

Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor · June 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

From the beginning when we began our Administration's work, we outlined the priorities that we would be focusing on. One of these was seeking solutions to support the homeless by taking actions that would work toward achieving long-lasting change. Within the pages of this newsletter, you will find one such project, Pūlama Ola, our Administration's first medical respite

kauhale. It was a collaboration of many hands, working together to swiftly resolve the issue of patients being discharged from urban hospitals back into homelessness.

Now, these individuals will have more time to recover, so they don't end up right back in the hospital. It also showcases our commitment to serving our unsheltered neighbors, while we work to establish a network that can create long-term solutions for homelessness.

While Pūlama Ola is just temporary, it is the beginning of what we intend to create to help resolve chronic homelessness. By the end of our first term, our plan is to have a network of kauhale with the support services needed to get people back on track. Also in this issue, we continue to celebrate the achievements of our people, recognizing our public servants as well as showcasing some of the programs being implemented by various state departments to benefit the community.

We are thankful for your continued support as we prepare to continue our work in serving our residents.

Josh Green

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is June 5 through June 11

Everyone Can Prevent Medicare Fraud

More than 10,000 Americans turn 65 every day. In 2021, an estimated \$17 million reportedly were lost to online Medicare scams in Hawai'i. Medicare loses an estimated \$70 billion each year due to false claims. Every day, scams and fraud affect older adults, families, and caregivers across the state and nation, often costing them time, money, and well-being.

"Medicare fraud is devastating, but Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawai'i, as part of a national network, helps to preserve the Medicare program for years to come," said Norma Kop, SMP Hawai'i Director. "We teach people how to prevent fraud from happening by learning how to detect and report medical billing errors."

SMP, which is part of the State Department of Health, teaches individuals how to protect their identities, assets, and legacy. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, to be observed June 5-11, 2023, allows SMP and its partners to share education and activities from Waipi'o to Hawai'i Kai, as well as on the neighbor islands, to educate and bring awareness within the community.

SMP Hawai'i can help individuals with questions, concerns, or complaints about suspicious activities, and its trained volunteer counselors can also assist with non-health-related fraud through referrals to the appropriate agencies or resources.

Find out what SMP Hawai'i will be doing during the month of June and ask for a free copy of *Hawai'i's Fraud Prevention and Resource Guide, 3rd edition*. Visit www.smphawaii.org to learn more or call 808-586-7281 Toll free: 1-800-296-9422.



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.



Community Day Volunteers Ready Pūlama Ola

On May 24, approximately 60 volunteers came together to prepare the housing spaces for Pūlama Ola, the first medical respite kauhale built by Governor Green's Administration. Comprised of 10 livable units, a medical unit, and a space for the project manager, the site will have round-the-clock security as well as staffing to assist with the needs of those who are housed there. Pūlama Ola will open in early June and serve those discharged from urban hospitals who still need medical care.



First Medical Respite Kauhale Prepares to Open

A blessing for the Administration's first medical respite kauhale was conducted May 26. Named Pūlama Ola – it speaks to a person's embrace of life, of health, of potential – and the kauhale's embrace of those who seek that health and life. The kauhale is housed in the backyard of the Governor's residence in the Department of Health parking lot. This community housing project will serve inpatient and emergency room patients discharged from urban Honolulu hospitals who would otherwise exit medical care into homelessness.

daily rounds for basic care needs. Construction was provided by the nonprofit HomeAid Hawai'i and the Kauhale will be operated by Project Vision Hawai'i.

Unlike the state's plan for permanent kauhale villages, which may include tiny homes, multi-family dwellings, apartment buildings, or other feasible forms – all run with a collaborative community-based focus; the medical respite kauhale is temporary.

"A project of this nature highlights this Administration's dedication to serving our unsheltered neighbors and finding solutions to the realities facing the unsheltered folks in our community," said James Koshiba, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. "An immediate response to the need for medical respite highlights the bold, quick action necessary to tackle the issues immediately as we work to create long-term, permanent solutions for affordable housing and help our unhoused neighbors statewide."

The state is simultaneously working with private and community-based partners to make available additional medical respite space within existing community facilities. As these spaces become available, the need for the medical respite kauhale will decline and units will be relocated to other areas, with the intention of being used at a long-term kauhale site.

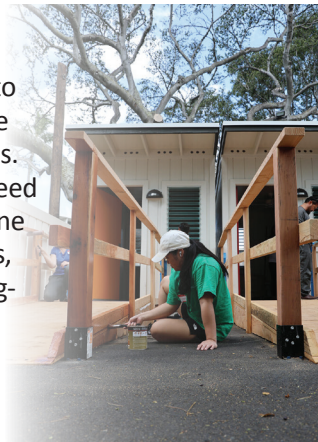
About 70 people attended the blessing including Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Senate President Ron Kouchi, about a dozen members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, donors, business and community leaders, partners, and various supporters.

Dozens of volunteers participated in the May 24 Community Day to help get the kauhale ready for the blessing, so that move-in day can occur as soon as operations are ready to accept tenants.



"By embracing the idea of 'yes in my backyard,' we have the power to create a more compassionate community that nurtures change from within. Our partners who have made this kauhale a reality have shown us that excellence and care can be emulated and that by working together, we can achieve long-lasting change," Governor Green shared with those attending the blessing. "Just as aloha comes from within and is shared outwardly, we too can embody the spirit of aloha and inspire others to do the same."

The medical respite kauhale, intended for hospital-discharged patients who do not require skilled nursing, but need a safe and stable place to continue to recover, will include round-the-clock staffing for intake, supervision, and care coordination. Registered nurses will also be on staff to make



May is Pride in Public Service Month – Ha'aheo



DBEDT Employee of the Year Keliann Yamamoto with Marlene Hiraoka of DBEDT's Business Development & Support Division

Service Recognition event which provides the opportunity for federal, state, and local governments to raise public

A proclamation made by Governor Green established May as Ha'aheo, Pride in Public Service Month.

On a national level, the Public Employees Roundtable and the Partnership for Public Service sponsor a nationwide Public

awareness of the work done on behalf of people and communities, and to reinforce pride in public service. It is celebrated annually during the first full week in May. For 2023, Public Service Recognition Week was observed from May 7 to 13.

"Pride in Public Service month provided us with an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the state workforce for its hard work, dedication, and commitment every single day. They deserve our respect, gratitude, and aloha for the work they do to ensure state agencies can care for our communities in a multitude of ways," said Brenna Hashimoto, director of the Department of Human Resources Development.



Left: Amanda Lui, Denise Garrahan, DBEDT Manager of the Year Donna Mau, and Kathy Yim of the Hawai'i State Energy Office's Operations Branch. **Middle:** Minh-Chau Chun, Lawrence Liu (celebrating 20 years of public service), Jennifer Chun, Jaycie Tanaka, and Yvonne Lam of DBEDT's Research & Economic Analysis Division. **Right:** Rene Kamita, Laura Meisinger (recipient of DBEDT's Merit Award), and Naomi Akamine of DBEDT's Research & Economic Analysis Division.



Hawai'i State Sheriffs Honored With Prestigious National "Best-Dressed" Law Enforcement Award

The Network Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD) announced the State of Hawai'i Sheriff Division as the winner of the 2023 NAUMD best-dressed public safety award for Police/Sheriffs' Departments. Each year, the NAUMD award committee looks at hundreds of nominations and considers appearance, functionality, policy standards for wear, historical content, and more in its decision to award the prestigious title. Agencies from across North America and several other countries compete for this much-desired award.

"This well-deserved award recognizes the diligent work of Chief Deputy Lanikoa Dobrowolsky and his team in the Sheriff's Division, to do the research to create a uniform design that is historically meaningful and

culturally relevant, while also being practical to meet the modern needs of his uniformed division members," said Governor Josh Green. "I share in the department's pride in receiving this hard-earned honor."

The initiative to change the uniforms in 2021 addressed the supply issues that sheriffs faced for many years. The State of Hawai'i Sheriff Division adopted its new uniforms in 2021 after a rigorous evaluation period. The uniforms perpetuate the honored legacy of Hawai'i Sheriffs and reflect respect for the traditions of the many agencies that now make up the modern Sheriff Division.

The colors of the new uniforms represent portions of the uniforms from the history of the sheriffs.

- The green trousers represent the color of the uniforms that were worn by the State of Hawai'i Law Enforcement Officers, previously under the State Attorney General, prior to being merged with the Sheriff Division in 1990.
- The Silver Tan Shirt represents the tan-on-tan uniform worn by Hawai'i State Sheriffs in the 1980s.
- The Brown Campaign Cover represents the legacy headgear worn by the sheriff and his deputies all the way back to the birth of the sheriffs in Hawai'i under the monarchy.

The Sheriff Division was established in 1846, making it the oldest law enforcement agency within the State of Hawai'i and the only law enforcement agency in the nation to have ever directly reported to a king.

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State Sheriffs Honored With Prestigious National Award (continued from page 3)

“This national award validates the decision made to change the sheriffs uniform. Deputies were asked to collaborate with the uniform manufacturer 911 Supply Inc. to come up with a new uniform that they could all be proud of,” said Public Safety Department Director Tommy Johnson. “I want to personally thank our deputies and other staff members who worked on this project and 911 Supply Inc. for their quality work and willingness to help with this uniform transition.”

Chief Deputy Lanikoa Dobrowolsky accepted the award in Atlanta, Georgia on behalf of the PSD Sheriff Division.



The State of Hawai'i Sheriff Division is one of only two sheriff organizations in the United States to be situated within state government, versus county government. The Sheriff Division has 325 deputies statewide

and performs services such as judicial support, patrol of areas within state jurisdiction, executive protection (the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's protective details), canine operations, special operations, and investigations.

Working to Create Awareness Around Preparing for Hurricanes and Other Natural Disasters



May 21 through 27 was proclaimed “Hurricane Preparedness Week” by Governor Josh Green, M.D. during the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 2023 Hurricane Forecast News Conference. NOAA's outlook for the 2023 Pacific hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, predicted a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, a 30 percent chance of an above-normal season, and a 30 percent chance of a below-normal season.

“It only takes one storm to affect your life, your family, and your community; and before hurricane season begins, the State of Hawai'i encourages everyone

to learn about their vulnerability to hurricane hazards, develop an emergency plan, and have two weeks of emergency supplies to ensure the safety of ourselves and our loved ones,” said Governor Green.

Governor Green also stressed the fact that households with kūpuna in need of medication have at least two weeks of medication on hand in case of emergency, as a disruption caused by an event like a hurricane would impact the ability to have access to needed medications.

This summer, NOAA plans to implement a series of upgrades and improvements that will expand the capacity of its operational supercomputing system by 20 percent. This increase in computing capability will enable NOAA to improve and run more complex forecast models, including significant model upgrades this hurricane season.

In addition to creating more awareness of the upcoming hurricane season, Governor Green issued a special message to congratulate the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the All-Hazards Upgrade to the National Public Warning System

(NPWS) facility at KHKA-AM 1500, a Honolulu radio station.

KHKA was selected as a Primary Entry Point facility and is joining a network of 77 broadcast stations nationwide that serve as a designated, hardened national alert system during times of crisis. In the event of a catastrophic emergency, KHKA will turn over its programming to government agencies and other stakeholders to broadcast emergency messages to the community. KHKA is the first NPWS station in Hawai'i and is owned and operated by aio, LLC.



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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