



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor • September 2025

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

As we prepare for a new season, let us reflect on the positive progress made throughout the summer. In this time rife with national distrust and confusion, Hawai'i is more dedicated than ever to uplifting our people through kindness, honesty and aloha.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is now accepting land preservation grant applications for

FY 2026, offering protection of valuable Hawaiian lands. UH Mānoa unveiled its newest student housing facility, Hale Haukani, which will benefit students and faculty and ease the rental market.

Wildfire preparedness remains a top priority. An emergency proclamation I signed in July, directed the Hawai'i National Guard to keep an aircrew ready to augment first responder efforts. The proclamation, named Operation Ho'opauahi

(to extinguish fire), has allowed for critical assistance in two recent August fire events.

We also appreciate the Department of Accounting and General Services Land Survey Division for its essential role in supporting the Maui community after the 2023 wildfires. Its efforts have greatly aided affected residents and businesses in their rebuilding process. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa also organized a video cooking contest that engaged young cooks in learning to use local produce in their dishes.

I'm excited about all the state department projects and efforts to benefit the people of Hawai'i. They truly are committed to making Hawai'i a better community.

Mahalo,

Josh Green M.D.

New P3 Student Housing Facility Opens at UH Mānoa

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) recently unveiled Hale Haukani, a new \$170-million student housing complex on its campus. It officially opened on Aug. 18 with a blessing ceremony attended by Governor Josh Green, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, UH President Wendy Hensel and other UH officials and community partners. Developed through a public-private partnership (P3), the project was built with minimal state funding and tuition revenue.

"Today's opening is a testament to what's possible when government and private partners work together toward shared goals," said Governor Green. "I commend the University of Hawai'i for its success in using the P3 model to deliver Hale Haukani and RISE (Residences for Innovative Student Entrepreneurs). These projects not only improve the student experience but also contribute to our statewide efforts to expand housing options. Their impacts will be felt across Hawai'i for decades to come."



An example of a student's room at Hale Haukani.

Continued on page 2

Ke Ala Hou intends to elevate, recognize, and celebrate the hard work done by our state departments. Our goal is to share top achievements from our state employees, emphasize aloha and kindness in action and demonstrate caring leadership at the state level. It is our hope that by sharing these stories, we build trust and understanding in what we do everyday in service to you.



Scan the QR code to view our digital newsletter.



Governor Green, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke and UH President Wendy Hensel pose for a group photo with the developers and other leaders of the project at Hale Haukani blessing ceremony.

Hale Haukani consists of two residential towers, totaling 558 beds, as well as a new childcare center, retail space, study rooms, bike storage, laundry facilities and outdoor amenity decks. In line with Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke's Ready Keiki initiative, the new children's center will provide opportunities for UH pre-K educators and as many as 130 young students.

The project is intended primarily for graduate students and junior faculty, followed by undergraduate students. With the opening of the facility, UHM students will now have more than 4,000 beds available on or adjacent to campus, the most in the university's history.

The opening of Hale Haukani is expected to help ease pressure on Honolulu's rental market by freeing up off-campus units that might otherwise have been occupied by UH students. Increasing the availability of affordable housing is a top priority for the governor.

"This is more than just a housing project, it's an investment in our community and for the benefit of our students and faculty," said UH President Wendy Hensel.

For more information about Hale Haukani and UH Mānoa student housing, visit <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/housing>.

HIARNG Supports Honolulu Fire Department During Wildfire Season

Governor Green, the Commander in Chief of the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG), issued an Emergency Proclamation (EP) on July 18 granting the Guard permission to have an aircrew on standby to provide aerial firefighting capabilities to augment county and state-level first responders in critical events impacting the community.

The EP, named Operation Ho'opauahi (to extinguish fire), keeps a Hawai'i Army National Guard CH-47F Chinook helicopter crew postured to fly and immediately support any county in the state, which increases capacity to contain and extinguish a fire in its early stage.

"Our goal is simple — stop wildfires before they become disasters. By launching Operation Ho'opauahi, we're giving our counties an immediate tool to respond to fires while they're still small. This proactive step will help save lives, protect property and strengthen our state's overall emergency response," said Governor Green.

"This authorization and Operation Ho'opauahi will allow us to quickly and effectively activate other Hawai'i National Guard resources such as evacuation teams, traffic control and security missions," said Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Logan. "This is an opportunity where the Guard can help to enable a safe, secure and thriving state."

This action helped two recent events where the HIARNG stood ready and was able to provide support to the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD).

On Aug. 1, 2025, following a red flag warning of increased fire risk, HIARNG assisted HFD with ground assets in a first-time collaboration for community safety. Soldiers assigned to the 297th Engineer Detachment Firefighting Team, 103rd Troop Command, HIARNG, went to Fire Station 28 in Nānākuli, Hawai'i with their M1158 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck-based water tender. Staff Sgt. John Segawa, a station chief assigned to the 297th ENG DET, explained his equipment and capabilities, including the water tender, which holds 3,000 gallons.

On Aug. 19, 2025, HIARNG also sent two helicopters to aid HFD with fire suppression for the Kunia Road fire. The aircrew was able to respond quicker than usual thanks to the EP. By 4 p.m. on the first day, a combined 35 drops totaling over 80-thousand gallons of water were executed.

"I'm grateful to Maj. Gen. Logan and the entire Hawai'i National Guard for their swift action and steadfast commitment to protecting our communities," Governor Green said.



Photo courtesy: Army National Guard, Staff Sgt. John Schoebel.

State Land Surveyor Efforts Help Lahaina Community Build Back Quicker

The Hawai'i Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) Land Survey Division is privileged to play a role in helping the Lahaina community find normalcy, as residents and businesses rebuild, following the tragic fires of 2023.

Six surveyors work in the Land Survey Division. Their job is to officially notate where the boundaries are on a parcel of land. For oceanfront parcels — like many that burned in the wildfires — they determine where the state shoreline ends and where private land begins. Their measurements also help legally specify what the shoreline setback is for a structure, like a house or a condominium.

This critical information is needed by property owners applying for a county permit to rebuild. The quicker the shoreline can be certified, the quicker the permits can be processed.

The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources is responsible for certifying the shoreline with the assistance of DAGS Land Survey Division.

"We are honored to play a small part in helping Lahaina residents and business owners rebuild. Our hearts go out to this community that has suffered so much. Certifying property boundaries seems like such an ordinary task, but knowing that it helps a homeowner get their long-awaited building permit makes it so worthwhile and fulfilling for our department in doing our jobs," said DAGS Director and Comptroller Keith Regan.

DAGS surveyors are scheduling earlier site visits to affected properties, accelerating application reviews and prioritizing certification recommendations. They have also been notifying Maui County before they conduct site inspections to reduce lag time between agency actions.



Photo courtesy: DAGS

Graduating Students Apply Now! Early Application Opportunity for State Jobs

Beginning September 1, 2025, applicants who are on track to obtain a bachelor's degree in December 2025 may begin to apply for open state jobs. The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) will accept applications pending verification of a bachelor's degree for applicants who indicate that they are within three months of graduation (i.e. September 1 for December graduates; February 1 for May graduates). This will allow college students to have a state career lined up without delays after graduation.

"This is one part of our overall efforts to address civil service vacancies," said Brenna Hashimoto, DHRD director. "This will allow students to get into real jobs sooner and hopefully help ease the shortage of workers needed to properly serve the public."

Students may apply for entry-level professional classes of work as long as they are on track to have a bachelor's degree in any field of study with no specific coursework.

Individuals accepted prior to graduation will need to provide their diplomas to the hiring department to verify they have received the degree before the applicant begins work.

Applicants wishing to apply can visit the DHRD recruitment website at jobs.hawaii.gov/careers for more information.



Some entry-level positions requiring a bachelor's degree in any field of study are:

- Employment Service Specialist I
- Emergency Management Specialist I
- Human Resources Specialist I
- Information Specialist I
- Investigator I
- Land Agent I
- Management Analyst I
- Planner I
- Professional Trainee I
- Program Budget Analyst I
- Public Housing Specialist I
- Retirement Claims Examiner I
- Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist I
- Workers' Compensation Specialist I



Wolfhounds Day: Honoring 76 Years of Connection with Holy Family Home

Last month, Hawai'i was pleased to welcome and commemorate special guests from Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan. Four 11-year-old children from Holy Family Home were greeted by more than 150 dignitaries, military personnel and community members. This was the 76th year of this tradition which started when the Wolfhounds of the 27th Infantry partnered with the children of Holy Family Home, demonstrating a remarkable alliance. The children — Umi, Kanami, Ryota and Ryuki — stayed with military host families for two weeks and enjoyed a bountiful taste of O'ahu life.

To better understand this friendship, we must look back to 1949 — the aftermath of World War II. The Wolfhounds of the 27th Infantry were stationed in Osaka. On Christmas Day, they met the children of the Holy Family Home orphanage and were deeply moved by the difficult conditions they faced — not enough food, clothing, or shelter and a nation still rebuilding.

After seeing the poor conditions of the orphanage, the soldiers began collecting donations by passing around an Army helmet. They raised a total of \$143, which was donated to the orphanage on New Year's morning. The soldiers continued to donate every pay day. In 1957, another tradition began: every summer, children from Holy Family Home would travel here to

Hawai'i to stay with Wolfhound families, forming friendships that crossed oceans and generations.

In 2024, Governor Green was the first Hawai'i governor to visit the Holy Family Home in Osaka and on Aug. 18, he presented a proclamation to Lt. Col. "Teddy" Borawski, 1st Battalion Commander, marking Aug. 18, 2025, as "Wolfhounds Day."

Mahalo to the Wolfhounds, Peace Bridge, our Japanese partners and everyone who has helped keep this incredible connection alive. Here's to the next 75 years of friendship and aloha.



Four children from the Holy Family Home were welcomed to Hawai'i after landing at the airport.

From Garden to Gold: Young Hawai'i Cooks Win Big in 4-H Cooking Contest

A "pot of gold" awaited keiki in this year's "Grow, Eat, Think (GET) Local" Video Cooking Contest, organized by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Cooperative Extension 4-H program. Young cooks showcased their kitchen skills, creative use of local ingredients and ability to explain recipes through fun, easy-to-follow videos.

The contest is part of 4-H's mission to empower young people to reach their full potential through GET Local's learning opportunities, facilitated in welcoming and engaging environments.

The Grand Champion Award went to Tina Sumtsova from the 4-H Pineapples Club on Hawai'i Island for her "Pot of Gold" chocolate mango mini cakes. The dessert included mango, dates, walnuts, cocoa powder, avocado and agave syrup.

The winners enjoyed an educational experience at the UH Urban Garden Center in Pearl City, full of hands-on agricultural lessons in composting, gardening techniques, harvesting plants for recipes and garden safety.

They also picked fresh herbs to pair with local noodles from Adela's Country Eatery, which the young cooks prepared alongside a tossed salad. At the program finale, the winners showcased their recipes, explained why they chose their local food and reflected on their experiences participating in the contest.

4-H and GET Local are part of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience at UH Mānoa. The contest will run again in spring 2026, visit manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/getlocal/ for more information.



Grand Prize Winner: Chocolate Mango Mini Cakes. Tina of the 4-H Pineapples Club on Hawai'i Island, earned the grand prize with her "Pot of Gold". Photo courtesy: UH.



Group Harvest: The winners were immersed in hands-on opportunities with local food and cooking at UH Urban Garden Center in Pearl City. Photo courtesy: UH.



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