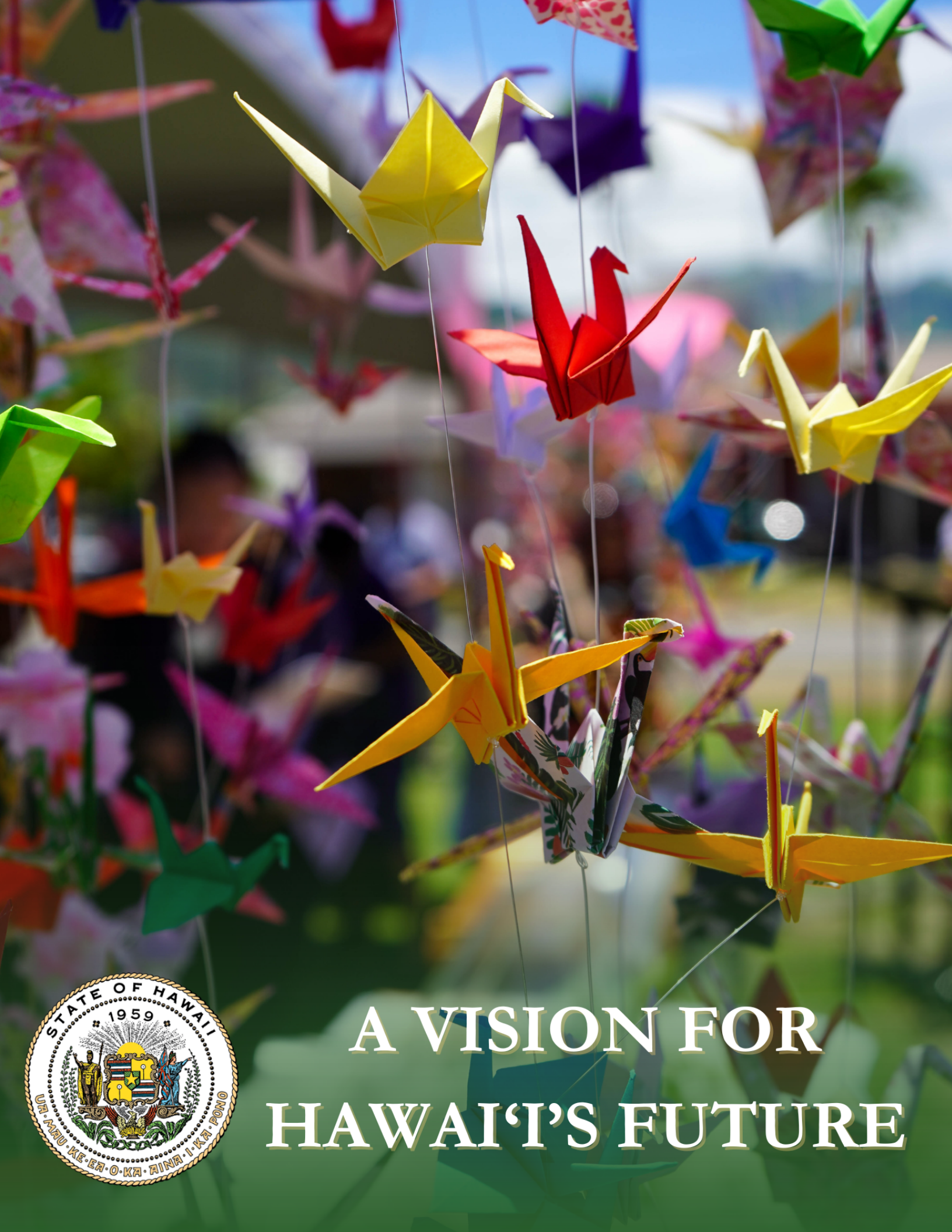
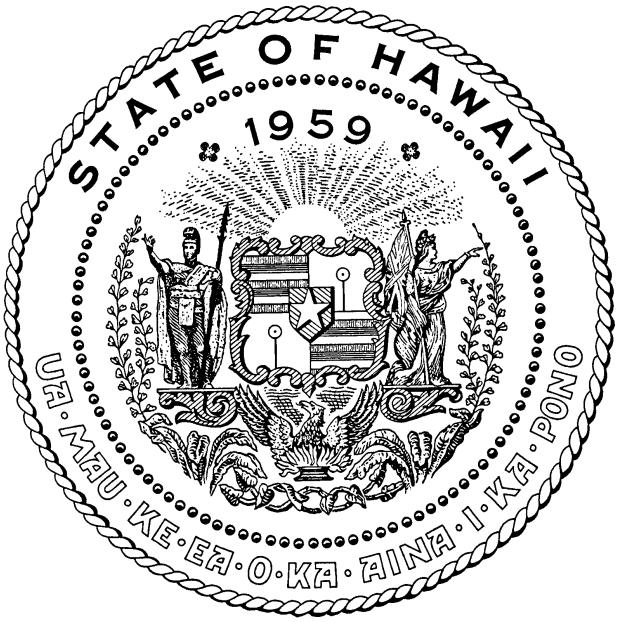



# A VISION FOR HAWAIʻI'S FUTURE






# *A VISION FOR HAWAIʻI'S FUTURE*

## *The 2026 Policy Briefing Report to Hawaiʻi's People*

**2026 State of Hawai‘i Policy Briefing Report:** ***A Vision for Hawai‘i’s Future***

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**“O ke aloha ke kuleana o kēia au”**

*“Aloha is the responsibility of this generation.”*

— Lyric popularized by Gabby Pahinui





# A FORWARD-LOOKING VISION FOR HAWAIʻI'S FUTURE

## A Foreword by Kūhiō Lewis

***Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Council***



Hawaiʻi stands at a pivotal moment — one that calls us to reflect deeply on who we are, where we come from and the future we are responsible for shaping, together.

For generations, Hawaiʻi has been guided by values rooted in ʻike kūpuna, collective responsibility — and an understanding that our strength is found in community. These values have sustained our people through profound change and challenge — and they continue to offer wisdom for the work ahead. Today, as Hawaiʻi faces complex and interconnected issues — from housing and affordability to climate resilience, economic transformation and community well-being — we are reminded that the answers forward will require unity, courage and long-term vision.

As a statewide partner working alongside government, communities and the private sector, the Hawaiian Council is committed to translating these values into action. From supporting Maui's long-term recovery following the 2023 wildfires, to expanding access to capital through community-based lending, to building workforce pathways and advocating for community-centered sustainable tourism and destination management models, our work is focused on strengthening resilience where it matters most — at the local level.

At its core, the work before us is about ensuring that Hawaiians can continue to live, work and raise their families in Hawaiʻi. Too many local and Native Hawaiian families are being pushed out — by rising costs, limited housing and economic systems that too often leave communities behind. Reversing this trend requires intentional partnership.

Governor Josh Green's 2026 State Policy Book offers a path forward that recognizes this moment and this responsibility. The priorities within — addressing housing and homelessness, strengthening public health, advancing economic opportunity, protecting our natural resources, ensuring good governance and continuing Maui's recovery — are not abstract goals. They are commitments to people, to place and to the future we leave for our keiki. We are working alongside state leaders to help keep Hawaiians rooted in Hawaiʻi, connected to place and positioned to thrive.

These priorities align closely with the work being carried out on the ground by community organizations and state partners who understand that recovery and progress require more than short-term solutions. They require coordinated investment, trusted relationships and a shared commitment to building capacity — whether through workforce development, small-business support, access to financing or destination management strategies that honor place and people.

Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned to lead. As an island state at the crossroads of cultures, continents and ideas, we have long served as a living example of how communities can coexist with one another and with the natural world. The solutions we develop here — rooted in aloha, equity, sustainability and shared responsibility — have the potential to inspire far beyond our shores. In a world searching for models of resilience, reconciliation and regenerative growth, Hawai‘i can and must be a beacon of what is possible.

The work ahead will not be easy. But Hawai‘i’s history teaches us that progress is born when we move forward together — when government, community, business and culture are aligned around a shared vision of well-being for all. When we center people, honor place and commit to inclusive leadership, we unlock Hawai‘i’s greatest potential.

To the public servants, policymakers and partners engaged in this work: your kuleana is significant. The decisions you make today will shape Hawai‘i for generations to come. May this policy book serve as both a guide and an invitation — to lead with integrity, to listen with humility and to act with purpose.

Together, we can build a Hawai‘i that honors its past, empowers its people and lights a path forward for the world.

Mahalo for your service, your leadership and your commitment to a thriving Hawai‘i for all.



# *A VISION FOR HAWAIʻI'S FUTURE*
## Governor Josh Green

We focused on delivering results for our people last year because in Hawaiʻi, progress must be measured not by promises, but by real change in people's lives. This year, we look ahead.

Hawaiʻi stands at a defining moment. We have faced extraordinary challenges, from rising costs, federal funding cuts and a housing crisis, to wildfires that reshaped Maui forever. Yet through those challenges, we have proven something essential: when we act with purpose, compassion and resolve, we can continue to move our state forward.

This policy book is about that future — a vision for Hawaiʻi that is bold, realistic and rooted in our values.

It is a vision where working families can afford to live here, raise their children and care for their kūpuna. Where young people see opportunity in the islands they love. Where our economy grows in ways that strengthen communities and where we protect our ʻāina, our water and our way of life for generations to come.

Over the past three years we have taken decisive action to lower the cost of living, expand affordable housing, reduce homelessness, strengthen healthcare access and invest in climate resilience. We delivered the largest income tax cut in state history while protecting essential services. We broke through decades of red tape to build and provide housing at a scale not seen in generations. We expanded kauhale villages statewide, treating housing as healthcare and restoring dignity to people who had been left behind.

We did this not because it was easy, but because it was necessary.

Still, vision without action is just words on a page. The work ahead demands discipline, courage and a willingness to make hard choices in service of the common good. Federal uncertainty, climate risk and long-standing inequities require us to govern responsibly — protecting what matters most while continuing to invest in our people.

That is why our focus remains clear: affordability, housing, healthcare, jobs, environmental protection and recovery that leaves no community behind.

From strengthening food security and child care, to building workforce housing on state lands, from expanding rural healthcare and growing local jobs, to ensuring Maui's recovery honors both people

and place — every policy in this book reflects a simple principle: government should make life better for the people it serves.

This vision is not abstract. It lives in the stories of families who can now afford a home, kūpuna who no longer have to choose between food and medicine, workers who can stay in Hawai‘i because opportunity exists here and in communities that are rebuilding stronger than before.

The future we are building belongs to all of us.

If we continue working together — guided by aloha, kuleana and a shared sense of responsibility — Hawai‘i can be a model for what is possible: a state that grows sustainably, cares for its people and protects what makes this place special.

This is our time to look forward with clarity, compassion and confidence and to keep building a Hawai‘i where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Mahalo,

Josh Green M.D.

Governor Josh Green, M.D.





# Chapter One
# BUILDING HAWAIʻI'S LONG-TERM RESILIENCE: OUR FEDERAL RESPONSE

*Standing Up for Hawaiʻi in a Moment of National Disruption*

## Ensuring Continuity During Federal Uncertainty — What We Did

In 2025 when federal funding disruptions threatened essential services for Hawaiʻi families, the Governor's administration acted quickly to safeguard food security and stabilize support for vulnerable households. Following the federal funding lapse in late October, we activated a coordinated response to ensure that families dependent on federal programs could continue accessing services without interruption.

## Protecting Nutrition Assistance Through SNAP




DHS Deputy Director Joseph Campos II speaking at the Hawaiʻi Relief Program Press Conference. (Oct. 30, 2025)

The Hawaiʻi Department of Human Services (DHS) issued immediate guidance for households affected by the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, helping families navigate available options during the uncertainty. At the same time, Hawaiʻi joined a multistate effort to defend SNAP benefits, underscoring the state's commitment to protecting nutrition assistance for those who rely on it most. Through these efforts, we ensured that no family in Hawaiʻi had to worry about their next meal during the shutdown period.

Additionally, Hawai‘i issued a one-time benefit of $250 per person to those who received SNAP benefits through the Hawai‘i Emergency Food Assistance Program. This new state-sponsored food benefit program was separate and distinct from SNAP, but helped to ensure that SNAP recipients would still be able to purchase food and groceries at retail locations while the ongoing government shutdown and federal uncertainties around SNAP payments continued.

## Regional Collaboration to Support Public Health Stability

Hawai‘i strengthened its public health preparedness in 2025 through active participation in regional and national alliances. Through the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA), in partnership with California, Oregon and Washington, the state helped issue coordinated guidance on COVID-19, influenza and RSV vaccinations. This guidance aligned Hawai‘i and its West Coast partners with science-based medical standards. Our administration's work with partner states informed Governor Green's September 2025 emergency proclamation, which enabled pharmacists to continue providing vaccines statewide. These emergency actions ensured timely access during the respiratory virus season. WCHA also supported Hawai‘i's efforts to counter misinformation and maintain trust in immunization programs.

Nationally, Hawai‘i joined the Governors Public Health Alliance under GovAct, providing an avenue for data sharing, coordinated planning and peer support across states. These regional and national partnerships continue to reinforce Hawai‘i's commitment to evidence-based policymaking, emergency readiness and protection of vulnerable populations.

## Maintaining Public Health Access During Federal Delays

In September 2025 the WCHA, working with the Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH), issued coordinated immunization recommendations for the 2025–2026 respiratory virus season, including COVID-19, influenza and RSV.

These recommendations provided clear, science-based guidance for residents at a time when federal direction was limited. By leveraging trusted regional partners and Hawai‘i's existing public-health infrastructure, the state ensured that communities continued to receive reliable vaccination information and maintained access to essential preventive care.

## State Relief Infrastructure: The Hawai‘i Relief Program and Coordinated Actions

On October 30, 2025, the administration announced additional coordinated relief measures to support residents through the federal shutdown. These actions established a broad, statewide safety net designed to help families maintain access to critical services throughout the disruption. Rather than relying on isolated interventions, the state implemented a comprehensive approach that

protected food security, preserved healthcare access and connected families to essential support programs. By acting swiftly and decisively, Governor Green's administration ensured that relief efforts were holistic, accessible and responsive to community needs.

## Addressing Medicaid Challenges and Ensuring Continuity of Care

The passage of H.R. 1 — known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" — in 2025 introduced potential cuts and administrative changes to Medicaid, threatening coverage for tens of thousands of Hawai'i residents and creating uncertainty for healthcare providers. In response, the Green administration conducted early reviews of Medicaid operations, implemented outreach to beneficiaries and streamlined eligibility and recertification processes to prevent service disruptions. Hawai'i has also been modernizing its data systems to improve responsiveness and reduce administrative burden, particularly for neighbor island and rural communities.

The Green administration continues to work closely with state departments to ensure sustained health insurance coverage for Hawai'i residents in the event of changes to federal ACA premium subsidies. Through coordinated planning and proactive Medicaid management, the administration aims to preserve access to preventive, primary and behavioral health services, while mitigating financial hardship for low- and middle-income families as well as safeguarding health equity across the state.

## Supporting Hawai'i's Workforce

Operation Hire Hawai'i (OH-HI) was launched in conjunction with Governor Green's Executive Order 25-02, to address the uncertainty of employees affected by the federal government funding cuts. Launched in February 2025, Hawai'i Department of Human Resource Development (DHRD) has been prioritizing the recruitment of highly skilled professionals and other experienced workers to address critical workforce needs across Hawai'i's public sector.

OH-HI is a targeted outreach initiative designed to streamline the state hiring process and fast-track qualified candidates into public service roles across the state.

As of March 17, 2026, 242 individuals have been hired through OH-HI, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in connecting job seekers with meaningful employment opportunities in state government.



OH-HI job fair. Photo courtesy: DHRD.

DHRD's recruitment team, in partnership with the human resources offices in the executive branch, has been committed to screening, interviewing and making a conditional offer within days of receiving an online application.

For more information on OH-HI or to view recruitments, visit dhrd.hawaii.gov/ohhi.

## Looking Forward – Building a Foundation of Resilience and Preparedness

When federal funding stalled, Hawai‘i responded with unified, strategic action. From protecting SNAP benefits and launching statewide relief measures to preserving healthcare access and deepening public health partnerships, the Green administration ensured that Hawai‘i residents continued to receive essential services despite national disruptions. These efforts not only addressed an immediate crisis — they strengthened the state's long-term resilience.

By reinforcing social service systems, promoting health equity and engaging in regional collaborations, Hawai‘i built a foundation that will continue to protect its people from future uncertainty. Moving forward, we remain committed to preparedness, collaboration and service, ensuring that no one in Hawai‘i loses critical support because of shifts in federal policy.



# Chapter Two
# A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT HAWAIʻI

*Preserving and Protecting Hawaiʻi's Resources*



Governor Green at the podium for the signing of Act 96. (May 27, 2025)

## Fighting Climate Change

The Green Fee, enacted under Act 96, represents Hawaiʻi's most substantial climate change mitigation effort in the past two decades — rivaling the launch of the Hawaiʻi Clean Energy Initiative's campaign to eliminate Hawaiʻi's dependence on fossil fuels.

The Green Fee is the nation's first-ever climate impact fee, establishing a reliable funding source for the state to utilize to address the escalating threats brought on by climate change, sea level rise and increased wildfire and hurricane threats.

As the only island state, Hawaiʻi is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Its impacts threaten the lives and safety of our people and the strength of our economy. The Hawaiʻi State

Climate Commission's mid-range estimates predict an increase of nearly four feet in the sea level by 2100, with dangerous increases in rapid tidal flooding over the next decade.[1]



Hawai'i's vulnerable coastlines.

This will not only mean increased erosion along the state's shoreline where many of Hawai'i's most recognized hotels and visitor attractions are located, but it will require the state and county governments to invest tens — if not hundreds — of millions of dollars to harden roads, highways and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, warming seas are expected to generate more El Niño years, which in turn will mean more heavy tropical storms and more intense periods of drought, which increase the state's wildfire risk.[2]

Faced with these challenges, Hawai'i's response has been robust. With the Green Fee, the state Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) rate increased by 0.75% to 11% starting this year. In increasing the TAT, the Green Fee protects our residents and ensures that visitors share in the kuleana of environmental stewardship and sustainable tourism. Generated funds are expected to have monumental impacts: the Green Fee is anticipated to generate $90 million to $100 million per year.

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[1] *Hawai`i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report 2022 Update Recommendations Progress Only Hawai`i State Climate Commission*. (2022). https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Sea-Level-Rise-Adaptation-and-Vulnerability-2022-Update_Reccommendation-Progress-and-Next-Steps-only.pdf

[2] *Less & Heavy Rain*. (2026). Hawaii.gov. https://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-facts/rain/#coming



Hawai‘i has already witnessed dangerous impacts from increased drought and wildfire risk. (Aug. 10, 2023)

This money will go toward funding projects that serve three main purposes:

(1) Environmental stewardship initiatives that protect the land and aquatic resources and preserve native flora and fauna;
(2) Hazard mitigation and infrastructure resilience projects and;
(3) Sustainable tourism projects such as destination management, beach nourishment and park improvements.

Last year, Governor Green appointed the Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC) — a 10-member panel of interdisciplinary experts charged with evaluating and recommending funding priorities with Green Fee funds. The GFAC reviewed more than 600 proposals totaling $2 billion. The GFAC provided its recommendations of 75 projects to Governor Green in January 2026.[3]

[3] *Green Fee Advisory Council Year 1 Funding Recommendations*. (2026). Green Fee Advisory Council. https://greenfeehawaii.org/s/Year-1-Funding-Recommendations-Report-Green-Fee-Advisory-Council-Feb-2026.pdf

On Jan. 30, 2026, Governor Green submitted a Governor's message to the Hawai'i State Legislature, communicating a request for $126 million for 75 projects. All Green Fee projects must be appropriated by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

## Securing an Energy Resilient Future for Hawai'i



JERA Co.'s Chiba Thermal Power Station uses liquefied natural gas to produce 4,380 MW of electricity, or enough energy to light all of the homes and businesses in Hawai'i. Photo courtesy: JERA.

Right now, about 36% of all electricity distributed throughout Hawai'i's transmission lines is derived from intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

But Hawai'i has adopted its 100% renewable energy goal and decarbonization targets by 2045. To achieve this ambitious vision, the state — alongside the counties, the federal government and the private sector — will need to invest billions of dollars into statewide energy infrastructure. Working together, these stakeholders will need to develop more firm and dispatchable energy sources that wind and solar are unable to currently provide.

On Oct. 6, 2025, Governor Green signed the Strategic Partnering Agreement with Tokyo-based JERA Co. This agreement provides the best opportunity to attract the capital and technical expertise to help Hawai'i reach its clean energy and decarbonization goals.

As Japan's largest power generator, JERA is uniquely positioned to support the state of Hawai'i's transition to a more affordable, sustainable and reliable energy future. JERA's experience in providing affordable and clean energy to consumers contribute to its deep industry knowledge spanning

renewable energy integration, advanced decarbonization technologies and expertise in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) procurement and shipping. LNG will serve a vital role in implementing that strategy — a strategy that will bridge Hawai‘i into an energy resilient future.

The Green Administration believes that LNG is the most cost-effective transitional fuel to be used until greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels can be permanently eliminated by 2045.

A 2024 economic feasibility study found that a new strategy to import LNG to replace Hawai‘i’s current approach of importing the more carbon-intensive light sulfur fuel oil could reduce lifecycle carbon intensity by 38% to 44% when used in more efficient power plants. This establishes a viable pathway for natural gas to replace residual oil until it is phased out completely by 2045.

And while ambitious, Hawai‘i’s 2045 energy goals could cost up to $2 billion — investments used will upgrade the state’s thermal infrastructure with more efficient equipment and ensure that the lowest-carbon, affordable fuel source is available to Hawai‘i and its people.[4]

Under the agreement, JERA will explore opportunities to make the required equity investments in the state and support additional fundraising efforts of capital investments needed to fulfill the necessary infrastructure and ultimately achieve the state’s renewable and decarbonization policies.

In particular, Hawai‘i and JERA officials have agreed to work together on the following initiatives:

- The development of offshore LNG facilities to facilitate safe and efficient receiving, storage and regasification of LNG;
- Leveraging JERA’s global development capabilities and procurement network to ensure the timely acquisition of key equipment;
- Establishing a competitive financing structure to attract a lower cost of capital to help mitigate financing costs and ultimately, benefit Hawai‘i ratepayers and;
- Continued development of renewable energy sources to responsibly balance sustainability with grid reliability and financial impact to ratepayers.

Among the renewable energy sources, geothermal power stands out as potentially transformational in Hawai‘i’s energy landscape.

[4] Hawai‘i State Energy Office, Alternative Fuels, Repowering and Energy Transition Study https://energy.hawaii.gov/alternative-fuels-repowering-and-energy-transition-study/



Puna Geothermal Venture plant on Hawai‘i has been producing electricity for more than three decades. Photo courtesy: HECO and Puna Geothermal Venture.

For more than three decades, Puna Geothermal Ventures at Kīlauea East Rift Zone has supplied Hawai‘i island residents with about 13% of their energy needs.

Over the years, studies have identified potential geothermal resources on O‘ahu and Maui as well as at other areas on the island of Hawai‘i.

The Hawai‘i State Energy Office is carrying out test drilling to evaluate the potential of localized, safe and resilient energy resources and to help the state identify ways to secure reliable, local and low-cost energy for residents.

Additional funding has been requested from the Legislature to conduct resource characterization at other high-probability locations in the state.

## Moving Toward a Decarbonized Future



Governor Green and youth plaintiffs announcing the resolution of the *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* constitutional climate case. (June 20, 2024)

Along with reinforcing the renewable energy sector, the state also is accelerating its efforts to reduce its own carbon footprint.

As a result of Hawai'i's unique geography and the economic needs of our residents, the transportation sector — which includes all domestic and international airline activity, commercial shipping and recreational boating, as well as ground transportation by cars and trucks — generates the largest volume of $CO_2$ emissions statewide.




HDOT, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, launched its first autonomous electric passenger shuttle, in June 2023. Photo courtesy: HDOT.

Altogether, Hawai'i's transportation sector generates more than 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year. These emissions comprise more than half of all statewide greenhouse emissions produced each year.

The 2024 landmark settlement agreement in *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* marked a pivotal step toward aligning the transportation sector with the state's net-zero emissions goal by the year 2045.

*Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* marked the world's first youth-led constitutional climate agreement that sought to combat climate pollution from the transportation sector. Asserting their right to a safe and healthy environment, 13 youth from across the islands called on the Hawai'i state government to advance a paradigm shift toward a climate-safe, zero-emissions transportation system.

The *Navahine* settlement is also the first of its kind in which a state government entity has agreed to work with youth plaintiffs to implement specific plans and programs designed to decarbonize a state transportation system and reduce greenhouse gas pollution.



In December, the HDOT announced new battery electric buses for shuttle service at the Daniel K. Inouye International Consolidated Rental Car Facility.

The agreement calls for the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) to implement a number of important steps and to establish key metrics that will help the state work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. They include:

- Creating a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan, which lays the foundation and establishes a roadmap to decarbonize Hawai'i's transportation system within the next 20 years;
- Forming a lead unit within the HDOT to coordinate the mission of GHG reduction throughout the agency. This unit will also oversee climate change mitigation and adaptation

for the highways program and ensure implementation of the Complete Streets policy of building and upgrading public highways for all users, ages and abilities;

- Making immediate, large-scale investments in the clean transportation infrastructure, including completing the pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks in five years — and dedicating a minimum of $40 million to expanding the public electric vehicle charging network by 2030.

To fund some of these goals, the HDOT recently put in a request with the Green Fee Advisory Council to fund more than $52 million in new infrastructure resilience projects for FY 2027.



HDOT installed an electric vehicle charging station at Aloha Tower. (November 2024)


Kuilei
PLACE

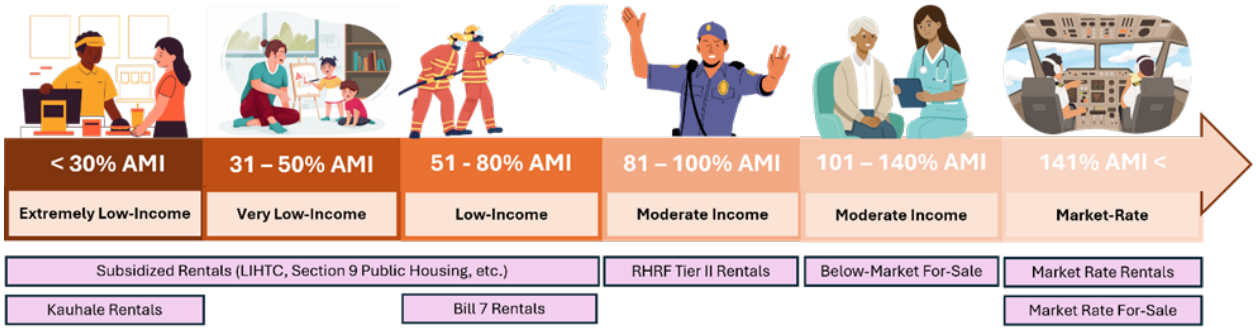
# Chapter Three
# DELIVERING HOUSING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

***Solving Hawai'i's Housing Crisis, One Home at a Time***

The cost of housing is one of the largest economic challenges faced by families in Hawai'i. Over half of Hawai'i's renters are cost burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent. In a state with the highest cost of living, this leaves very little for our residents to save and invest in their futures. For too long, Hawai'i has seen too many of our kama'āina move away from their families and homes in search of more affordable lives.

But while home prices have soared, our state's economic growth has remained stagnant for decades — leaving far too much housing demand for a limited housing stock. The state lacks housing options across the income spectrum, from rentals available for low-income populations to affordable homeownership options for residents.

But over the last three years, the Green administration has tackled this difficult issue head-on. To make housing more affordable, the state is paving the way to build more housing for local families across the income ladder. The administration identified nearly 50,000 affordable units in the pipeline for development over the next decade.




From the beginning, Governor Green set a near-term housing goal of realizing 10,000 housing units in affordable and mixed-income housing projects by 2026. Since the start of the Green administration, 6,500 units have been completed and another 4,500 units are currently under construction. In 2025, the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) awarded financing to another seven projects totaling nearly 1,500 rental units that will serve low-income families earning between 30-80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), which are expected to start construction in 2026. This means over 12,000 units for our local families.

These are not just numbers — these homes are being delivered for real people. These units benefit people like Cynthia — a single mom who moved into a state-subsidized rental project with her daughter in 2017. After years living in stable and affordable housing, she built a foundation for long-term financial stability and growth. Just this year, she was able to purchase her own home in Ulana Ward Village, a 697-unit project completed in 2025 that is part of the state's Reserved Housing Program.



Ulana Ward Village is now completed with 697 units.

## Ka Lei Momi Redevelopment Project

The state is also making more state-owned lands available for housing development. In total, there are over 20,000 units planned on state-owned lands — most of which are in transit-oriented development areas.

The Ka Lei Momi Redevelopment Project, which the state launched in 2023, is a critical component of the effort to develop housing on state-owned lands. This transformative state initiative will redevelop aging public housing sites into modern, mixed-income communities that will ultimately add over 10,000 new housing units for local families. These units will provide a mix of low- and middle-income rental housing and affordable for-sale housing for qualified residents. Altogether, this represents a $6.6 billion investment for our low- and middle-income families in underserved communities.



Kuhio Park Terrace Groundbreaking. (Dec. 19, 2025)

The development team — a public-private partnership between the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and affordable housing developer Highridge Costa — hit major milestones this year in moving the initiative forward. School Street Phase 1a broke ground in 2024 and is moving along quickly. The 250-unit project is estimated to come online in 2026. Kuhio Park Terrace Low and Mid-Rise Phase 1 broke ground in December 2025 and will add 304 affordable housing units by 2028. Mayor Wright was awarded financing from the Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, with plans to break ground by the end of 2026 and complete construction in 2029.

| Near-Term Project Progress – Public Housing Redevelopment | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Project Name** | **Units** | **Status** |
| School Street Phase 1a | 250 units | Under Construction |
| Kuhio Park Terrace Low- and Mid-Rise | 304 units | Under Construction |
| Mayor Wright Homes Phase 1a | 308 units | Awarded Financing and In Permitting |
| Kapa‘a Homes | 150 units | In Permitting |
| Lanakila Homes Phase I | 152 units | In Planning and Design |
| **Total** | **1,164 units** | |



School Street Progress. Photo and rendering courtesy: Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority.

Over the next decade or so, the entire redevelopment initiative will realize over 10,000 total new units for local families. This includes:

- 800 units at the HPHA School Street campus in Kapālama, O‘ahu;
- 304 units at Kuhio Park Terrace in Kalihi, O‘ahu;
- 2,448 units at the current 364-unit Mayor Wright Homes project in downtown Honolulu;
- 2,170 units at the current 260-unit Pu‘uwai Momi project in ‘Aiea;
- 1,550 units to the current 152-unit Ka‘ahumanu Homes project in Kalihi;
- 2,950 units to the current 221-unit Kamehameha Homes project, also in Kalihi;
- 705 units to the current 36-unit Hale Laulima project in Pearl City;
- 105 units to the current 36-unit Nānākuli Homes project in Wai‘anae;
- 258 units to the current Lanakila Homes site in Hilo, Hawai‘i Island;
- 200 units to the current 82-unit Kahekili Terrace project in Wailuku, Maui; and
- 110 units to the current 36-unit Kapa‘a project on Kaua‘i.

## Helping Local Families Afford to Buy Homes

Housing costs in Hawai‘i are particularly out of reach for local families seeking to purchase a home. Hawai‘i has the highest home prices in the nation, where the median home in Hawai‘i was 16% more expensive than in California in 2024.

High interest rates fueled by inflation have further priced out buyers in our state, making it harder for local families to afford to purchase a home. The Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) is leading the charge in providing innovative ways to make homeownership more affordable for residents.

In December 2025, the HHFDC announced its Hale Kama‘āina Mortgage Program to help local buyers afford to purchase homes. This program, designed for first-time homebuyers, provides qualified residents with below-market mortgage interest rates and critical downpayment assistance.



Kuilei Place groundbreaking ceremony. (March 9, 2025)

The HHFDC's Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Equity Pilot (DEP) program helps create more homeownership opportunities for qualified purchasers, especially those who work in professions with critical shortages in the state. HHFDC works with developers of for-sale projects to purchase a specified amount of equity in designated units that are being sold to qualified residents. The state's participation thus lowers the price of these qualifying homes. By lowering prices, this program helps our residents buy their first home at an affordable price. Kuilei Place, the first project to be approved as a participant in the DEP Program, broke ground in April 2025.

## Investing in Housing and Catalytic Infrastructure

At Governor Green's urging, the 2025 Legislative Session created numerous wins for affordable housing statewide. The FY26-27 budget includes more than $500 million to support new housing development. This includes:

- $200 million in the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to support construction of low- and middle-income rental housing;
- $40 million in the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund to support the construction and acquisition of housing and catalytic infrastructure;
- $68 million for the Ka Lei Momi redevelopment initiative to support pre-development and development costs for projects on Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi and Kauaʻi;
- $20 million for infrastructure on DHHL lands; and
- $35 million for a kūpuna-supportive housing pilot project in Kakaʻako.



Maunakea Towers grand opening and blessing. (April 7, 2025)

In addition, Governor Green signed a number of bills into law to address systemic issues in housing development. These bills will streamline every aspect of the housing process. They will streamline permitting review, close legal loopholes that drive up housing costs and stabilize the state's condo insurance markets.


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# Chapter Four
# SOLVING THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

### *Finding Creative Solutions to the Homelessness Crisis*

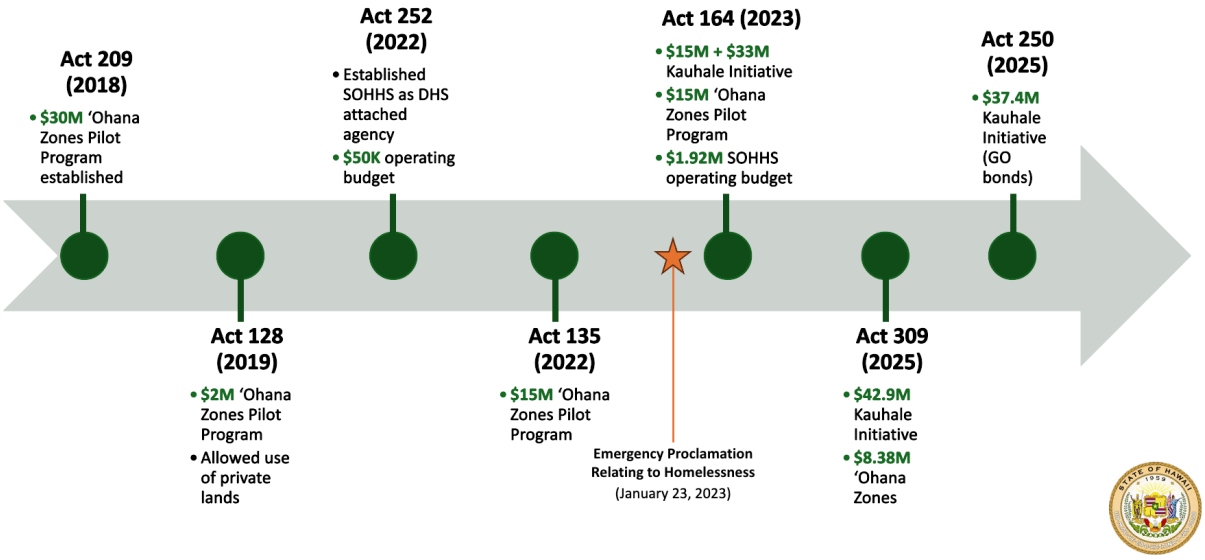
Hawai‘i is grappling with a severe homelessness crisis, driven by high living costs and a significant housing shortage. The state faces the highest homelessness rate in the country, which was exacerbated by the 2023 Maui wildfires. Many of our homeless neighbors face poor health and education outcomes, trauma, reduced life expectancy and frequent visits to emergency rooms. These factors have contributed to Hawai‘i having the highest homelessness rate in the nation.



Kīpūola Kauhale units. (Oct. 6, 2025)

The Kauhale Initiative represents a deeply affordable housing model — built faster at lower cost — to stabilize residents, communities and public systems. Kauhale villages create a more cost-effective solution that reduces system costs and improves long-term health and economic outcomes. Rooted in a traditional Hawaiian concept of village style living, kauhale communities combine modest private homes with shared spaces that foster stability, connection and well-being — improving social determinants of health while reducing the need for repeated, high-cost crisis response across healthcare, justice and emergency systems.

The Green Administration's kauhale initiative has activated a paradigm shift by recognizing homelessness as a public health emergency. Addressing this issue requires viewing housing as a critical component of healthcare and expanding access to safe, stable housing for our unhoused neighbors, to aid their healing. To respond to the homelessness crisis, the administration has secured unprecedented investment in solving homelessness. Since 2022, the state has invested $78 million in the kauhale initiative and ʻOhana Zones program, supporting over 1,000 beds. The legislature allocated an additional $88.68 million in FY26-27 to continue and expand the kauhale initiative and ʻOhana Zones program.




The kauhale initiative employs a community-centered model that expedites the delivery of cost-effective housing and supportive services essential for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Each kauhale is adaptable, catering to community needs — providing semi-permanent housing for healing or medical respite to help stabilize individuals to keep them off the streets. This approach has yielded significant results. Over the past three years, more housing options have been introduced than by any previous administration, adding over 900 beds for the unsheltered, including 236 units in tiny-home communities.

**918**
Total active kauhale beds across 24 project locations statewide

**2,128**
Total people served in kauhale projects through November 2025

**72%**
Of those who have left kauhale exited to permanent housing or other residential/institutional settings, such as treatment programs

Today, more than 2,000 people have been served by the kauhale initiative and over 70% have exited kauhale into permanent housing or other non-homelessness settings, such as being reunited with families or entering treatment programs.

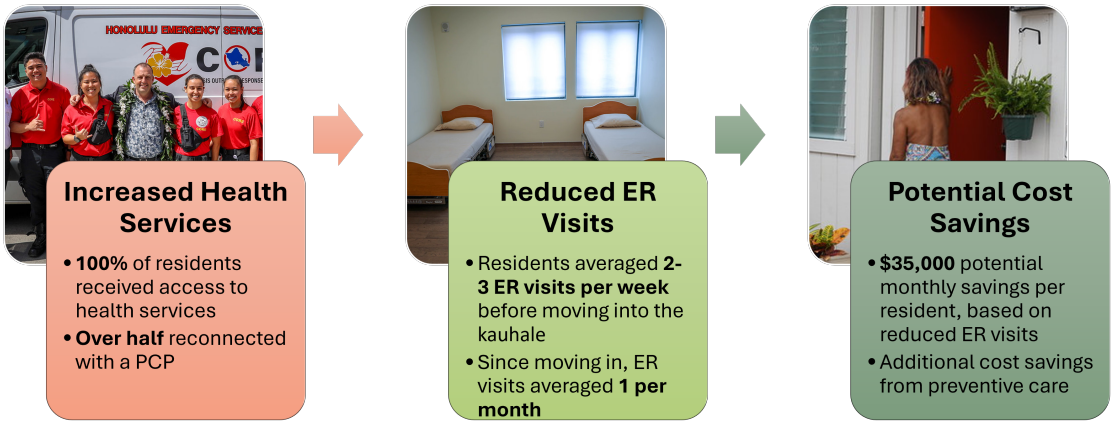


Hui Mahiʻai ʻĀina Village groundbreaking ceremony. (Nov. 15, 2025)

The kauhale model also represents a significant opportunity to realize long-term cost savings to the state. Unsheltered individuals represent a large percentage of the high-utilizer Medicaid population due to frequent emergency room visits. The kauhale medical respite sites could result in over $1.3 million in annual savings where the average nightly cost for kauhale medical respite is $260, compared to the $3,473 average in-patient hospital bed nightly rate.

Hawaiʻi's homelessness strategy recognizes that housing is healthcare — and that access to behavioral health services is essential to sustaining housing stability. Through coordinated efforts across the health, housing and justice systems, the Green Administration is strengthening pathways to treatment, crisis stabilization and long-term recovery for individuals experiencing serious mental illness and substance use disorders. By pairing stable housing with accessible, community-based services, the state is addressing both the visible symptoms and the underlying drivers of homelessness.

## CASE STUDY: HO‘OKAHI LEO KAUHALE – O‘AHU




The individuals served through the kauhale initiative are those who have historically fallen through the frays of our social safety net. Kauhale provides a step up from traditional shelter settings — where individuals can stay in private spaces without arbitrary time limits and with few barriers to entry. They provide a safe space for healing and community building while helping individuals build the skills they need to move into independent, permanent housing for the long-term.

This has produced real results for our houseless neighbors:

- “Malia” was a resident of the Kauhale Program for two years. While in the program, she attended life skills classes and program activities that helped her to learn employment skills and increase her ability to find a job and start saving money. She was on probation and completed her community service requirement, during which time she also expanded her network of community social support. She attended financial literacy classes and saved $20,000, which provided a solid financial foundation. She was released from probation on July 25, 2025, and moved into permanent housing on the Big Island in October 2025. This financial safety net and education will help her withstand financial emergencies and lessen the possibility of reoffending or returning to homelessness.

- “John” was renting a room in a house and paying rent every month, but quickly found himself facing homelessness when the owner of the home decided to move back in. Unable to find another affordable housing option, John was forced to pack his belongings and move into his car. When a kauhale opened nearby, John contacted the project operator and quickly completed the move in. The kauhale’s central location and affordable program fee are allowing John to keep his job and continue building up savings.

Some 1,090 beds statewide are currently supported by the kauhale and ‘Ohana Zones programs. Planning and design efforts are currently underway to expend the $56 million allocated for FY26 and FY27 to build new kauhale communities on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i and Kaua‘i.

## Current List of Operational Kauhale Projects

| Kauhale Program | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | Project Name | Island | # Beds |
| 1 | Kamaʻokū Kauhale | Oʻahu | 36 |
| 2 | Ka Malu Koʻolau | Oʻahu | 33 |
| 3 | Hoʻokahi Leo | Oʻahu | 50 |
| 4 | Paepae Hou | Oʻahu | 12 |
| 5 | Hale ʻImi Ola (Waikīkī Vista) | Oʻahu | 120 |
| 6 | Village of Redemption 1 and 2 | Oʻahu | 47 |
| 7 | Fernhurst | Oʻahu | 32 |
| 8 | Aʻala Medical Respite | Oʻahu | 62 |
| 9 | Hilo Overnight Cot Sleeping Program | Hawaiʻi | 50 |
| 10 | Alana Ola Pono | Oʻahu | 45 |
| 11 | Kūlia I Ka Nuʻu | Oʻahu | 19 |
| 12 | Wiwoʻole Bridge Program | Kauaʻi | 18 |
| 13 | Kumu Ola Hou | Oʻahu | 50 |
| 14 | Maui Central – Kūpuna | Maui | 10 |
| 15 | Maui Vineyard – Kūpuna | Maui | 16 |
| 16 | Kauhale ʻŌpio | Oʻahu | 16 |
| 17 | Hui Mahiʻai ʻĀina (existing) | Oʻahu | 57 |
| 18 | Kinoʻole Youth Kauhale | Oʻahu | 22 |
| 19 | Hale Ula Lehua | Hawaiʻi | 10 |
| 20 | MHK Iwilei Kauhale | Oʻahu | 50 |
| 21 | Kīpūola Kauhale | Maui | 64 |
| 22 | Pūnāwai Medical Respite | Oʻahu | 20 |
| 23 | Lēʻahi Behavioral Health | Oʻahu | 19 |
| 24 | Hale o Kumumamo (DHHL) | Oʻahu | 18 |
| **Total Active Kauhale Beds** | | **Statewide** | **876** |

| ‘Ohana Zones Program | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | Project Name | Island | # Beds |
| 1 | O‘ahu Shelter - HONU | O‘ahu | 40 |
| 2 | O‘ahu PSH - Housing First IV Scattered Site (Kumuwai, Hale Maluhia, Hale Kipa, Catholic Charities) | O‘ahu | 60 |
| 3 | Maui PSH - Huliau | Maui | 12 |
| 4 | Kaua‘i PSH - Kealaula and Lima Ola | Kaua‘i | 60 |
| 5 | Hawai‘i PSH - Hale Kulike | Hawai‘i | 18 |
| 6 | Hawai‘i Shelter - Keolahou, Integrated Care Hub | Hawai‘i | PENDING |
| **Total Active ‘Ohana Zones Beds** | | **Statewide** | **172** |



Governor Green speaking at the Alana Ola Pono kauhale blessing. (Dec. 23, 2024)


CAGE FREE
JUMBO ONE DOZEN
Gold Leaf

# Chapter Five
# ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY
## *Strengthening Hawai‘i’s Food Systems Through a Coordinated Strategy*



First Lady Jaime Kanani Green speaking at a news conference to raise awareness about the SUN Bucks Summer EBT program. (July 22, 2025)

Food security is essential to Hawai‘i’s resilience, sustainability and long-term well-being. The state’s recent efforts to strengthen food security include a coordinated, end-to-end approach that connects food production, processing and distribution, with the needs of local consumers and institutions.

Rather than viewing local food production as isolated farm expansion, the state is building a comprehensive food system — from ‘āina to market — that enables local producers to grow, process and deliver food at scale. Guided by clear legislative mandates and supported by data-driven planning, targeted infrastructure investment, land stewardship and workforce development, this effort is helping ensure that more locally grown food reaches Hawai‘i’s residents and supports a more resilient future for generations to come.

## Aligning Local Food Production with Institutional Demand

A key driver of Hawai‘i’s food security efforts is institutional procurement, particularly within the Department of Education (HIDOE). State laws provide a strong policy framework for this initiative, including: Act 175, SLH 2021, which requires HIDOE schools to purchase 30% of locally sourced food by 2030; Act 176, SLH 2021, which establishes local procurement benchmarks for other state departments and institutions (e.g. Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Hawai‘i State Hospital); and Act 151, SLH 2019, which directs the state to double local food production and increase exports by 2030.



HIDOE served locally sourced ‘volcano bowls’ for National School Lunch Week and Farm to School Month. Photo courtesy: HIDOE.

To meet these mandates, the state is aligning school meal needs and nutritional requirements with Hawai‘i’s agricultural capacity. At the same time, the strategy strengthens the “middle” of the food system such as processing, food safety, logistics, distribution and procurement. This will allow Hawai‘i’s farmers and food producers to consistently participate in large-scale institutional markets.

## Data-Driven, Phased Implementation

Operationally, the state’s approach is increasingly data driven and sequenced to identify and address system gaps. Key actions include:

- Quantifying demand: Measuring HIDOE’s monthly and annual food demand by item and market form (fresh, frozen, cut, cooked);
- Assessing supply readiness: Mapping current and scalable local supply through commodity mapping, as well as confirming producer readiness in partnership with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), farmers and ranchers;
- Identifying bottlenecks: Validating distribution, inspection and food safety constraints with industry partners to pinpoint the most significant barriers.

This work supports the efficient movement of local food from farm to table. Implementation is phased to ensure steady progress: establishing baselines and early wins, scaling up and integrating local food into institutional menus throughout 2026 — and achieving full growth and resilience between 2027 and 2030. Progress will be tracked through metrics tied to compliance with Acts 175 and 176, in addition to production and export goals and reductions in reliance on imported food required by Act 151.

## Advancing Act 90 Land Transfers to Support Agricultural Capacity

Land stewardship is a foundational component of Hawai‘i’s food security strategy. Act 90, SLH 2003, directs the transfer of state-owned agricultural lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), ensuring that lands best suited for farming and ranching are managed by the agency with the mission and expertise to support agricultural production.



Parker Ranch, with approximately 4,529 acres of pastureland, was transferred in 2024. Photo courtesy: DLNR. (Sept. 14, 2022)

Prior to the Green administration, progress on Act 90, SLH 2003, implementation occurred gradually. Between 2005 and 2021, DLNR transferred approximately 19,000 acres of agricultural lands to DAB, laying important groundwork for strengthening local agriculture and improving resilience during supply chain disruptions.

Since 2023 implementation has accelerated significantly. Between 2023 and 2025, DLNR transferred approximately 50,000 acres to DAB, marking the most substantial advancement in Act 90 implementation since the law’s passage. The expanded acreage under DAB management increases opportunities for farming and ranching and provides greater stability for agricultural lessees. This accelerated progress reflects a coordinated effort to prioritize agricultural use.

## Investing in Infrastructure to Support Local Food at Scale

To make statewide implementation feasible, the state is investing in infrastructure that reduces the cost and complexity of producing, processing and manufacturing local food products. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) uses a resilience framework that emphasizes modernizing equipment, developing centralized processing facilities and creating pathways to expand into new markets, while strengthening the Hawai‘i brand.

Through the Food and Product Innovation Network, the state is supporting Value-Added Product Development Centers at UH community colleges — including UH Kapi‘olani and Leeward Community Colleges, UH Maui College, and Hawai‘i Community College – Pālamanui — paired with the Agribusiness Development Corporation's food and product manufacturing facilities to enable scalability and commercialization. These facilities help bridge the gap between farm-level production and distribution-ready products, including the cut, frozen and cooked formats required for institutional procurement and broader retail markets.

## Building the Workforce to Sustain the Food System

Workforce development is treated as a core component of food security. The state is linking "curriculum to career" by developing talent across agriculture, food systems and supply-chain and logistics roles required to operate a modern local food ecosystem. This includes coordination among DOE complex areas, UH community colleges, work-based learning programs such as internships and apprenticeships, DLIR's Workforce Development Council and private-sector employers.

These efforts are reinforced through career and technical education pathways in agriculture, food and natural resources and business and supply-chain management, as well as partnerships that help entrepreneurs move from ‘āina to market — including ‘Āina to Mākeke, Mana Up, and the Hawaiian Council's Pop-up Mākeke program — alongside facility-based training and product development support.

## Conclusion

Together, Hawai‘i's food security initiatives form a coordinated system that links land access, production, processing, distribution and workforce development. By advancing institutional procurement mandates, accelerating Act 90 land transfers, investing in infrastructure and cultivating a skilled workforce, the state is strengthening local food production in a way that improves predictability for producers, reliability for buyers and long-term resilience for Hawai‘i. This integrated approach positions Hawai‘i to reduce reliance on imported food, support local agriculture and build a more self-reliant and sustainable food system for the future.


kate spade

# Chapter Six
# DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

***Celebrating Progress and Looking Ahead***

Over the past decade the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) has achieved significant progress in its mission to address the housing needs of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. This progress is evident not only in the rising number of residential lease awards each year, but also in the department's steadfast commitment to transparency, efficiency and community engagement. Each lease award represents far more than a statistic — it is a transformative opportunity for Native Hawaiian families to secure a home, gain stability and invest in their futures.

Since 2015, DHHL has consistently increased the number of leases awarded annually, reflecting a dedication to both expanding access and accelerating the pace of awards.

**Distribution of lease awards over the past decade:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2015 | 15 |
| 2016 | 45 |
| 2017 | 107 |
| 2018 | 60 |
| 2019 | 84 |
| 2020 | 46 |
| 2021 | 120* |
| 2022 | 71 |
| 2023 | 65* |
| 2024 | 84 |
| 2025 | 2,586** |

*This number includes Rent-With-Option-To-Purchase (RWOP).
**This number includes "re-offered" lots.

DHHL has expanded its focus beyond traditional single-family homes to include a wider range of housing solutions such as rental apartments and innovative rent-to-own models. This flexibility ensures that as land is developed, opportunities remain accessible to a broader cross-section of the Native Hawaiian community — from kūpuna who have waited decades for a homestead, to young families seeking affordable housing in Hawai'i's challenging real estate market.

As the 2025–26 fiscal year concludes, DHHL has offered an additional 212 lease awards as of May 2026. The department remains committed to transparency. The full awards schedule — with detailed

information on upcoming releases and projects — can be accessed at https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/awards/.

## Hale Mōʻiliʻili

Looking forward, 2026 is shaping up to be another pivotal year for DHHL and its beneficiaries. One of the most anticipated milestones is the completion of the Hale Mōʻiliʻili project on Oʻahu. This project will deliver 278 new rental apartments, offering affordable and centrally located housing to hundreds of families. Beneficiary move-ins are projected to begin in December 2026, opening a new chapter for many on the homestead waitlist.



Hale Moʻiliʻili construction site. Photo courtesy: Stanford Carr Development.

"Innovative projects like Hale Mōʻiliʻili ensure our Native Hawaiian families have a place to call home," said Governor Green. "Our families have endured on the waitlist for far too long. This opportunity has the potential to empower beneficiaries and create meaningful change."

In preparation for this milestone, DHHL will distribute orientation materials and interest forms to beneficiaries approximately six months before project completion. This proactive approach will ensure that prospective residents are well-informed and ready to take advantage of this opportunity when the time comes. Interested families and individuals should expect to receive information and guidance from DHHL in the summer of 2026.

## Conclusion

These achievements and forward-looking initiatives are part of a broader strategic vision that extends beyond simply awarding leases. DHHL is also investing in critical infrastructure, expanding community services and engaging in long-term planning to create thriving, sustainable homesteads where Native Hawaiians can flourish. With each passing year, the department's momentum grows, driven by the principle that every lease award is a step toward building a more secure, equitable future for Native Hawaiian families.

As DHHL continues to innovate and expand its programs, the results are clear: thousands of families have already benefited and thousands more are poised to do so in the years ahead. The department's work is ushering in a new era for Native Hawaiian homesteading — one marked by hope, opportunity and the fulfillment of a promise made generations ago.


STATE OF HAWAII
1959
Proclamation
"National Emergency Medical Services Week"

# Chapter Seven
# BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP
*Expanding Healthcare Access*

## Queens Health and Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation

In December 2025, The Queen’s Health Systems and the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) announced a landmark public-private partnership to develop a new outpatient care facility in Kailua-Kona. Queen’s will donate three to five acres of land to HHSC’s West Hawaii Region, adjacent to the new Queen’s hospital already planned for the area. HHSC intends to use the site to build a more than 50,000 square-foot outpatient medical facility that will expand access to essential services for West Hawai‘i families.



Governor Green and Queen‘s Health System’s CEO Jason Chang at the Queen’s West Emergency Department expansion groundbreaking ceremony. (Sept. 25, 2024)

This partnership directly addresses the challenges that Hawai‘i Island residents face in accessing care, including long waits, limited specialty care availability and the burden of interisland travel. Families who once traveled to O‘ahu for essential services will gain reliable access within their own community, strengthening health, stability and quality of life across West Hawai‘i.

The initiative builds on a shared workforce agreement between HHSC’s West Hawaii Region and Queen’s that was established earlier in 2025, to keep healthcare local and advance workforce development. Together, the new Queen’s hospital and the HHSC outpatient facility will form an integrated hub for care, allowing patients to receive services in one coordinated setting rather than piecing together treatment across multiple sites or islands. With support from the state, including an initial $50 million request to begin planning and design, the project reflects a shared commitment to closing long-standing gaps in access and building lasting capacity for the region.

“This partnership represents exactly the kind of investment Hawai‘i Island needs and deserves,” Governor Green said at the joint press conference announcing the plans. “By joining forces, Queen’s and HHSC are expanding access to primary and specialty care, reducing travel and wait times and strengthening the healthcare workforce in West Hawai‘i. The state is proud to support this effort and

this new Outpatient Care Center will bring us closer to ensuring every family can receive high-quality care in their own community."

## HELP Update

In September 2023, Governor Green and the Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) unveiled an expansive loan repayment program to address the dangerous shortages of physicians and other healthcare professionals across the Hawaiian islands. The Healthcare Education Loan Repayment (HELP) program strives to alleviate educational debt so Hawai'i can attract and retain the healthcare professionals who are essential to addressing Hawai'i's healthcare challenges.

Conceptualized by Governor Green in partnership with the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i and the State Department of Health, the program awards healthcare professionals in dozens of specialties, loan repayment amounts ranging from $12,500 to $50,000, in exchange for two years of full-time service in Hawai'i. HELP prioritizes specialists in primary care and behavioral health, along with those practicing in rural areas.



Governor Green with HELP Steering Committee Member Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, M.D. and one of the first HELP recipients John Misailidis, M.D. (Dec. 22, 2023)

The HELP program was originally allocated $30 million over two years in 2023 and has been renewed for another $30 million through 2027. As of December 2025, there have been almost 2,800 applications for loan repayment from healthcare providers in Hawai'i. So far, 921 healthcare workers have received assistance from the HELP program, as well as 67 Quest dentists and primary care providers through collaborative programs, for a total of 988 individuals assisted. Over the next two years, 400 additional rural, primary care, dental and mental health providers will be contracted — and 40 residency graduates will come home to practice, lowering workforce shortages across the state.

One recipient said, "With HELP, I was finally able to pay off my medical school student loans (I graduated in 2012 and started making payments then) five years earlier! Now we can dream and hopefully own a house one day. Our family feels at home and I want to continue helping grow local doctors."

## Protecting Vaccine Access

On Aug. 27, 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration restricted approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 65 and older, as well as to those as young as six months with at least one underlying medical condition. This federal policy excluded healthy children and adults under 65 from authorized access to the vaccine, despite continued evidence supporting its safety and efficacy.

Subsequently, Sept. 19, 2025, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals older than six months, contingent upon a shared clinical decision-making process. This recommendation introduced new procedural requirements for pharmacists, resulting in uncertainty and reluctance to administer the vaccine due to ambiguous compliance expectations.

In response to these federal changes, Governor Green issued an Emergency Proclamation (EP) to preserve public access to COVID-19 vaccines. This action was taken in response to federal policy changes that limited vaccine availability within the state.

The EP authorized Hawai‘i pharmacists to continue administering COVID-19 vaccines to individuals aged three and older, consistent with the guidelines set by the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) and without requiring a physician’s prescription.



Governor Green learning more about the pharmacy expansion at Kona Community Hospital. (June 2, 2025)

Pharmacies serve as a principal point of access for immunization services throughout Hawai‘i, particularly in rural and neighbor island communities. Without this emergency action, residents would face increased barriers to care, such as longer wait times for physician appointments and reduced availability of vaccination services.

This policy decision aligns with the WCHA — a partnership among California, Oregon and Washington — which advocates for consistent, science-based public health guidance across member states. The Hawai‘i Department of Health reviewed and affirmed these recommendations as evidence-based practices designed to protect families and communities. The proclamation ensured the continuity of regionally coordinated, expert-driven guidance during a period of federal policy uncertainty.

The state of Hawai‘i remains committed to implementing evidence-based public health measures and will continue to enact local policies that address the specific needs of its residents when federal guidance is insufficient.

## Hawai‘i’s Rural Health Transformation Program

Enactment of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” dramatically reduced federal healthcare spending across the country, with the deepest reductions impacting rural and underserved communities. But the legislation also created a rare opportunity: a $50 billion Rural Health Transformation fund for states to reimagine and revive their rural healthcare systems from the ground up.



Kona Community Hospital Emergency Ward. (June 2, 2025)

Recognizing both the urgency and Hawai‘i’s rural healthcare needs and the potential to advance rural healthcare, the Office of the Governor convened a group of healthcare leaders, educators and practitioners in July 2025 to design a strategy for transformative change. The administration developed a comprehensive rural health transformation plan over five months — one that reflects the realities of care and the aspirations of communities across the islands. The result is a set of six initiatives that together aim to build a rural healthcare system that is modern, equitable and sustainable for future generations:

**1 - Rural Health Information Network**

Hawai‘i’s rural health facilities continue to struggle with fragmented data systems, limited connectivity and barriers to real-time care coordination. The Rural Health Information Network initiative addresses these challenges by establishing mass-scale interoperability across rural facilities through statewide electronic health record onboarding, in-facility network upgrades, a closed-loop referral system and an analytics hub to support population health management and value-based care. Together, these investments will ensure that providers across the neighbor islands can share information seamlessly, reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment, and deliver higher-quality, data-driven care for rural families.

**2 - Pili Ola Telehealth Network**

Distance, limited provider availability and transportation barriers continue to prevent rural residents from accessing timely specialty and primary care. The Pili Ola Telehealth Network initiative responds by pioneering a statewide telehealth system that places access points and telehealth navigators in community centers and workplaces. The Pili Ola initiative will focus on expanding virtual maternal health, stroke, infectious disease, pediatric, behavioral health and primary care services with the goal of breaking down long-standing barriers to access and ensuring that high-quality care is available in every community.

**3 - Rural Infrastructure for Care Access**

Rural communities disproportionately experience challenges with emergency-response times, inter-facility transfers and access to urgent and preventive care. The Rural Infrastructure for Care Access initiative strengthens this critical foundation by creating the MEDICOM Center, a real-time statewide coordination hub for emergency and trauma transfers. The initiative will also replace Hawai‘i’s aging rural EMS fleet with telehealth-enabled, satellite-connected units and deploy mobile clinics, community paramedicine teams and mobile behavioral health units across the islands. These investments will improve EMS response times, expand care delivery into underserved communities and ensure that rural residents receive timely, coordinated, life-saving care.

**4 - HOME RUN**

Hawai‘i’s medical provider shortages have limited access to primary, specialty and behavioral health services for decades. However, the state has found a successful strategy for solving these shortages through its Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program (HELP). Building on the success of the HELP program, the Hawai‘i Outreach for Medical Education in Rural Under-resourced Neighborhoods (HOME RUN) initiative awards education awards and direct payments to clinicians who commit to five years of service in a rural area and establishes new pipelines for healthcare workers. The funding provided by this initiative will support new rural clinical training sites, residencies, nursing transition-to-practice programs and high school health certificate pathways to 20 rural schools. HOME RUN will help grow and retain a locally trained workforce, ensuring that rural communities gain stable, long-term access to providers who understand and serve their communities.

**5 - Rural Respite Network**

Hospitals and EMS agencies across the state routinely care for medically fragile individuals who lack stable housing and have nowhere to recover safely, leading to repeated emergency visits and prolonged hospital stays. The Rural Respite Network initiative meets this need by establishing five new medical respite centers in rural locations across the state, each designed to provide short-term recuperative care with integrated referral pathways linking hospitals, EMS and housing systems. These centers will offer a safer alternative to the streets, relief for emergency rooms, will reduce strain on acute-care facilities and support smoother transitions to long-term services for individuals experiencing homelessness and medical vulnerability.

**6 - Rural Value-Based Innovation & AHEAD Readiness Fund**

Rural healthcare providers in Hawai‘i often operate within the limited resources, technical support and upfront capital needed to transition into funding models that reward results instead of actions. The Rural Value-Based Innovation Fund creates a competitive statewide grant program to help providers and their partners innovate their models of care. By providing flexible funding, this initiative empowers rural providers to improve outcomes and prepare for long-term statewide transformation under the state’s Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) framework, which transitions the state toward a pay-for-results model.

With guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and these six transformative initiatives in mind, the state submitted a $1 billion, five-year Rural Health Transformation Program proposal in November to bring this vision to life. The Green administration’s application proposal represents one of the most ambitious rural health strategies in the nation.

The results of the state’s work speak clearly. In late December 2025, Hawai‘i was awarded $188,892,440 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, translating to one of the highest levels of investment on a

per-rural-resident basis in the nation. The state will leverage nearly $1 billion in anticipated funding over five years to effectuate its plans and ensure that every person across the islands — regardless of ZIP code — can access the care they deserve.

## Office of Wellness and Resilience



Governor and First Lady Green, DHS Director Ryan Yamane, DHRD Director Brenna Hashimoto, OWR Director, Tia Hartsock and the OWR Team smile for a group photo.

**Hawai‘i’s Mental Health and Well-Being Framework for Disasters and Traumatic Events**

The 2023 Maui wildfires highlighted a critical need for a statewide disaster mental health and well-being response roadmap, prompting the development of the first locally developed disaster framework that focuses on the impact of community trauma after disasters and critical events.

This framework emerged from the existing literature, community-driven feedback and local aggregate data that integrates trauma-informed care principles with the emergency management cycle. There are seven core domains; each provides specific strategies across the prevention, preparedness and response and recovery phases, with particular emphasis on immediate response actions, given the urgent needs of communities actively managing disaster impacts.

**Hawai‘i Quality of Life and Well-Being Survey and Dashboard**

Beginning in 2023, the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) partnered with the Health Policy Initiative at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa College of Social Sciences (UH-Mānoa) to conduct both community and state workforce wellness and resilience assessments through mixed-method surveying.

With the survey data, the dashboard launched in December 2024 and is now publicly available to inform legislation and policy, grant making, reporting and other funding needs, population-specific programming, and coordination of collaborative efforts with the goal of improving individual and system-level outcomes.

In 2025, OWR co-created more than a dozen topical policy and data reports and presented the data to numerous audiences. Key highlights include presentations to most State Senate and House of Representatives members and/or staff, the majority and minority caucuses, community-facing state departments and co-hosting a webinar for nonprofit and grant-making/seeking organizations with the Hawai‘i Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Hawai‘i Community Foundation.

OWR is now planning for the improved 2026 iteration of the survey, which went live in spring of 2026.

**Kūpa‘a Mauli Ola: Hawai‘i’s Wellness and Resilience Summit and OWR’s Learning and Leadership Collaborative**

The OWR Learning and Leadership Collaborative is designed to inspire the Hawai‘i state workforce to foster a culture of care. In its second year, the annual summit celebrated the launch of the new Learning and Leadership Collaborative, which includes the state’s first Certification in Trauma-Informed Care. To date, nearly 200 state employees have completed at least a portion of the eight-module certification course, either during the summit or as part of the initial testing cohort.



Participants at a lei-making workshop at OWR’s Learning and Leadership Collaborative.

Additional certification cohorts met in early 2026, coinciding with the launch of the course content on the Department of Human Resources Development’s online training platform, as well as those of the Department of Education and the University of Hawai‘i.

**Peer Support Specialist Working Group (Act 88)**

Act 88, SLH 2024, established the Peer Support Specialist Working Group within OWR. This working group has developed and submitted recommendations for a statewide framework to guide the roles and practices of peer support specialists. Membership of the working group includes representatives from several state departments, community partners and peer support specialists. In addition to examining best practices for certifying and credentialing peer support specialists, the

framework also incorporates recommendations regarding trauma-informed supervision and sustainable funding to support peer support services.

**State of Well-Being Project (Act 106)**

The State of Well-Being Project housed under OWR was established by Act 106, SLH 2024. The primary objective of the project is to conduct a systematic landscape assessment to evaluate and strengthen wellness and resilience services at both the state and county levels, with a specific focus on first responders, healthcare providers and public school staff. The project team has engaged with over 100 county and state employees, as well as other agencies and community organizations.

**National ACEs Resource Network and Medicaid State Policy Learning Collaborative**

Children in Hawai‘i who are exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) presently lack access to evidence-based interventions until a physical, mental, or behavioral health diagnosis has been made. By this stage, treatment is often more difficult, costly and less effective.



The OWR Team and Dr. Nadine Burke Harris smile together for a group photo.

The national Adverse Childhood Experiences Network and Medicaid State Policy Learning Collaborative recently selected Hawai‘i as one of only five states to participate in its inaugural cohort. This cohort is led by former California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, with OWR serving as the state’s primary anchor organization.

In this capacity, OWR will convene and coordinate statewide efforts to prevent and mitigate trauma and adversity, which are recognized as root causes of many critical issues in Hawai‘i. The goal of this collaboration is to integrate prevention, early detection and evidence-based treatment of toxic stress as standard practices within Hawai‘i’s healthcare system.

Building on this trauma-informed and prevention-focused foundation, the Green Administration is also strengthening statewide access to mental health and substance use services as essential components of Hawai‘i’s healthcare infrastructure.

## Mental Health Is Health: Expanding Access and Strengthening Hawai‘i’s Care Infrastructure

Expanding access to healthcare means ensuring that mental and behavioral health services are available, responsive and integrated across every community in Hawai‘i. Mental health is health — foundational to personal stability, family well-being and community safety. A modern healthcare system cannot function effectively without accessible, coordinated mental health and substance use services. Strengthening this care infrastructure is essential to building long-term resilience and ensuring that no resident is left without a meaningful pathway to support and recovery.

Over the past several years, the Green Administration has taken a deliberate, phased approach to strengthening Hawai‘i’s mental health system. In 2024 and 2025, the focus was on establishing the legal and operational foundations for improved crisis response and diversion. Administration measures signed into law, including Act 86, SLH 2024 (Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services) and Act 219, SLH 2025 (Relating to Mental Health), clarified emergency transport procedures, strengthened collaboration between healthcare providers and first responders and authorized the development of behavioral health crisis centers as alternatives to emergency departments and jails.

These measures recognized a simple but critical truth: when individuals experience a mental health or substance use crisis, the system must be prepared to respond with care — not default to arrest or unnecessary hospitalization. Clearer pathways to low-barrier assessment, stabilization and treatment reduce strain on emergency rooms, decrease justice system involvement and improve outcomes for individuals and families.

At the same time, the administration has recognized that access to care requires more than statutory change. It requires alignment across health, housing and justice systems so that individuals with complex needs do not fall through the gaps.

To advance this work, Governor Green appointed a Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System within the Office of the Governor to lead cross-agency coordination and align efforts across Hawai‘i’s health, housing and justice systems. Under the Governor’s leadership, a statewide Mental Health and Justice (MHJ) team was convened to strengthen collaboration among state departments, the Judiciary, counties, healthcare providers, housing and community partners to build a more coordinated continuum of care — expanding access and creating durable pathways to recovery.



Senior Advisor Michael Champion, Special Assistant to the Attorney General Dave Day, Department of Law Enforcement Director Mike Lambert and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson meet with Judiciary and county partners. (May 2025)

The MHJ team's work is grounded in the nationally recognized Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), which strengthens early intervention and diversion while improving continuity of care across systems. The goal is not to create new bureaucracy, but to better align existing resources, clarify roles and strengthen coordination across systems.

This coordinated approach emphasizes:

- Expanding upstream access to services so individuals receive help before crises escalate;
- Strengthening deflection and diversion pathways so eligible individuals are connected to treatment instead of entering the justice system;
- Enhancing crisis response capacity, including behavioral health crisis centers, mobile crisis teams and Emergency Medical Services coordination;
- Integrating housing and supportive services as platforms for recovery;
- Leveraging data to improve accountability and measure outcomes across systems.

Housing initiatives such as the kauhale model have demonstrated that stable shelter paired with services improves health and reduces system costs. However, housing alone is not sufficient to address serious mental illness or substance use disorders. Access to outpatient treatment, medication management, peer support, crisis stabilization and long-term recovery services must be readily available and coordinated.

This is particularly important in rural and neighbor island communities. Hawai‘i’s Rural Health Transformation initiatives — including telehealth expansion, behavioral health workforce development and mobile care delivery — directly support expanded mental health access statewide. Workforce investments through the HELP program and related initiatives are strengthening the pipeline of primary care and behavioral health providers, especially in underserved areas.

Together, these efforts reflect a broader governing principle: mental health access is essential health infrastructure — foundational to personal stability, economic resilience and public safety in every community across Hawai‘i. A modern healthcare system must include 24/7 crisis response, integrated outpatient services, culturally responsive care and strong partnerships between health, housing and public safety agencies.

When individuals have meaningful access to treatment and recovery supports, personal stability improves, families are strengthened and communities are safer. By focusing on access and alignment, Hawai‘i is building a more compassionate, efficient and accountable system — one that reduces downstream emergency and justice system involvement while promoting long-term health and resilience.

## Conclusion

Hawai‘i’s future depends on a healthcare system that is modern, coordinated and accessible in every community. From strengthening rural hospital partnerships and expanding the healthcare workforce to advancing trauma-informed care and building a more integrated mental health system, the Green administration is investing in the foundations of long-term resilience.

Mental health is health. Access to care is essential infrastructure. When individuals can receive timely crisis response, outpatient treatment and supportive services in their own communities, families are stabilized, housing outcomes improve and public safety is strengthened. By aligning health, housing and public safety systems and focusing on upstream access rather than downstream consequences, Hawai‘i is building a durable model of care that reflects our values of aloha, kuleana and shared responsibility.

This work reflects our commitment to ensure that every resident — in every community — has a meaningful pathway to stability, healing and opportunity.



# Chapter Eight
# PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY

*From Prevention to Response: Keeping Hawai‘i Safe*

## Public Safety: Traffic Safety and Saving Lives on Hawai‘i’s Roads

Traffic safety is one of the most urgent public safety challenges facing Hawai‘i. In 2025, traffic fatalities rose sharply with 126 lives lost statewide. These deaths are not inevitable and the Green administration refuses to accept traffic violence as the cost of daily life. Safer roads are a shared responsibility and addressing this crisis requires coordinated leadership, accountability and sustained action.

In September, the administration took decisive steps to confront this challenge by establishing a comprehensive statewide framework for traffic and roadway safety. Governor Green signed an executive order directing state agencies to work in coordination to address speeding, dangerous driving behavior, protection of vulnerable road users, e-bike and micromobility safety and identification of high-risk corridors. For the first time, traffic safety has been elevated as a top-level, cross-agency priority of state government, making clear that saving lives on our roads is an ongoing responsibility, not a temporary initiative.




Governor and First Lady Green sign waving with first responders to promote safer driving. (Jan 29, 2026)

More than 71% of traffic fatalities involve vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and others not protected by the frame of a vehicle. Nearly 30% of those killed were pedestrians and 5.5% were bicyclists, with roughly half of bicycle fatalities involving e-bike riders. In response, the state has implemented proven safety countermeasures at high-risk locations, including raised crosswalks with enhanced lighting and rapid rectangular flashing beacons to improve visibility and reduce collisions. These improvements reflect a growing emphasis on safer street design and prioritizing those most at risk.

Throughout 2025, HDOT advanced a range of targeted, on-the-ground safety improvements statewide. These actions included high-visibility striping on state highways, elimination of dangerous passing zones, installation of delineators to prevent illegal turning movements and deployment of in-lane rumble strips in high-risk areas. HDOT also launched an automated speed enforcement program, issuing more than 530,000 warnings during the initial warning phase at high-risk locations — sending a clear message that speeding puts lives at risk. Additional traffic-calming features such as bulb-outs, enhanced pavement markings, as well as intersection improvements to further reduce vehicle-pedestrian conflicts. Building on this work, HDOT will be prioritizing intersections in 2026 to add leading pedestrian intervals, to give people walking a brief head start before cars move to improve visibility and make crossings safer for everyone.



Governor Green and HDOT Director Ed Sniffen pose for a picture with some new furry friends at the Pedestrian Safety Month proclamation ceremony. (Aug. 1, 2024)

Legislative action in 2025 strengthened accountability and protections for those most at risk on Hawai‘i’s roads. Act 138, SLH 2024, increased penalties for repeat uninsured driving offenses and doubled the state’s minimum motor vehicle liability coverage requirements for the first time in nearly 25 years, responding to rising traffic fatalities and the financial harm caused by uninsured crashes. The state also enacted Act 171, which prohibits parking within 20 feet of crosswalks and intersections to improve visibility and reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries. Fines collected under this law are directed to the Safe Routes to School Program, ensuring that enforcement directly supports investments in safer streets and pedestrian infrastructure.

Looking ahead, the administration will continue implementing the executive order’s framework and working with partners to build on the progress made in 2025. This includes continued focus on protecting vulnerable road users, strengthening coordination across agencies, advancing data-driven enforcement and expanding safety infrastructure where it is most needed. Our goal is clear: to reverse the rise in traffic fatalities and ensure that every person in Hawai‘i can travel safely.

## Protecting Communities from Illegal Fireworks

Illegal fireworks continue to pose serious risks to public safety, neighborhood stability and first responders across Hawai‘i. In recent years, the use and distribution of high-powered pyrotechnics have resulted in tragic loss of life, serious injuries, senseless fires and property damage. In response, Governor Green has taken a coordinated, multipronged approach focused on enforcement, prevention and removal of illegal fireworks from our communities.

Through the work of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force created by the governor in 2023, state and county agencies significantly expanded interdiction and seizure efforts. In 2023 and 2024 alone, approximately 74 tons of illegal fireworks were seized, reflecting an unprecedented scale of enforcement activity. During the 2025 legislative session, the state strengthened fireworks laws, introducing fines from $200 for illegal use up to $5,000 for habitual offenders, increasing felony penalties for repeat violations or harm caused, as well as expanding enforcement through port searches and patrols to curb the supply of illegal fireworks. Throughout 2025, enforcement efforts continued at a high level, with 80 tons of illegal fireworks seized statewide.



Governor Green, state officials and legislators smile with the newly signed bills aimed at combating illegal fireworks. (June 30, 2025)

In addition to enforcement, the state has focused on removing fireworks already present in communities. In 2025, Hawai‘i conducted a fireworks buyback and amnesty program that allowed residents to safely surrender illegal fireworks without penalty. Through buyback events in January and November, more than 2,000 pounds of fireworks were collected, reducing the immediate risk of accidental detonation and harm.

Together, these actions reflect a sustained commitment to protecting communities from the dangers of illegal fireworks. By pairing large-scale interdiction with targeted opportunities for voluntary surrender, the state is working to safeguard lives, reduce injuries, prevent fires and ensure that neighborhoods are safer year-round.

## Preventing Gun Violence and Saving Lives

Gun violence and the presence of unsecured or unwanted firearms pose an ongoing risk to public safety in Hawai‘i. Governor Green has approached gun safety with a clear focus on prevention, responsible ownership and the permanent removal of dangerous firearms from circulation, while respecting lawful gun ownership and constitutional rights.



Governor Green signed bills to improve gun safety during his first year in office and he continues to advocate for gun safety in Hawai‘i. (June 2, 2023)

A central component of this effort has been the expansion of voluntary gun buyback programs across the state. These programs provide residents with a safe, anonymous way to surrender firearms, reducing the risk of accidental shootings, theft or misuse. During Governor Green's administration, 1,380 firearms have been collected and removed from circulation, including 367 firearms surrendered in 2025 alone. Each firearm collected represents a potential tragedy prevented and a meaningful step toward safer homes and communities.

Through continued investment in prevention and partnership with county agencies and community organizations, the administration remains committed to keeping Hawai‘i among the safest states in the nation. Public safety requires sustained attention, trusted community engagement and practical tools that save lives. Gun safety efforts remain a critical part of that work.

Public safety and public health are deeply interconnected. Strengthening access to behavioral health services reduces repeat law enforcement encounters, supports first responders and decreases reliance on jails and emergency departments as default crisis settings. By investing in upstream care, diversion opportunities and coordinated crisis response, Hawai‘i is advancing a public safety strategy that prioritizes prevention, strengthens community trust and promotes long-term safety and wellness for all.



Marines prepare to attach cargo during a helicopter support team training exercise at Pōhakuloa Training Area.
The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

# Chapter Nine
# MILITARY LAND LEASES

The U.S. Army currently operates training lands on state-owned property across O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island under leases which are set to expire in 2029. In 2025, Hawai‘i’s Board of Land and Natural Resources rejected the Army’s environmental impact statements supporting lease renewal, placing the future of these lands into direct negotiations between the U.S. Army and the state. The Green administration has made clear that decisions about these lands must be guided by Hawai‘i’s values and by the voices of the people affected.

To ensure a transparent and community-driven process, the administration established a Military Leased Lands Advisory Committee to provide independent guidance on major decisions related to the leases. This committee brings together Native Hawaiian leaders, environmental experts, community representatives and technical specialists to evaluate impacts, set priorities and define the conditions under which any future military use may proceed. Their recommendations will shape negotiations and serve as the foundation for the state’s position moving forward.

The administration has been clear about what Hawai‘i expects in return for continued military presence. These expectations include a reduced training footprint, concrete commitments to locally managed remediation of unexploded ordinance, expanded opportunities for housing on or near military lands and meaningful investments in clean energy, water systems and surrounding infrastructure. If the military is to remain a long-term partner in Hawai‘i, its presence must tangibly benefit local communities and align with the state’s environmental, cultural and economic priorities.

While the U.S. Army raised the possibility of condemnation, the state has consistently pushed back to protect Hawai‘i’s authority over its lands and to ensure that any outcome reflects a real, good-faith process. Recognizing the complexity and importance of these decisions, the administration secured an additional year to negotiate with the federal government. This additional time allows the state to fully engage communities, assess impacts and negotiate from a position of principle and strength.

“Let’s spend the year working this out because we care about the land, they have national security questions and we have to find common ground,” Governor Green said. By taking a deliberate, inclusive approach, the state aims to reach a fair and transparent outcome — one that protects Hawai‘i’s land, delivers for its people and strengthens rather than fractures, the long-term relationship between Hawai‘i and the military.



# CONCLUSION: LEADING WITH ALOHA
# "A VISION FOR HAWAIʻI"



The choices we make now will shape Hawaiʻi for decades to come. This policy book reflects our belief that progress is possible when we govern with intention, listen closely to our communities and act with courage on behalf of the people we serve.

The work ahead will not be simple. We must continue to confront rising costs, climate threats and economic uncertainty with clear-eyed leadership and fiscal responsibility. But Hawaiʻi has never been defined by what stands in our way — we are defined by how we come together to overcome it.

Our path forward is rooted in the values that have always guided these islands: aloha for one another, kuleana to future generations and a deep respect for our land and culture. When we lead with those principles, we can build an economy that works for working families, a healthcare system that leaves no one behind, housing solutions that restore dignity and environmental protections that honor our responsibility as stewards of this place.

This vision is not about government alone. It depends on partnership — with counties, community organizations, labor, the private sector and the people of Hawaiʻi themselves. Together, we can ensure that opportunity is shared, recovery is just and growth strengthens rather than displaces our communities.

I am confident in Hawaiʻi's future because I am confident in our people. With continued collaboration, discipline and compassion, we can meet this moment and build a state where everyone — from keiki to kūpuna — can live with security, opportunity and pride.

Let us move forward together, guided by our values and united in purpose, to keep building a Hawaiʻi where everyone has the chance to thrive.

