



Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor • March 2026

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



We have seen over the past month how connection strengthens our communities — whether through culture, education, safety or opportunity.

Across our islands, people depend on government not just for services, but for support in the moments that matter most. From expanding early learning opportunities for our youngest keiki, to improving online safety protections for families, to preserving local history and culture for future generations, our work continues to focus on protecting what makes Hawai'i special while preparing for the future.

We are building stronger connections beyond our shores. Cultural exchange through the historic Kisei Go Tournament reminds us of our deep ties with Japan, while new opportunities for local entrepreneurs and small businesses are helping Hawai'i's economy grow in ways that benefit

our residents. At the same time, initiatives that improve communication infrastructure ensure that even our most remote communities can stay informed and safe during emergencies.

Each of these efforts reflects a simple goal: a government that serves people in their everyday lives — in the classroom, at home, online, at work and in times of need. When we invest in our keiki, protect our communities and strengthen relationships near and far, we build a Hawai'i where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust as we move forward together with aloha and shared kuleana.

Mahalo,

Governor Josh Green

A New Place to Call Home for Our Kūpuna

Kūpuna now have a new place to call home with the opening of Aloha Iā Halewilikō, a 140-unit affordable rental community in 'Aiea developed by EAH Housing. Built on the former 'Aiea Sugar Mill site — vacant for more than 20 years — the project transforms unused land into stable housing where seniors can safely age in place.

Designed for some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents, the community provides secure, affordable homes that allow kūpuna to remain close to family, services and the neighborhoods they helped build.

This project reflects ongoing efforts to expand housing opportunities and ensure local residents can continue to live in Hawai'i with dignity and stability.

Right: Scott Glenn, senior advisor for Federal Affairs, Climate and Housing, speaks on the importance of safe, stable and affordable housing for our kūpuna at the blessing ceremony.



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.



Connecting Kahikinui: When Reliable Internet Becomes a Lifeline

Kahikinui is one of Maui's most remote and mountainous homestead communities — far from town, far from cell towers and until recently, far from reliable communication. For families living in this homestead community, even the simplest moments carried uncertainty. Parents often had no way to reach their keiki after school. During emergencies, first responders faced dangerous delays without dependable service.



DHHL Kahikinui site. Photo courtesy: DHHL.

When a previous provider abruptly shut down coverage, the community was left almost completely disconnected.

To restore communication, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) worked through the state's Connect Kākou initiative to install a high-speed satellite internet system designed specifically for Kahikinui's remote terrain. The goal was simple: make sure residents could reach help — and each other — when it mattered most.

That need for reliable high-speed connectivity became clear during a Father's Day weekend wildfire that occurred just months after Wi-Fi service began. The new connection allowed residents to receive evacuation updates in real time and enabled first responders to track weather conditions during active operations. What began as an infrastructure upgrade quickly proved to be a lifeline.

Today, parents can check in with children waiting at the bus stop, neighbors can gather at the community center with dependable internet access — and the community is no longer isolated during critical moments.

Funded through federal Tribal Broadband Connectivity resources, the project brought DHHL together with Oceanit for engineering and management, in partnership with Banyan Networks, which installed a low-Earth-orbit satellite solution built specifically for the area's terrain and location.

Kahikinui is just one example of Connect Kākou's broader strategy to bring safe, reliable, future-ready infrastructure that serves people first — especially in the places that need it most — no matter how remote.

DHHL is now exploring portable emergency satellite kits that can be deployed for disaster response. The team is also advancing solutions to bring additional homestead communities online, while supporting workforce development efforts that help build local capacity for the future.

Because in places like Kahikinui, internet access isn't just convenience — it's safety, connection and peace of mind.

Hawai'i Air National Guard Hosts Sentry Aloha Exercise, Bolsters Pacific Readiness

By Senior Airman Roann Gatdula

The Hawai'i Air National Guard (HIANG) hosted approximately 1,000 personnel and more than 40 aircraft from across the U.S. and Australia as part of this year's Sentry Aloha exercise, from Jan. 14-28 on O'ahu.

Sentry Aloha is a recurring National Guard Bureau exercise hosted by the HIANG's 154th Wing. It provides tailored, cost-effective and realistic combat training for the Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force and other Department of Defense services, ensuring warfighters possess the skills necessary for both homeland defense and overseas combat.

"For over a quarter-century, the Hawai'i Air National Guard's 154th Wing has hosted Sentry Aloha, a premier exercise forging the next generation of airmen," said Exercise Director, Maj. Michael

'Deuce' Oliver. "Sentry Aloha also strengthens our alliances, with regular participation from coalition partners like the Royal Australian, British and Canadian Air Forces. The exercise provides a wealth of realistic training, ensuring the fighter community remains lethal, interoperable and ready to defend the Indo-Pacific."

Along with the HIANG's F-22 Raptors and KC-135 Stratotankers, aircraft from six states provided more Stratotankers, F-35 Lightnings, F-15 Eagles, a C-130 Hercules, E-3 Sentries and an MK-58 Hawker Hunter to practice core aerial combat capabilities and strengthen the total-force integration between active-duty, Guard and international partner units. Overall, the exercise had 10 different units participating, 420 flight sorties and over 860 flight hours recorded.

For many visiting personnel, the unique geography of the Hawaiian Islands

provided challenges that can't be replicated in the continental U.S.

"Operating in a tropical climate, vice, where we operate in Wisconsin, when the high tomorrow is going to be negative eight, it's a very different feeling for how we go to fight, a lot of other factors that we don't normally deal with, such as the constant potential for rain showers to pop up," said Capt. Nathan Moll, 115th Fighter Wing F-35 pilot. "Fighting and executing our tactics over water, it's not something you can do everywhere, so it's certainly a valuable training exercise for us."

This level of immersion ensures that members are not just trained but thoroughly prepared to respond to any conflict when called upon, particularly when integrating with partnered units as a unified team.



Protecting Keiki Online: Hawai'i Leads National Effort

Hawai'i is helping lead a nationwide effort to make the internet safer for children and teens.

Attorney General Anne Lopez is leading a coalition of 40 attorneys general from across the country in urging Congress to pass stronger federal protections to keep children safe online.

In a letter sent to leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, the group called for action on the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), a bill designed to reduce online harms to children and teens.

They are advocating for federal legislation intended to require social media platforms to take meaningful steps to prevent harm to minors, while preserving states' ability to enforce their own laws protecting minors.

States like Hawai'i have taken important steps to address growing concerns about the impact of social media on young people. Attorneys general across the country have investigated and filed lawsuits against major platforms, including Meta and TikTok, over allegations that their products are designed in ways that can be harmful or addictive to underage users.

The coalition expressed concern that the current House version of KOSA could limit states' authority to enforce existing online safety laws, or respond to new and emerging digital threats. Instead, the attorneys general voiced support for the Senate version of the bill, which would require social media companies to take reasonable steps to prevent harm to minors while preserving states' enforcement powers.

"Hawai'i and other states have led the way in responding to evolving digital harms and holding online platforms accountable," said Attorney General Lopez. "We urge Congress to pass a strong Kids Online Safety Act that puts children's safety first and allows states to continue protecting our keiki."

A copy of the letter is available on the Department of the Attorney General's website at [ATG.Hawaii.gov](https://atg.hawaii.gov).



Hawai'i Hosts Historic Kisei Go Championship

This January, Hawai'i welcomed a historic first — the first championship match of the 50th Kisei Go Tournament in Waikiki. The event, organized through a partnership between Governor Green and the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper, brought Go fans from Japan, the continental US and across Hawai'i's communities.

The event highlighted Hawai'i's longstanding ties with Japan, uniting the participants through culture and friendship — and featured top Japanese professional players Ichiriki Ryo and Toramaru Shibano.

Festivities began with a reception at the Consulate General of Japan, attended by over 100 guests, where Governor Green declared January as "Go Month" in Hawai'i. The players competed at the Prince Waikiki.

Organizers also utilized two ballrooms at the Sheraton Waikiki for the public and Japanese Go fans to learn about the game, interact with professionals and watch live bilingual commentary — making one of Japan's most celebrated traditions accessible to the community.

The event was staged at no cost to taxpayers, serving as a model for visitor industry events. It focused on enriching programming that fostered cultural opportunities for residents and visitors, while generating significant media exposure for Hawai'i. Corporate partners included Suntory and Japan Airlines, with local support from the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, JERA Hawai'i, and the Honolulu Go Club.

The tournament put Hawai'i in the spotlight of Japanese media, including the front page of the Yomiuri Shimbun. This coverage reached audiences across Japan and internationally,

promoting Hawai'i, local organizations, and the state's historic ties to Japan, as well as showcasing Hawai'i's culture resulting in over 300 million earned media impressions. This aligns with one of the cornerstones of the Green administration's economic development strategy to boost in-bound investment and visitor industry engagement from Japan.

In the featured game, Ichiriki, playing White, won by resignation after 236 moves. Six games remain in the series. The Kisei series continues this spring, with the next match scheduled for March 25–26.

The Governor's Office aims to deepen Hawai'i's relationships with local and international partners like Yomiuri Shimbun, to support additional economic collaboration related to journalism, cultural exchange and sports. The partnership reinforces Hawai'i as a place where global relationships and local community come together.



Preserving a Piece of Hawai'i's Radio History

For generations in Hawai'i, Saturday mornings meant laughter, local stories and the familiar voices of Michael W. Perry and "Coach" Larry Price on KSSK. "Never fear, The Posse is here!" Fans of the longtime Perry & Price Show on 92.3 KSSK-FM will recognize that familiar phrase as something the show hosts always said.

The longtime radio hosts built a loyal following known as "The Posse," a community of listeners who became an informal Neighborhood Watch, known for helping catch criminals, though the concept evolved over time to mean any community service.

Thanks to a generous donation from iHeartMedia, the parent company of KSSK, 447 recordings of The Perry & Price Show Saturday Morning program were given to the Hawai'i State Archives, part of the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). The collection is being digitized and protected as an important record of modern Hawai'i life.

"The show is iconic, and it's an honor to receive this slice of Hawai'i history," says DAGS Director and Comptroller Keith Regan.

For many residents, the show was more than entertainment. As an emergency broadcast station, KSSK's familiar voices were often heard during hurricanes and other major events, making the program a trusted companion during uncertain times.

"Because KSSK is an emergency broadcasting station, generations of listeners grew up hearing the voice of Perry,

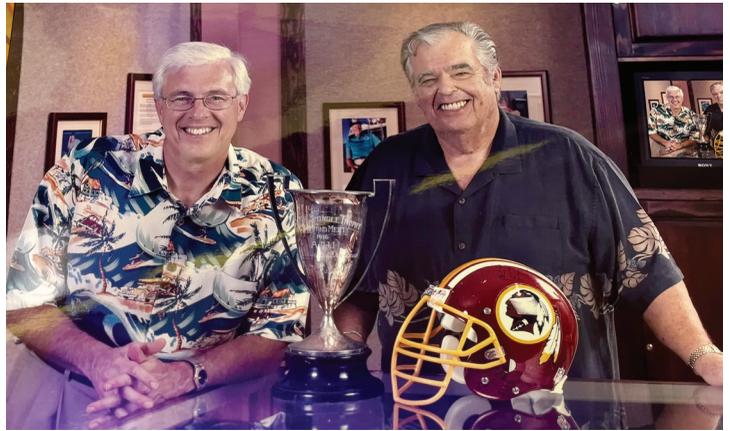


Photo courtesy: DAGS

Price, or both during disasters," recalls Hawai'i State Archives Administrator Adam Jansen, Ph.D.

Once digitized, the recordings will be made available to the public online, allowing longtime listeners to revisit memories and giving younger generations a chance to experience a beloved chapter of Hawai'i's broadcasting history.

"We had so much history and wanted to share it with the broader community," said iHeartMedia President Scott Hogle.

The archives is also inviting volunteers to help review recordings during the digitization process. Those interested can learn more at the Hawai'i State Archives volunteer page at ags.hawaii.gov/archives/volunteer-at-the-archives/.

Applications Open for Hawai'i's Free Public Pre-K Program

Families across Hawai'i can now apply for free public prekindergarten for the upcoming school year.

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Pre-K Program serves eligible 3- and 4-year-old keiki in the two years before kindergarten. The program currently offers 117 classrooms on 89 Department of Education campuses statewide, including both English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i language settings.

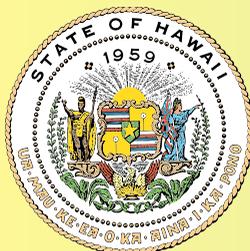
EOEL Public Pre-K expands access to high-quality early learning opportunities statewide. In nurturing, play-based settings, keiki develop foundational skills in early literacy and math while strengthening social-emotional growth, creativity and problem-solving. These critical skills help prepare keiki for success in kindergarten and beyond, while building a love of learning from a young age.

In safe, play-based classrooms, keiki build skills while developing confidence, curiosity and friendships. These early experiences help children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Investing in early childhood education benefits our children, working families and the long-term vitality of our communities. By offering free, high-quality pre-K across the islands, Hawai'i continues to advance school readiness and educational equity for all.



Photo courtesy: EOEL.



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

