

## **New Project Funding for Windward Oahu**

The state budget expanded by an unprecedented \$1.2 billion this year. State expenditures will increase from \$14.4 billion to \$15.6 billion, an impressive 8 percent gain, in the next fiscal year. Included in the new budget is debt service on \$2.7 billion in new funding for this year's statewide Capital Improvement Program. Here is a partial list of new projects for the windward communities of Senate District 23.

Heeia - \$150,000 for a community-based long-range plan  
Kahaluu EI - \$486,000 for fire alarm and site improvements  
Kahuku HIS - \$4.5 million to address athletic field flooding  
Castle High - \$300,000 for stadium lighting  
Castle High - \$402,000 for parking and site improvements  
Malaekahana - \$1.5 million for state park improvements  
Kahuku Medical Center - \$1.5 million for renovations  
Kahuku Agricultural Park - \$1.7 million for site improvements  
Watershed Protection - \$6.583 million statewide  
Na Ala Hele - \$450,000 for updating state trails and planning  
Kamehameha Hwy - \$6.0 million for Laieloa Stream Bridge  
Kamehameha Hwy - \$4.0 million for Waiahole Stream Bridge

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa and I worked diligently to ensure passage of the Heeia long-range plan. This will allow community members and organizations with knowledge of the place to develop a cooperative vision and plan for all of Heeia, including the state park, the fishpond, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, the community development district and the marine waters. We secured final approval just 15 minutes before the legislative deadline.

The Kahuku High School football field and track flooding has been an eternal tragedy. Every year, the DOE rejects athletic facility improvements because of the persistent flooding. This year, Rep. Quinlan and I pushed very hard to secure the funding to build huge storage tanks under the field to remove flooding waters from the surface. With laser-like focus and can-do determination from the right people, we should be able to finally solve the common flooding problem and get on with improving the school facilities.

In the very competitive state Grants in Aid program, Friends of the Library Kahuku received \$55,000 and KEY Project secured \$125,000 in support of the great projects they manage.

Many other projects previously funded by the state are in various stages of completion. These include highway repairs and construction, schools infrastructure, university campuses, harbors, airports, prisons, department of defense and state buildings. The amount of annual funding is calculated each year based on a percentage of the state budget.

Please do not hesitate to call or write if you have any opinions, questions or solutions that might help me better represent you. My phone number is 586-7330. My email address is [SenRiviere@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:SenRiviere@capitol.hawaii.gov). Follow us on FaceBook or online at [SenatorRiviere.com](http://SenatorRiviere.com). Please visit us in Room 202 at the Capitol; or let's talk closer to home, maybe the next time we pass in the street. Mahalo.