

Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green

Our administration is making strides across sectors to build a stronger, more resilient foundation for Hawai'i's future.

As we enter the wildfire season, we launched Operation Ho'opauahi to enable the rapid deployment of our National Guard aircraft for emergency operations and to help prevent the spread of wildfires to keep our communities safe during times of heightened risk.

We have also passed the first phase of our Trauma-Informed Care Certification, equipping state employees with knowledge on how to apply trauma-informed care in the workplace and better support the people they serve. The state is also modernizing its financial data systems, a major effort that is pivotal to maintaining a functioning economy and providing public services.

Across our agencies, that same spirit of service is evident throughout various departments. The DCCA Division of Financial Institutions took part in a show of athleticism, carrying more than 383 lbs of donations by hand on a 3.6-mile trek to the Foodbank, as a literal representation of the burden of food insecurity and the importance of charity.

We are also investing in Hawai'i's future by expanding access to early education and have increased the number of keiki enrolling in preschool programs across the state. Last month, we also raised Pride Flags at the capitol to honor mähū, LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ communities and allies across the islands, reaffirming Hawai'i's commitment to visibility, inclusion, diversity and equality.

Together, these efforts reflect our broader commitment to the future well-being of Hawai'i. Mahalo to everyone for their efforts in helping us move this work forward!

Mahalo,

Josh Green M.D.

Protecting the 'Āina: Operation Ho'opauahi Strengthens Hawai'i's Wildfire Defense



As the dry season is upon us, the state of Hawai'i is taking proactive measures to safeguard local communities from the threat of wildfires. Under an Emergency Proclamation signed by Governor Green, the state has a fully funded plan to launch Operation Ho'opauahi 2026. Translated as "to extinguish fire," Operation Ho'opauahi represents a coordinated protection strategy designed to suppress wildfires before they can escalate into major disasters.

Governor Green, Deputy Adjutant General Brigadier General Phillip L. Mallory along with other members of the Hawai'i Army National Guard, smile in front of one of the helicopters that will be used in Operation

Continued on page 2

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



Scan the QR code to view our digital newsletter.

Protecting the ‘Āina: Operation Ho‘opauahi Continued from page 1

The key to the operation’s success is a dedicated standby posture that enables the Hawai‘i National Guard (HING) to maintain a one-hour response time when called. This ensures that military aviation assets can rapidly deploy to support county first responders upon dispatch by the Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency.

HING has pre-staged tactical aircraft with 2,000 and 400-gallon BAMBI buckets (used to conduct water drop fire suppression missions). This includes a heavy-lift CH-47F Chinook helicopter stationed on O‘ahu, alongside two HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters, one on O‘ahu and another in Hilo. In addition to their massive water-drop capabilities, these helicopters are equipped to perform emergency personnel evacuations if required.

This year’s initiative builds upon the remarkable success of the 2025 Operation Ho‘opauahi. Last year, HING



CH-47F Chinook helicopter.

aircrews logged more than 105 flight hours and dropped 283,908 gallons of water to suppress four major wildfires, including the Mānā Road, Kunia Road and Ka‘ala fires.

Operation Ho‘opauahi ensures that HING remains “Always Ready, Always

There” to protect the state’s people, property and ‘āina.

To learn more, visit <https://dod.hawaii.gov/blog/operation-ho%ca%bbopauahi/>.

Hawai‘i Earns Top Marks in Preschool Quality for Fourth Straight Year

Hawai‘i continues to be recognized as a national leader in early learning, meeting all 10 quality benchmarks in the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) 2025 State of Preschool Yearbook for the fourth consecutive year. The achievement places Hawai‘i among a select group of states nationwide recognized for delivering high-quality preschool programs.

During the 2024–2025 school year, Hawai‘i enrolled 1,637 children in state-funded preschool programs, an increase of 611 students from the previous year. The milestone reflects the state’s continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality early learning opportunities for keiki and families across the islands.



A photo of keiki at one of the EOEL public pre-K classrooms. Photo courtesy: EOEL.

This year also marked the opening of Hawai‘i’s 100th public preschool classroom, highlighting ongoing efforts to grow the state’s public pre-K system through partnerships between the Executive Office on Early Learning and the Hawai‘i State Public Charter School Commission.

Hawai‘i’s preschool programs continue to stand out for maintaining small class sizes, employing highly qualified teachers, implementing comprehensive learning standards and conducting regular program assessments.

State leaders remain focused on expanding access to pre-K education through goals outlined in the Hawai‘i Early Childhood State Plan. Priorities include opening additional classrooms, strengthening the early education workforce and building partnerships to ensure every child in Hawai‘i has a strong foundation for lifelong success.



State Selects Vendor for Enterprise Financial System

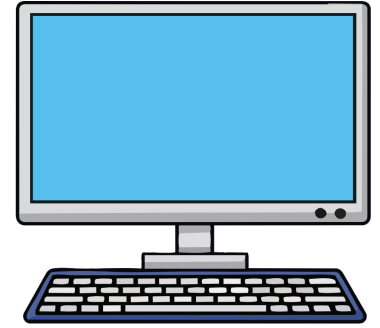
The state project to modernize its financial management system is moving into the next phase. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), spearheading the effort, selected both Guidehouse, a global professional services firm, and Workday, a software firm, to shepherd the state through its Enterprise Financial System (EFS) project.

The team of Guidehouse and Workday will serve as the systems implementation and transformation partner, creating a modern, cloud-based financial management platform. The goal is to modernize the aging financial data system that drives the state's economy.

"This is the single most transformative modernization effort in Hawai'i," says DAGS Director and Comptroller Keith Regan, also currently serving as the Acting Lieutenant Governor. He explains that everyone in our state is impacted by this software — from employees, to SNAP benefits and tax refunds, to state vendors and departments with federal grants.

DAGS formed a team to shape the new EFS and is working with fiscal managers throughout the executive branch to ensure there is input from all parties who need to use the software. "Our core message is 'People, Process and Platform,'" says Comptroller Regan.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was published on March 31, 2025. Just over a year later, it issued the award on April 30, 2026. It is currently engaged in the next step in the process, executing a contract.



DCCA Hawai'i Foodbank Challenge

Among the many inspiring food bank initiatives this year, one stood out for its creativity and sheer determination. The Division of Financial Institutions (DFI) launched a Hawai'i Foodbank collection challenge that quite literally put the team to the test.

In late April, DFI employees gathered food donations for the Hawai'i Foodbank, culminating in a manual delivery on Friday, May 1, 2026.

Here's the amazing twist: every pound of donated food became a pound carried by DFI's Noah Clark and Mark Algarme, who loaded it all into backpacks and a wagon and hauled it on foot from their office on Merchant St. to the Hawai'i Foodbank on Kilihau St. — a 3.6-mile journey. Every bag of rice, can of food and jar of peanut butter was surely felt!

The team hosted live weigh-ins and shared "Struggle Stats," encouraging colleagues to rise to the challenge while tracking the final tally. The result? A whopping 383 pounds.

The top three individual donors by weight also earned fun prizes — and of course, bragging rights. The final top donors included: Nazareth "The Promoter" Harts in first place at 76.9 lbs, Adrienne "The Body Snatcher" Teshima in second at 45.0 lbs., and Joanne "The Soup Slinger" Hara in third at 40.5 lbs.



This was no easy feat — hauling the equivalent of a full-sized vending machine! Photo courtesy: DCCA and DFI.



The team finished strong at the Hawai'i Foodbank warehouse, with every can and grain of rice accounted for. Photo courtesy: DCCA and DFI.

"When we started this Carry the Load challenge, we asked the team to make it as hard as possible and they certainly delivered!!" shared DFI's Mark Algarme. "We went from hauling the equivalent of a small cooler to a full-sized vending machine through the streets of Honolulu. But while the 383 pounds was a literal grind on our backs, it served as a powerful reminder of the heavy burden food insecurity places on families in our community every day. We are incredibly proud of how Team DFI showed up!"

Another huge shoutout to DFI's heavy-lifting champions, Noah and Mark, for going the distance! While Dwight Young might not have carried the weight, he (reportedly) held the door open for Noah and Mark on their way out, so he gets a shoutout too. Thank you to the entire DFI team for supporting the community in such a creative and meaningful way. Let's keep the momentum going and continue showing up strong for our community throughout the rest of the year!



Trauma-Informed Care Certification Now Available to Most Employees

Governor Green and the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) Director Tia L. Roberts Hartsock joined state leaders, community partners and graduates at the State Capitol Rotunda in May to recognize the first cohort of state employees to earn the state of Hawai'i Certification in Trauma-Informed Care.

The graduates completed the Certification in Trauma-Informed Care course, an eight-module hybrid program developed by OWR that pairs in-person workshops with asynchronous video trainings hosted online by the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). It is the state's first trauma-informed care certification and is a cornerstone of Governor Green's 2024 executive order committing Hawai'i to becoming a trauma-informed state.

The online training modules are available now via DHRD's training website. Once logged in, search for "Certification in Trauma-Informed Care" to enroll.

Coursework covers the science of trauma and resilience, the principles of trauma-informed care and the application of those principles in the workplace. The coursework was shaped by Hawai'i's culture, a strong sense of place and the realities of historical and intergenerational trauma experienced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.



The first graduating class of the OWR Trauma-Informed Care course.

The cohort includes employees from across state departments and partner agencies, with about 200 workers enrolled in the program's first phase. The certification is now open to nearly all state Executive Branch employees, with plans to eventually extend it to our other branches of government, county workers and community-based organizations.

The certification training has become a signature initiative of OWR and marks an important implementation milestone of the State of Well-Being Report, the state's first comprehensive look at the mental health and well-being of Hawai'i's essential workforce, including educators, healthcare providers and

first responders, as well as the systems that serve them. Drawing on statewide data and community perspectives, the report documents where Hawai'i stands, identifies areas of need related to wellness supports and outlines a path forward grounded in trauma-informed, hope-centered principles. One of the key recommendations of the report is targeted training programs as a universal support and intervention for all state employees.

To learn more about the Office of Wellness and Resilience State of Well-Being Report and the Learning and Leadership Collaborative, visit <https://www.owr.hawaii.gov/>.

WILDFIRE LOOKOUT!

Under the right conditions, anywhere in Hawai'i can burn.

Be Alert. Be Prepared. Do Your Part.

- Nearly all wildfires are started by people – and are preventable
- Clear 10 ft around campfires and barbecues – ensure coals are COLD
- Park on paved/cleared surfaces – exhaust can ignite dry grass
- Keep grass short and remove dead vegetation around your home
- Have a family evacuation plan and go bag ready

📌 More info: hwmo.org/lookout



Ke Ala Hou is a monthly publication of the Office of Governor Josh Green, M.D.

We invite you to stay connected with us!



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