



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green

From multistate partnerships to critical expansions, it has been a bountiful month of collaboration.

Our Department of Accounting and General Services opened a new West Hawai'i District Office, a move central to statewide operations and accessibility. The Department of

Taxation carried out a series of tax education workshops across the state and our Department of Transportation celebrated an inaugural internship program that welcomed more than 120 student interns into their offices this summer.

The Department of Human Services and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Community Services collaborated on the opening of a new family assessment center in the Ko'olauloa area.

Hawai'i has also joined 12 other states in the U.S. Affordable Clean Cars Coalition, a collective effort to sustain America's transition to clean energy. With the derailment of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we have united with three Western states to establish the West Coast Health Alliance, providing key information to the public on science-based vaccine recommendations.

No matter the season, we are working diligently to ensure the people of Hawai'i are heard, cared for and provided for to the best of our ability. The remarkable projects coming out of state departments and developing across state lines are the epitome of togetherness.

Now, more than ever, togetherness is what we need.

Mahalo,

Josh Green M.D.

HHFDC Facilitates More Affordable Housing



Kaiāulu o Kūku'ia. Photo courtesy: Goodfellow Brothers

It's a busy time for the crew at the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

Following the grand opening of the all-new, all-affordable, 302-unit Nāulu rental housing complex in Hālawā across from Pearl Harbor, HHFDC's various partners are advancing affordable housing projects on Maui, Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i.

"We're pleased to be partners with these experienced developers as they work to address the demand for affordable housing options in four unique communities," said HHFDC Executive Director Dean Minakami.

"We appreciate that Governor Green counts housing — and affordable housing in particular — as one of his administration's biggest priorities. Our agency is here to support that endeavor," he continued.

Nāulu, formerly known as Hālawā View II, is located across from the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, only a short walking distance from the Hālawā Skyline rail station.

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.

HHFDC Facilitates More Affordable Housing

Depending on unit availability, households qualify if they earn no more than 30% to 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) for the Honolulu region, as determined by the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Nāulu is 25 stories tall and its units range in size from studios to four-bedroom units.

The \$168 million project is the largest Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development in Hawai'i in the last 15 years.



Hale Nā Koa 'O Hanakahi. Photo courtesy: EAH Housing.

At least three other projects are already accepting tenants:

1. The 92-unit Hale Nā Koa 'O Hanakahi is located in a series of two-story buildings spread across a 5.6-acre property in Hilo. The EAH Housing project gives priority to seniors (62 and older), U.S. veterans and their spouses.

For more information, visit the property manager website: <https://affordablehousinghawaii.com/projects/west-kawili-street-senior-veteran-housing>.

2. Kaiāulu o Kūku'ia is a 200-unit affordable rental complex on Keawe Street in Lahaina. The complex targets families that earn 60% of AMI or less, as determined by HUD guidelines.

To learn more, go to: <https://affordablehousinghawaii.com/projects/kaiaulu-o-kukuia>.

3. Pōhākea and Kō'ula are the latest segments of the Lima Ola Workforce Housing Development master-planned community, the largest affordable housing project ever undertaken by Kaua'i County. When completed, Lima Ola is expected to add 550 units to the Garden Island's housing stock. It will include both rental units and for-sale units.

EAH Housing is the property manager for the rental units. To learn more, go to: <https://www.eahhousing.org/apartments/lima-ola/>.

A Beacon of Hope: Hau'ula Family Assessment Center Opens Its Doors



Photo courtesy: DHS.

Families in the Ko'olauloa area have a new place of refuge and support with the opening of the Hau'ula Family Assessment Center (FAC). The facility, unveiled and blessed on August 18, 2025, is the result of a strong partnership between the state of Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Community Services (DCS).

The new center offers safe, immediate and low-barrier temporary shelter for families experiencing homelessness. More than just a place to stay, the center provides families with guidance, resources and connections to benefits such as health coverage, food and financial assistance. "By providing virtual connections to public benefits, we can help families with access to important benefits without the burden of traveling long distances," said DHS Director Ryan Yamane.

The project reflects the commitment of state and city leaders to collaborate on addressing homelessness. "In one year's time we have opened four family shelters, all in partnership with the state," said Anton Krucky, director of DCS. "It is a true testament to collaboration expanding housing opportunities, because all families deserve to be housed."

The center is the first of its kind in the Ko'olauloa area, providing emergency shelter services, housing-focused case management and rapid rehousing support. Administered by Corazon Hawaii, a local nonprofit, the Hau'ula FAC opened its doors on July 31. Currently, five families (22 individuals) are calling the center home, with capacity to serve up to 24 families in its first year.

As Governor's Homeless Coordinator Jun Yang shared during the blessing, "May this center be a beacon of hope and a reminder that when we work together, we can create real and lasting change."



DAGS Opens New West Hawai'i Office to Better Serve Community

A Kailua-Kona civil engineer recently stepped into the role of Program Manager at the newly formed West Hawai'i District Office for the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Ramzi Mansour brings over four decades of experience in both the public and private sectors — he was most recently Hawai'i County's director of the Department of Environmental Management.

"We are grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for funding this new, stand-alone office," said DAGS Director and Comptroller Keith Regan. "Hawai'i Island is so geographically large, it merits having offices on both coasts. This will ensure we can give adequate attention to all the facilities we support — especially the schools — and meet our work order requests in a more timely fashion."

On the neighbor islands, DAGS helps maintain public school facilities, state office buildings, courthouses and public libraries. It supports or manages 164 buildings across six neighbor islands. Just over half of those buildings (83) are on Hawai'i Island alone.



Ramzi Mansour, third from left, with Comptroller Regan and the West Hawai'i District Office team. Photo courtesy: DAGS.

The Legislature allocated \$278,858 to fund eight new jobs — including Mansour's — for this office. Mansour will be hiring more positions shortly; job vacancies will be posted to the state of Hawai'i's jobs website at jobs.hawaii.gov/careers/.



HDOT Inaugural Internship Program Provides Hands-On Experience

The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) welcomed more than 120 student interns across its Administration, Highways, Harbors and Airports Divisions for its inaugural Summer Internship Program. From high school seniors statewide, to graduate students attending colleges and universities across the country, interns gained valuable hands-on experience in the planning, operations and services offered through the transportation department.

Through mentorship, communication training and AI workshops, interns enhanced their personal strengths and technical skills, while contributing to current transportation projects.

Interns learned that while HDOT maintains safe and efficient operations across roadways, bridges, airfields and ports, it also aligns efforts to support housing, energy security and other state priorities.

As part of the 12-week program, the students visited the Tetsuo Harano Tunnels, Honolulu Harbor and the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, which offered behind-the-scenes access and allowed interns to form cross-modal collaborations.

The culmination was the Intern Recognition Summit, hosted by Governor Green and HDOT Director Ed Sniffen. Intern groups gave presentations on initiatives that will be implemented, in part because of their work.

Administration interns presented "Under the Sea, Under Construction: A Reef's New Beginnings," highlighting the Kalaheo Reef Laboratory and the critical role reefs play in coastal protection, which directly impacts the state's highways, harbors and airports.

Airports interns presented "Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Vehicles in Hawai'i," which examined how eVTOL

technology can help address statewide challenges such as emergency response, cost of living and traffic congestion.



Governor Green meets with the HDOT's Administration cohort of interns at the Intern Recognition Summit.

Harbors interns showcased the "Aloha Tower Centennial" observation being planned for 2026. Their goal was to create an engaging, educational experience that highlights the rich history and significance of Honolulu Harbor.

Highways interns presented "Automation Utilizing Intelligent Document Processing," which focused on enhancing available tools; creating clear written and video guides; and establishing a centralized location for manuals in order to streamline workflow, reduce repetitive data entry and simplify learning complex tasks and systems.

The program's success reflects HDOT's commitment to fostering an affinity for transportation in the next generation of Hawai'i professionals, while providing opportunities to build relationships and strengthen connections that will help students pursue careers in Hawai'i and contribute to improving the local community.



Hawai'i Department of Taxation Concludes Successful Series of Tax Workshops



DOTAX Director Gary Suganuma in action at one of the workshops.
Photo courtesy: DOTAX.

The Hawai'i Department of Taxation (DOTAX) recently hosted a successful series of annual statewide tax workshops aimed at educating tax professionals on state tax laws, filing procedures and recent legislative changes. These workshops, offered annually both in-person and virtually, are designed to support individuals, small business owners, nonprofit organizations and tax professionals across the state.

Throughout the workshops, participants were provided information on a range of topics, including recent tax law changes from the 2025 legislative session, practitioner support services offered by DOTAX, Tax Announcements, Tax Information Releases and other written guidance issued by DOTAX over the past year. The workshops also provided practical guidance on how to avoid common filing errors, as well as instructions on where to direct inquiries within DOTAX. This year's agenda also included a presentation by the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General. The department covered its enforcement of Hawai'i's charitable solicitation laws to assist attendees who advise nonprofits or other clients that solicit charitable donations in the state.

DOTAX aims to make tax information and processing more accessible and understandable. "We want to ensure that tax practitioners and other professionals are aware of DOTAX's practitioner support services and have access to information needed for them to advise their tax clients," said DOTAX Director Gary Suganuma. "These workshops were part of our broader mission to improve voluntary tax compliance through educational outreach."

Attendees praised the workshops for their clarity, relevance and the opportunity to engage directly with specialists from DOTAX and the Department of the Attorney General.

In addition, helpful materials were provided and continuing education credits were available for qualifying professionals.

The sessions were offered statewide on Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu and in Kona and Hilo. The workshops had over 400 attendees statewide and served as a valuable resource for the community, helping to build confidence and understanding in Hawai'i's tax system.

For more information on future offerings, visit tax.hawaii.gov and subscribe for notifications to join the mailing list for news and updates, or follow this QR code to the DOTAX LinkedIn site:



Hawai'i Joins U.S. Affordable Clean Cars Coalition



Photo courtesy: Hawai'i State Energy Office.

The state of Hawai'i has joined the Affordable Clean Cars Coalition — a growing partnership among the states to help sustain America's transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, support U.S. automotive manufacturers and workers, and safeguard states' clean air authority.

Governor Green joined 12 other governors who launched the coalition earlier this year. "Hawai'i is committed to a clean energy future that protects the health of our people," he said. "By investing in electrification, we can put more electric vehicles on the road and give our families more choices and lower costs, while safeguarding our communities from harmful pollution."

The effort is one of several multistate partnerships hosted by the U.S. Climate Alliance, which launched a nationwide effort last month to encourage Americans to take advantage of federal clean energy incentives — including thousands of dollars in tax credits for EVs and EV charger installations — before they expire.



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

