



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor • May 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

The first two bills of our administration I signed into law were SB36 and SB1. These two bills are just some that will make Hawai'i a better place for all of our citizens. SB36 makes our communities safer, so we can prosecute people who have committed crimes by clarifying the methods by which a person may be tried and sentenced. It also prohibits multiple attempts to initiate a felony

prosecution for the same offense in certain situations. SB1 reaffirms a woman's right to choose, by protecting the right to abortion under Hawai'i law and protecting the health care workers who provide such services. I also signed several "good government" bills into law that will increase government transparency and access to public information for anyone who is seeking it.

Since inauguration, we hit the ground running and we don't intend to slow our pace. There are many more things we plan to accomplish before the end of our first year in office and we appreciate the work of those helping us to achieve early "wins." May is the month to celebrate those who take pride in providing public service, and I hope you will thank someone who is serving in this capacity. Whether it be a teacher, a social worker, or even a clerk in a public office. Everyone moving together in the same direction is what makes government work, and we are honored to be a part of this team working on behalf of Hawai'i. We will continue to highlight our people and actions that showcase why Hawai'i is a great place to live, work, and play. We hope this monthly communication helps to build trust and transparency in state government.

Josh Green

We're Hiring

The State of Hawai'i Executive Branch participated in the Hawai'i Career Expo staged by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser last month to recruit people to join the public service sector. Nineteen state departments and administratively attached agencies were on-site at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall to meet with interested applicants who were looking for a new career.

The State of Hawai'i is actively recruiting to fill department vacancies to bolster state services and programs that are offered to Hawai'i communities on all islands. Annually, close to 50,000 employees work to provide the services that help keep our state running. The State of Hawai'i is always hiring.

Top 10 positions that the State of Hawai'i is recruiting to fill:

1. Office Assistant/Secretary
2. Adult Corrections Officer
3. Human Services Professional
4. Engineer
5. Eligibility Worker
6. General Laborer
7. Nurse
8. Janitor
9. Information Technology
10. Librarian

Various Departments will also be at the Star-Advertiser's Career Expo events on August 2 and October 18.

Mahalo to our hard-working employees who contribute daily to the growth and development of Hawai'i's economy, provide vital services to our residents and visitors alike, and make Hawai'i a better place to live.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) encourages all those seeking jobs to visit <https://jobs.hawaii.gov> to see positions currently available. If you don't see a job you're looking for, you can fill out a job interest card on the DHRD website and you'll be notified via email when a position becomes available.

About the Newsletter Design

Created by longtime local design firm Eric Woo Design Inc., the newsletter header, or nameplate, features symbolism that represents the title, "A New Path Forward." The background color transitions from dark to lighter green as a metaphor for moving toward a goal, or light. The lei encircling our major islands represents both the giver (Governor Green's Administration) and the recipient (the people of Hawai'i) and shows the connection guided by affection and respect. The repeated, orange triangular kapa 'ohe design visualizes a path to the future and reflects that forward movement is rarely perfectly straight.



New Contract Approved by 92% of Public School Teachers

In a news conference at the State Capitol on April 17, Governor Green was joined by the Hawai'i State Teacher's Association (HSTA), the Department of Education (DOE), the Budget and Finance Director, and the Human Resources Development Director to announce a new tentative contract agreement to increase the pay for teachers and make it easier to recruit and retain them.

The new four-year contract deal includes \$577 million for pay increases of approximately 14.5 percent over the term of the contract, including a 32 percent increase for new entry-level hires. It also added a new pay class for veteran educators who have been stuck at the top level of the pay scale, some for more than a decade.

HSTA president Osa Tui Jr. said the new contract is the strongest the union has had since 2013, and he thanked Governor Green for getting involved in the conversations to help them get "to the finish line." HSTA represents approximately 13,500 public school teachers statewide. In-person ratification voting for



members was conducted on April 26 with a 92 percent approval rate.

"This is another great step forward in raising pay and improving the quality of life for our teachers, who we value tremendously," said Gov. Green. "I was honored to engage personally in the negotiations, to help move the needle forward toward this crucial collective bargaining agreement for our teachers and our keiki. Many teachers are living paycheck to paycheck. Now, entry level teachers will start at \$50,000 or more, and I thought that was an

important milestone for us to achieve – and I'm so grateful to everyone who worked on this to make that happen."

DOE Superintendent Keith Hayashi said, "This helps elevate the teaching profession across the pipeline, from beginning teachers to veteran teachers to non-traditional teachers, while supporting their professional growth."

To see the details of the new agreement, visit: <https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/tentative-settlement-reached-14-5-raise-over-4-years-class-viii-among-key-changes/>.

Hawai'i's Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are Champions



Jomel Duldulao, the O'ahu Ombudsman, and Lynn Niitani, the Volunteer Coordinator, attend one of many fairs to inform the public of services available.

Since its establishment in 1975, the Hawai'i Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Program has tirelessly protected the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of nearly 13,000 of Hawai'i's most frail and dependent individuals living in Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities.

In Hawai'i, there are five types of facilities licensed or certified to provide LTC service. It can be challenging to navigate, but Ombudsmen help via phone, email or in-person consultations to evaluate the situation and provide invaluable information to assist those who will be impacted by the LTC service they select.

Certified Ombudsmen also conduct visits with residents and family members to identify service-related concerns and work with LTC service staff to investigate and resolve issues that impact residents' quality of care. Ombudsmen also have the ability to refer cases to police, adult protective services, and Office of Health Care Assurance, when appropriate.

LTCO is just one of the services provided at no cost to the public from the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). To learn more about EOA and the programs it offers, visit health.hawaii.gov/ea.



Equity and Recognition in the Justice System

Governor Green selected two new female judges to serve in the Hawai'i State Judiciary. Michelle L. Drewyer was his first judicial appointment and will serve as a Circuit Court Judge in the Second Circuit (Maui County), and Kimberly Tsumoto Guidry was appointed to serve as a Judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Gov. Green praised both of his appointments for their commitment in serving the community and their knowledge and experience in their respective fields of law. With the appointment of both women, the number of female state

judges and/or justices appointed now exceeds the number of males by one, making it the first time in Hawai'i's history that there are more female judges than males.

Drewyer will preside over cases of the Second Circuit Court of Maui County. Guidry will serve as the next Intermediate Appellate Court Judge in Honolulu.

In addition to the new judicial appointments, the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession awarded Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna its most prestigious award, the 2023 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. The award recognizes five outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence and paved the way for other women in the legal profession.

The National Asian Pacific Bar Association which nominated McKenna said of her, "She epitomizes the spirit of Margaret Brent through her values, lived experiences, courage, and most importantly, her tireless dedication to inspiring and uplifting women and traditionally marginalized people with compassion, positivity, and optimism."



From left to right: Justice Michelle Drewyer, Justice Kimberly Tsumoto Guidry, and Justice Sabrina McKenna.

Supporting Sustainability for Future Generations Through a Pledge to Our Keiki



Governor Green, Palau President Surangel S. Whippis Jr., Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, EarthDay.org, Kanu Hawai'i, government and business leaders, and students from local schools joined together at the Hawai'i State Capitol on April 21 to sign the Pledge to Our Keiki. The Pledge was created by students statewide in the hope of sharing the message that Hawai'i is more than just a place to visit; it is an island home to many. It asks that people pledge to treat Hawai'i with respect and reverence to preserve our islands' future.

Modeled after the Palau Pledge, which was created to protect the environment of Palau, the Pledge to Our Keiki aims to provide Hawai'i with a way to better manage tourism responsibly and serve as a model of sustainability. It asks for everyone to

(continued on next page)



Supporting Sustainability for Future Generations (continued from page 3)



President of Palau Surangel S. Whipps Jr. with Governor Green and First Lady Jaime Kanani Green.

be respectful of the environment and culture, and for all people to conduct themselves in a way that protects what makes Hawai'i so unique.

Evan Raskin, national campaign manager at EarthDay.org was in attendance and said, "We are uniting with stakeholders of all backgrounds to Invest in Our Planet for Earth Day and every day that follows. In Hawai'i, this is beginning to manifest in the Pledge to Our Keiki. When leaders across the islands uphold the pledge through bold climate policy, pollution remediation,

and required environmental literacy in both public education and the tourism sector, they are building the foundation for a prosperous future that communities everywhere should emulate."

Through an agreement between non-profit Kanu Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Department of Education, students were able to participate in volunteer events to benefit the environment, and teach social responsibility and promote service-learning opportunities.

After signing the pledge on April 21, the Governor's office followed through on its commitment on Earth Day, April 22, by participating with Aqualung, PADI, and numerous dive shops and community members in an attempt at the largest self-organized dive and beach cleanup at Ala Moana Beach Park. Hundreds of divers combed the waters for debris and brought it up for

those on land to assist with disposal. Debris totaling more than 5,000 pounds was hauled away at the end of the event.

Teams also participated in cleaning the beach and various areas of the park. It is estimated that 2.42 tons of marine debris was removed, making for a much cleaner environment to be enjoyed by all.



See the Pledge to Our Keiki as written by Hawai'i students here: <https://www.kanuhawaii.org/campaign/pledge-to-our-keiki/>.

Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor Show Support for the Hawai'i Foodbank



The Lieutenant Governor and Second Gentleman Michael Luke, who are co-chairs of the 24th Annual State Employees' Food Drive, kicked off the effort at a University of Hawai'i baseball game for the first time. The drive runs through May 19 and this year's goal is to raise \$150,000 and 70,000 pounds of food. Lt. Gov's office is accepting monetary and food donations to reduce food insecurity across Hawai'i.

The Lt. Gov's office also conducted a two-day event of food and music on the 5th floor of the State Capitol to generate more donations and awareness for the campaign. "As the Foodbank's largest coalition, state employees have a tremendous opportunity to raise funds and reach out to their networks so we can feed Hawai'i families. Food insecurity is a public health issue, and it will take all of us working together to make an impact for our communities," said Lt. Gov. Luke.



In support of this year's campaign, the Office of the Governor banded together to hold a chili and rice and bake sale fundraiser on April 24 to raise funds for the Hawai'i Foodbank. People came from various offices to show their support and within the hour, the delicious chili made by the Governor and executive team sold out! The effort raised \$2,548 which equates to 5,478 meals for Hawai'i's hungry.

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

We invite you to stay connected with us!

- ☎ 808-586-0034
- ✉ gov.communications@hawaii.gov
- 🌐 governor.hawaii.gov
- 📘 @govjoshgreen
- 📷 @govjoshgreen
- 🐦 @govjoshgreenmd

