meet consumer and energy demands.

To make that happen, Governor Ige and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) plan to take action in several areas to help Hawai'i reach its goals. They include:

- Providing more support for farmers with start-up capital and state long-term leases;
- Buying land in Central O'ahu, on Kaua'i and other areas for local production and small family farms;
- Revitalizing dairy, egg and livestock production on O'ahu and the neighbor islands;
- Encouraging a new generation of farmers with programs such as the Agricultural Business Incubator;
- Coordinating statewide water-related policies;
- Ramping up the "Buy Local" campaign and farm-to-school program.



"The average age of farmers statewide is around 60, which isn't far from the national norm," said Scott Enright, HDOA director. "So who will be the next generation of farmers? Most of them are going to need land and capital. That's why we've been working with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Legislature to acquire thousands of acres on O'ahu going into production now."

Enright said the state needs to be more strategic in tracking what is being imported and what is being grown. "We can effect change in local fresh fruits, vegetables and livestock products — the perimeter of a grocery store," said Enright. "But we're not going to be competitive in processed food and canned goods. Those will always be imported. It's more of a commodity-by-commodity view. People say they'd support buying local products, but only up to a certain price point. We're competing with other countries and states like California. Our food metrics project will show what we're importing and price points for what crops to grow."

Enright said the farm-to-table, buy local movement is part of a nationwide trend, spurred by high-profile chefs and an appreciation of fresh, homegrown produce. "We just need more Ed Kenneys, Alan Wongs and Roy Yamaguchis," he added. He said the challenge is to balance land use to meet the housing shortage with acreage that could be farmed to meet our food security needs.

Enright said HDOA has just 240 employees on a tight budget to oversee everything from quality assurance to monitoring pesticide use to guarding against invasive species. As for the state's agriculture outlook, he remains optimistic. "HDOA employees do amazing work on behalf of agriculture in Hawai'i," he said. "With strong support from Gov. Ige, we'll be able to accomplish much more."

## Hearings set for new biosecurity plan

Little red fire ants. Zika and dengue. Rapid 'ohi'a death. If it seems we in the islands are being assaulted year-round by biological threats large and small, that's because we are. To combat these threats, the state's first Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan has been developed to provide a comprehensive approach to the problem.

Public meetings on the plan will be held this month to share details of how government agencies and community partners plan to coordinate efforts, improve policies, and identify the staffing and resources needed. "Our threat of invasive species is global," said Governor Ige. "This biosecurity plan spells out the roles of our partnerships statewide." The plan includes pre-border policies to prevent invasive species from coming to Hawai'i; border policies to support inspection of incoming items; and post-border policies to control invasives once they're here.

"States are seeing invasive species they've never had before — some of it due to climate change," said Department of Agriculture director Scott Enright. "We're not unique in having invasive species; we are unique sitting at the crossroads of East and West, where species come from all over. That's why we need to work together to take action." The public hearing schedule includes:

- Tuesday, Oct. 4, 6 - 8 p.m., McKinley High cafeteria, Honolulu
- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 6 - 8 p.m., Wilcox Elementary cafeteria, Lihu'e
- Thursday, Oct. 6, 6 - 8 p.m., Pomaikai Elementary cafeteria, Kahului
- Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 - 11 a.m., Kaunakakai Elementary cafeteria, Moloka'i

- Wednesday, Oct. 12, 6 - 8 p.m., Hilo High cafeteria, Hilo
  - Thursday, Oct. 13, 6 - 8 p.m., Kealakehe High cafeteria, Kailua-Kona
  - Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 - 11 a.m., Lana'i High & Elementary cafeteria
- The plan can be downloaded at <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>.



# New Kaka'ako center offers hope to homeless families

A year ago, some 300 people were living in tents in Kaka'ako Waterfront Park — many with small children. Today, the population has dwindled to about 50 as state agencies and community partners worked together to get people off the streets and into housing.

This teamwork has also produced the state's new Family Assessment Center — turning a musty Kaka'ako shed into a helping hand for homeless families. From contractors who donated their time to state departments who fast-tracked the project through the governor's emergency proclamations, the goal was to rethink how best to help families with kids — and break the cycle of homelessness, said Scott Morishige, the governor's homelessness coordinator.



Catholic Charities CEO Jerry Rauckhorst and Gov. Ige at the Family Assessment Center.



The state team is dedicated to helping families find housing.

"It's amazing what a year can bring," Gov. David Ige said at the blessing ceremony last month. "To think what this site looked like, what Kaka'ako looked like, 12 or 16 months ago — it truly has been a remarkable transformation."

The center, operated by Catholic Charities, will offer short-term shelter and aims to move homeless families quickly into more permanent housing. "The tide is turning," said Morishige. "Our state is moving forward with a unified strategy (of) affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety."

## ESSA team presents draft 'blueprint'

The governor's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) team is rolling out its preliminary report with a second round of public meetings, based on input from more than 1,000 town hall participants statewide.

In addition to sessions already held on Kaua'i and in Kona, the schedule includes: Oct. 5, Hilo High, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 6, Campbell High, 6 p.m.; Oct. 19, Baldwin High, Maui, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, Mililani High, 6 p.m.; Oct. 26, Kahuku High, 6 p.m.; and Nov. 2, Moanalua High, 6 p.m.

The blueprint is meant to be a grassroots reflection of what people want to see in their public schools. The community feedback will help shape the Department of Education's strategic plan and the state's ESSA plan for federal funding, which is due by March 7, 2017.

## State volunteers cool schools with 'sweat equity'



An army of state volunteers turned out to help cool Campbell High and Ewa Beach Elementary.

Governor Ige and about 180 volunteers spent a Saturday recently in a heat abatement service project at two West O'ahu schools. The group included members of the governor's cabinet and staff, the state departments of education and defense and others to help keep overall costs down.

Funded by Hawaii 3R's and the DOE's facilities maintenance budget, the group planted trees and shrubs at Campbell High School to reduce sunlight on buildings and absorb heat. At Ewa Beach Elementary, the crew installed 3,500 LED bulbs to reduce lighting costs by more than 20 percent. "The DOE is making progress in cooling classrooms, and we wanted to let our public school students, teachers and staff know we value them," said the governor.

## 'Code Challenge' picks winners



Courtesy Office of Enterprise Technology Services

Two teams shared top honors at the Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge with app solutions to help homelessness and jail visitations. A team (left) from Kamehameha Schools took 1st place in the student division.

## Just in case you were wondering...

Trivia buffs and serious researchers will be glad to know the 2015 State of Hawai'i Data Book is now available at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) website at [dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook). The publication covers such areas as population, business, education, labor, energy, government, tourism and transportation.

Talk story with Gov. Ige and department heads at the **Maui Community Connection**, Oct. 5, UH Maui College  
Registration, 5 p.m.; event starts 5:30 p.m.

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