

Ke Ala Hou

A New Path Forward

Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina | Office of the Governor • November 2024

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

I am thrilled to share some incredible achievements that highlight the resilience and dedication of our communities in Hawai'i. In this newsletter, you'll find updates from various departments, such as the Attorney General's new webpage dedicated to mental health and substance abuse support.

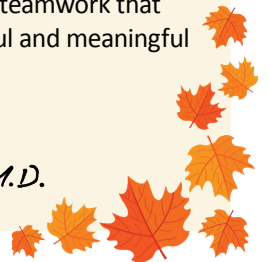
Additionally, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation has partnered with our public schools for a crucial emergency airport exercise. You'll also see highlights of the outstanding work being done by several departments that have been recognized for their contributions.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our state employees for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Your efforts not only contribute to the well-being of our community but also help position Hawai'i as a leader on the national stage. Together, we will continue to address our priorities in housing, healthcare, homelessness and climate action.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to appreciate what we've accomplished and the teamwork that keeps us moving forward. I wish you all a joyful and meaningful Thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Warm regards,

Josh Green M.D.



Kaua'i: A Shining Model of Renewable Energy Innovation

Kaua'i has a peak power demand of about 80MW for its approximately 70,000 residents and 30,000 visitors at any given time. In 2023, renewable energy accounted for about 60% of the energy produced on Kaua'i and the Kaua'i Island Utility Company routinely operates at 100% renewables for several hours a day.

The Kaua'i grid has a feature that many larger grids lack: a technology called grid-forming inverters. An inverter converts direct-current electricity to grid-compatible alternating current. The island's grid-forming inverters are connected to utility-scale battery systems.

As engineer Andy Hoke explains in an article for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the only economical way to integrate such high levels of renewable energy into our grids is with grid-forming inverters, which can be implemented on any technology that uses an inverter, including wind, solar photovoltaics, batteries, fuel cells, microturbines and even high-voltage direct-current transmission lines—critical to preventing blackouts if a generator fails.

Kaua'i offers a preview of the electrical future, says Hoke, especially for places where utilities are now, or soon will



Applied Energy Service's (AES) Lawai Project. Photo courtesy: AES.

be, relying heavily on solar photovoltaic or wind power. The reduced reliance on fossil fuels provides Kaua'i ratepayers with the lowest average costs in the state. On O'ahu, with constraints on available land and 19 times the electricity demand, the challenge is exponentially greater.

Nevertheless, the current \$36 million investment in battery storage and advanced grid-forming inverters will potentially see Kaua'i become the first of the Hawaiian Islands to reach a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard.

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



Scan the QR code to view our digital newsletter.



HHFDC Recognized Nationally for Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program



HHFDC Housing Finance Manager David Oi (left) and Executive Director Dean Minakami (right) accepted the Award of Excellence for Special Achievement. The Hawai'i program took top honors from a field of 18 nominees. Photo courtesy: HHFDC.

The Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) received recognition from national housing experts for launching the Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program just days after last year's wildfires that destroyed much of Lahaina and other parts of Maui.



The Award of Excellence for Special Achievement was announced last month by the National Council of State Housing Agencies at its annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The award recognizes programs and practices that respond in an outstanding manner to an important state need, have a significant impact on the community and cuts across traditional program lines.

Approximately 600 families found immediate housing through the program, which provided those displaced by the disaster with shelter options from a pool of roughly 1,400 properties that were offered by neighbors on Maui and elsewhere. The fire relief program was established at the request of Governor Green, who asked HHFDC to move expeditiously on the program to help the families, couples and individuals who lost loved ones, their homes, jobs and other cherished aspects of their lives.

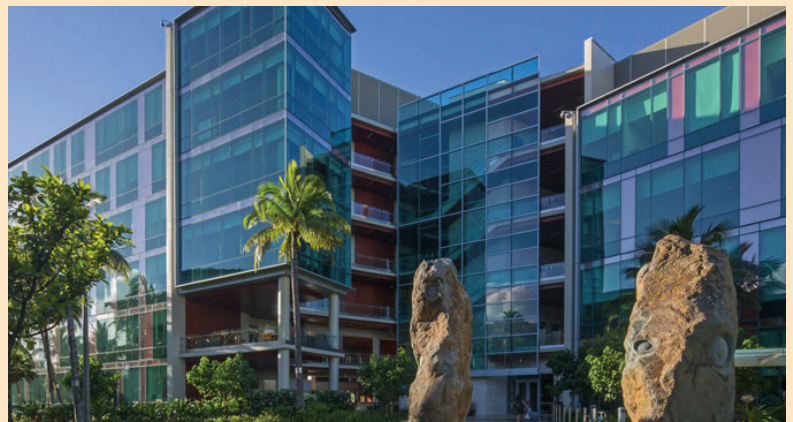
HHFDC put the call out to homeowners on Maui and throughout Hawai'i to make available their vacant homes, bedrooms and even spare beds. This information was curated in an electronic database that provided the survivors with options available to them at a glance.

Modern technological advances helped make the database more "searchable" so families and individuals could easily identify those options more suited to their unique needs and circumstances. This included a highly popular interactive and continually updated map that was developed in partnership with the state of Hawai'i's ArcGIS (Geographic Information System) office.

"I'm extremely proud of the effort that our staff put into this program," HHFDC Executive Director Dean Minakami said. "Our agency's core mission is to provide assistance to those in need of housing and this program put on full display our dedication to fulfill this mission. With no additional personnel or other resources — and without a playbook to use as a guide — our staff responded to the call to assist those whose homes and whole neighborhoods were destroyed."

UH Cancer Center Receives Full 5-year NCI Designation, \$11M Grant

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC) has received a five-year designation from the federal National Cancer Institute (NCI). The center, which has maintained its NCI designation since 1996, received its best score in a decade and is classified by NCI as an "outstanding" cancer center.



Exterior of the UH Cancer Center. Photo courtesy: UH.

The designation places UHCC in the top 4% of all cancer centers in the U.S. and recognizes its high-quality, impactful work in the global fight against cancer. The designation comes with an \$11 million cancer center support grant by NCI to help fund additional research for five years. The center is the only NCI-designated cancer center in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

"This NCI designation not only recognizes the outstanding work that the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center is doing in expanding and improving cancer research and patient care for residents of Hawai'i and the Pacific, but it also enables federal support, including eligibility for vital research grants," Governor Green said. "The center currently draws over \$57 million annually in federal research funds and contributes to an even larger economic impact for Hawai'i. The UH Cancer Center requires and deserves support from all sectors of the community to continue its crucial work."

Continued on page 3



UH Cancer Center Receives Full 5-year NCI Designation, \$11M Grant Continued from page 2

“This recognition affirms not only our groundbreaking research into cancer’s causes, prevention and treatments, but also our unique focus on serving underrepresented communities in Hawai’i and the Pacific, who often face significant disparities in cancer risk, patient care and health outcomes,” said Naoto T. Ueno, director of the UHCC and a two-time cancer survivor.

The NCI designation was announced at a news conference at the center on Oct. 7. The speakers included Director Ueno, UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno, U.S. Representatives Ed Case and Jill Tokuda and Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Only 4% of the cancer centers in the U.S., 72 centers total, are recognized by NCI. Ueno said the designation is essential for the completion of Ho’ōla, the early-phase clinical research center set to open at the UHCC in late 2025.

Attorney General Launches Resource for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Support

The Department of the Attorney General has launched a webpage for anyone seeking the department’s help with filing assisted community treatment (ACT) petitions in family court, to provide treatment for those with serious mental illnesses or substance abuse that can render them dangerous to themselves or others.

“Assisted community treatment is a holistic legal framework intended to support individuals with severe mental health and substance abuse issues in breaking free from detrimental cyclical patterns in which they episodically become dangerous to themselves or others,” said Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Dave Day.

“Through an ACT order, individuals who do not realize the severity of their own illness, as well as the risk that treatment noncompliance may pose to themselves or others, are given the opportunity to be treated in the least restrictive setting by providers committed to their care,” said Deputy Attorney General Ian Tsuda, one of Hawai’i’s leading ACT practitioners. “The Department of the Attorney General recognizes that many in Hawai’i face challenges with such illnesses and we are committed to supporting those seeking help for individuals who need this level of care.”

In 2013, the Hawai’i Legislature established the ACT law with the intent of providing support for someone who has a mental illness or drug addiction, who will likely become unsafe in the community, and who may have difficulty participating in traditional treatments. ACT is based in the community and is founded upon a family court-ordered treatment plan issued after a petition is filed. An ACT petition may be sought by a concerned parent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, adult



From left to right: U.S. Rep. Ed Case, Queen’s Health System COO Darlena Chadwick, breast cancer patient and patient advocate Susan Hirano, Governor Josh Green, UH Cancer Center Director Naoto T. Ueno, U.S. Rep. Jill Tokuda and UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno.



child, reciprocal beneficiary, service provider, case manager, outreach worker or mental health professional.

“In Hawai’i, there have been a number of successful ACT cases with individuals suffering from severe mental illness. Having an involved treatment team is critical to the success of each of these cases,” said Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Marian Tsuji. “The Department of Health is working to expand use of the law across the state.”

The ACT webpage can be found on the Department of the Attorney General’s website at https://ag.hawaii.gov/act_petition_info/.



Emergency Response Drill At Kahului Airport



Public school students watch and listen to a firefighter at the drill. Photo courtesy: HDOT.

Nearly 100 public school students along with airline personnel, Maui County's Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and mutual aid partners joined the Hawai'i Department of Transportation in a triennial emergency exercise at Kahului Airport (OGG) on Sept. 20.

The drill simulated the OGG Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) unit's response to a fire on an inbound Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft. United Airlines donated the use of one of its planes for the exercise. During the drill, airport firefighters responded to the craft from their quarters. Upon arrival the rescue crew conducted checks aboard the plane and retrieved inflatable manikins from the inside and carried them onto the tarmac for triage. Maui County firefighters also arrived to assist ARFF, and American Medical Response sent ambulances and personnel.

Students from Maui High School and Baldwin High School played the roles of passengers, gathering on the tarmac, with first responders tending aid to those who were "injured."

At the terminal, OGG security and operations personnel, MEMA staff, airline officials and visitor industry partners monitored the drill from a mock emergency operations center, where they participated in simulated responses and actions.

The exercise is a mandatory certification requirement by the Federal Aviation Administration which tests airfield disaster preparedness and response by simulating a full-scale aircraft emergency disaster. The drill evaluates the operational capacity of emergency response in a stressful environment. Similar exercises were conducted last fall at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole.

Recent Highlights!



Makana McClellan

Congratulations to our very own Director of Communications for the Office of the Governor, Makana McClellan, on receiving the prestigious Kilohana Award at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's convention. Her unwavering leadership and dedication during the Maui Wildfires have been nothing short of extraordinary. As a Native Hawaiian leader in government, Makana continues to pave the way for future generations, showcasing the vital role of Native Hawaiian voices in shaping policies and responding to crises. Her work exemplifies the importance of having strong, compassionate leaders in positions of influence.

To read more about the convention, visit <https://www.hawaiiancouncil.org/2024-native-hawaiian-convention-hi-island/>.

Bryan Silver

The Hawai'i State Department of Education named Bryan Silver, one of Kalani High School's science and Career and Technical Education teachers, as the 2025 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year. The award is presented annually to a classroom teacher selected from more than 13,000 HIDOE educators. Silver was among 16 Complex Area Teachers of the Year and the Charter School Teacher of the Year recognized in October.

Silver has been a teacher for 24 years, and created the Engineering CTE course at Kalani High School from which many of his students have earned scholarships and pursued STEM careers. Congratulations, Bryan!



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS? JOIN US AT OUR

JOB & RESOURCE FAIR

FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 2024
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

830 PUNCHBOWL ST. ROOM 310, 313, 314.

Visit <https://labor.hawaii.gov/dlir-job-resource-fair/> for more information.



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

We invite you to stay connected with us!



808-586-0034



@govjoshgreen



gov.communications
@hawaii.gov



@govjoshgreen



governor.hawaii.gov



@govjoshgreenmd

