



A Sustainable Hawai'i: What it means for us

A home we can afford, a living wage, an island community protected and preserved. These are some of the basics Governor Ige and his team are focusing on to create a more “sustainable” Hawai'i for all of us. This edition provides an update on how the state's programs are working together to move us forward.

Affordable housing: Helping people build better lives

MORE AFFORDABLE housing built statewide, with 8,700 units completed (more than 62 percent affordable), 3,200 under construction and thousands more planned, thanks to state initiatives. “Since 2015, we have used state funds to attract private partners so we can build housing local residents can afford,” said the governor. “Now we can see that plan is working.”

- **More low- to middle-income rental units available** - The lower rents help working families save for the future. “Reserved housing” policies also help local families buy a unit at reduced rates in a market-rate building.
- **Public housing access improved** -The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority is streamlining its application process and working on projects to expand affordable senior rentals and new models for public housing.

HOMELESSNESS: Statewide solutions launched - More people moved from homelessness to homes - In 2019, more than 7,000 individuals statewide were counseled, placed and moved off the streets.

- **More people helped through LEAD program** - The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program has expanded statewide. Instead of arrests, the program has reduced drug use and emergency room visits and increased housing placement.
- **'Ohana Zone funds expand shelters, housing - \$30 million in legislative funds** launched new 2019 programs in Hilo and Kona, the Homeless Outreach and Navigation to the Unsheltered (HONU) program and Kumuwai, a new O'ahu rental project for seniors who earn no more than 50 percent of Area Median Income. Vouchers using 'Ohana Zone funds are helping with rental costs. More housing projects for Maui and Kaua'i are planned in 2020.
- **Kauhale village concept advances** - The lieutenant governor's office is developing a kauhale village concept that combines low-cost housing, such as tiny homes, with shared facilities and support services.

DHHL waitlist reduced, options increased - More housing choices offered through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with turnkey homes and vacant lots for beneficiaries to build a home suitable to their needs.

- **The first Subsistence Agricultural Homestead lots** are advancing for South Hilo to encourage family and community self-sufficiency through farming.
- **New DHHL rules for affordable rentals** will continue to expand options for beneficiaries across the islands.



Mayor Kim, Brandee Menino of Hope Services and Scott Morishige with legislators Ruderman, San Buenaventura and Kahele at new Hilo shelter.



(top) Krysyann Durrett thanked Gov. Ige and Mutual Housing's Dave Nakamura at the groundbreaking for Kulia at Ho'opili, an affordable rental project. A similar project helped her family save for their own home. (bottom) DHHL director William Aila, Jr. with beneficiary Nani Kinimaka Davis and her 'ohana, joined by Tyler Gomes and Rep. Ty Cullen. She accepted a lot in DHHL's Ka'uluokaha'i project in Kapolei.

Investing in infrastructure for the future

Restored vital routes hit by natural disasters - The state Department of Transportation completed major repairs to keep people on Kaua'i and O'ahu safe from future flooding and rockfalls. On Hawai'i island, HDOT opened major roads damaged by the Kīlauea eruption and seismic activity.

- **Reduced carbon footprint for energy, cost savings** - HDOT's energy-efficient systems and PV panels ensure a 40 percent reduction at state airports, harbors and highways and millions of dollars in energy cost savings over the next several years. HDOT also expects to use carbon-injected concrete in building roads and bridges, which reduces the amount of CO2 released into the environment.

- **Airport modernization advances statewide** - Residents and visitors can now take advantage of rideshare pick-up locations at state airports and a new rental car facility at Kahului Airport. Daniel K. Inouye International Airport also completed Diamond Head Concourse renovations and became the ninth U.S. airport to complete improvements to accommodate the Air Bus 380 service from Japan.

- **Harbor modernization on track for 2020 completion** - Improvements to the Kapālama Container Terminal will reduce cost and time in transferring cargo — the lifeline for receiving goods for the islands.

- **New Keahuolu Courthouse completed; new Aloha Stadium planned** - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification is being sought for the new Kona courthouse, a successful collaboration of the Judiciary, the Legislature, the legal community and the Department of Accounting and General Services. A new stadium entertainment district is planned, to include a 35,000-seat facility and stores, housing and entertainment venues.



HDOT made major repairs to the Pali Highway and neighbor island routes. A new stadium entertainment district is planned.

Education, jobs for an innovation economy



Entrepreneurs' Sandbox: a space for 21st century start-ups.

UH system developing workforce in high-demand areas - From health care to cybersecurity, the 10 UH campuses are training people for the state's greatest needs. UH Mānoa students' on-time graduation rate has doubled in the last decade, and its graduate programs have received national recognition.

- **2019 HACC provides innovative solutions for government challenges** - Nearly 200 student and community coders competed for cash prizes with tech solutions related to "green" loans, EV charging stations and sharing sustainable ideas among schools. The annual event, inspired by Governor Ige, nurtures local talent for future jobs.

- **Kaka'ako's Entrepreneurs Sandbox promotes innovation sector jobs** - The Sandbox, which opened in fall 2019, provides an event space, digital media studio, large projection screen, meeting rooms, and a hub for the tech and creative media community — part of the governor's effort to promote economic diversification and create more high-paying jobs.

- **Work by UH researchers protect Hawai'i** - Climate change, coral reef management, cancer discoveries, incoming asteroids and more scientific research is helping to keep residents protected.

HIDOE 2030 Promise Plan to guide public schools – The plan for the next 10 years is based on five bold promises to students: **Hawai'i, Equity, School Design, Empowerment and Innovation**. Based on input from several thousand community participants, the plan is expected to be approved by the Board of Education in early 2020.

- **Grow Our Own Teachers Initiative** -HIDOE and the UH College of Education are helping more residents become teachers in priority areas with fully subsidized tuition of up to \$20,000 per person annually.

- **Early College offerings keep growing** - More students statewide are earning college credits toward an associate or bachelor's degree while still in high school to save on college tuition and get a head start on careers.

- **More federal funds to improve facilities, resources** - HIDOE secured sizeable grants to advance dual language and literacy, building renovation and student mental health in low-income families.

- **'Ohana Readers pilot project launched on Moloka'i** - The program, coordinated by First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, several community partners and state departments, will deliver free books to the island's keiki through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



Governor and Mrs. Ige, family members, DOE officials, military personnel and students at the dedication of new facilities at Solomon Elementary.

Protecting the ‘āina and our communities

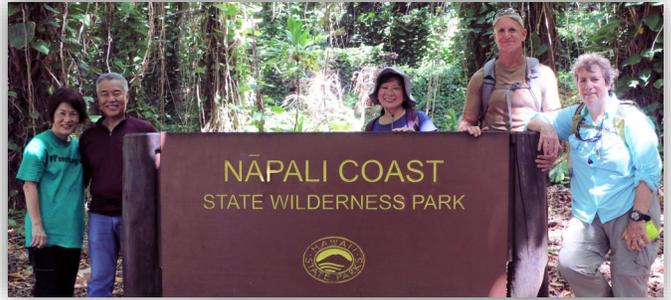
Saving coral, sustaining water for everyone - It's easy to take for granted the reefs that surround us and the water that sustains us. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), working with many stakeholders, initiated the **Coral Pledge** to prevent further damage to this fragile ecosystem.

- **Equitable water supplies** for renewable energy, Hawaiian homesteading and farming - The state has updated plans and agreements to ensure the long-term protection of water resources, most notably for Kaua'i and Maui.

- **New energy-efficient DLNR building for Maui** - Community members can now meet in Wailuku with DLNR staff from four divisions.

- **“Responsible tourism” promoted by Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA)** - While tourism growth continues to drive Hawai‘i’s economy, HTA is allocating more funds to protect the state’s natural resources and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture along with a **“kuleana campaign”** to educate visitors about safety, conservation and Hawaiian values.

- **Protecting, planning for sea level rise** -The state Department of Transportation estimates that about 15 percent of the state’s coastal highways will be affected by sea level rise by 2100. Short-and long-term solutions are being planned for discussion with the communities affected.



Protecting areas such as the Nāpali Coast and coral reefs is a high priority for DLNR and the Ige administration.



A GEM\$ program helped Highway Inn's Monica Toguchi Ryan and Russell Ryan install solar panels.

- **Kaua‘i’s North Shore reopens famed Nāpali Coast trail and parks with new protections** - From flood devastation to a model for the entire state — the communities of Hā‘ena and Wainiha celebrated the reopening of Kūhiō Highway and new approaches to managing visitor traffic to protect the natural resources of the area.

- **Energy financing provides savings for residents** - Low and moderate-income households, renters, non-profits and small businesses now have a chance to lower their electricity bills through the **new Green Energy Money \$aver (GEM\$) On-Bill Program**. The program provides loans to install solar PV systems and helps more people lower their energy costs.

- **More clean energy projects supported** - The Public Utilities Commission approved numerous clean energy projects, programs and infrastructure investments in 2019 to accelerate progress toward its 100 percent renewable energy goal for electricity generation.

Growing local ag to sustain us

More locally grown food for schools, other state programs -The DOE’s ‘Aina Pono, farm-to-school program and the new farm-to-state program for local correctional facilities are building a network to increase island food production. The state Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is producing more timely information for local farmers to help in doubling the state’s food production. Also, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige’s **“Jump Start Breakfast”** program in the schools promoted the benefits of locally grown products.



Inmates at Waiawa Correctional Facility work on prison farm.

- **HDOA increasing local meat production** - The local beef and pork industries are benefiting from low-interest financing and legislative funding to develop harvesting capacity.

- **NELHA helps entrepreneur start-ups, state’s aquaculture industry** - UH and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority are joining with HATCH, the world’s first sustainable aquaculture accelerator program, to attract investments and create jobs.

- **Hands-on ag training for inmates** - UH GoFarm is partnering with **Waiawa Correctional Facility** to teach inmates how to grow a variety of produce. The vegetables are harvested for meals at the facility. At the **Women’s Community Correctional Center**, the female inmates are learning job skills, thanks to the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle. The women develop skills in plant propagation and food preparation as well as care for goats who eat invasive vegetation.

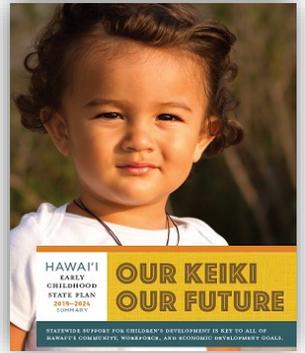


(top) Fern Elementary principal Glen Miyasato, parent Hala Leitu and Abriella — fans of Jump Start breakfast. Gov. Ige with farmer Larry Jeffs.

Improving community health, well-being

More partnerships for family, child welfare and early learning - State departments and the Executive Office on Early Learning are working together to improve programs and resources for keiki and families, with help from the National Governors' Association and other grant funding.

- **Kupuna Caregiver participation increased** - More working caregivers received financial assistance for support services this past year, according to the Executive Office on Aging.
- **Better coordination for substance abuse treatment** - A new system to help people with substance abuse problems — **Hawai'i Coordinated Access Resource Entry System (CARES)** — was launched with the Department of Health and UH Mānoa. The goal is to develop a call center and service referral system for better access to addiction treatment and behavioral health services. Also **"take-back boxes,"** including those at pharmacies, promote safe disposal of prescription medication.



Gov. Ige and Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald join DOH's Eddie Mersereau and judicial speakers at the Mental Health Summit.

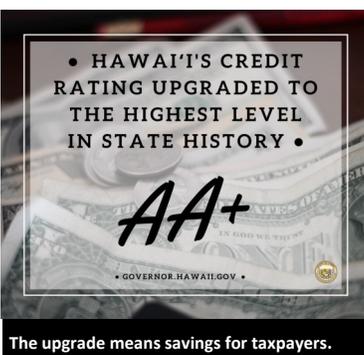
- **Working together to better treat mental illness** - The Department of Health (DOH) and the Judiciary held a **first-in-the-nation statewide summit** to develop better community and court responses to mental illness. The plan is to work together to develop better treatment facilities for early intervention — especially to help those who are homeless or dealing with substance abuse.
- **Internet sexual predators arrested and multistate efforts in health and environmental protection** - The Department of the Attorney General coordinated undercover operations with other government agencies to arrest 22 sexual predators seeking juveniles over the Internet. Hawai'i also joined other states in multiple cases involving rules related to abortion counseling, healthcare services and environmental monitoring.

- **Historic amounts of emergency funds for disaster recovery** - The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is administering record amounts of funding to help residents recover from the 2018 flooding and Kīlauea eruption disasters.
- **Hawai'i's consumers protected** - The state's Office of Consumer Protection received some \$4.7 million from enforcement efforts related to deceptive trade practices, data breaches and improper marketing. A new **"one-stop" BusinessCheck site** created by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs helps consumers protect themselves from fraud. DCCA also increased public WiFi access statewide, especially in rural areas.



The state continues to help residents recover from the 2018 volcanic eruption and flooding.

Better use of taxpayer dollars



The upgrade means savings for taxpayers.

Highest credit rating in Hawai'i's history - The state's credit rating has been upgraded from AA to AA+, based on the state's resilient economy and continued strong performance. This means potentially millions of taxpayer dollars saved on interest payments and better positions the state for the next recession, reducing the need to raise taxes or cut services.

- **Tax system transformed for better service** - The **Tax System Modernization project** has completed the four-year process of converting millions of records, with taxpayers already using Hawaii Tax Online to process payments and returns.
- **New workforce hiring, payroll systems** - A Wiki Wiki Hire pilot program helped the Department of Human Services and the Department of Transportation quickly fill needed positions to provide much-needed services. Also in 2019 all state employees successfully transitioned to a modern payroll system, transforming the way the state conducts business.



"Sustainability, in its broadest sense, touches every aspect of our lives. It's housing, jobs, education, the environment and our people's well-being. I believe if we work together as a community we can achieve our goals."

— Governor David Y. Ige



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