



Aloha!

As the 2016 regular session came to a close yesterday, Senators, along with their House counterparts, highlighted the challenging issues that we addressed over the past several months. Each year we are faced with new challenges, the call for assistance, or to decide on policy that can shape an industry, the state for generations to come. The Senate remained committed to investing in our economy, education, and housing.

This session I was assigned the leadership role of Majority Whip and the Vice Chairman on the Committee on Ways and Means. As the Vice Chairman, I am responsible for overseeing and managing the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) budget. I am pleased to highlight that the state budget includes the following projects:

#### **AGRICULTURE**

- \$31 million to purchase over 900 acres of farmable agriculture land from Dole Food Company, Inc.
- \$26 million for new construction and repairs for irrigation systems
- \$1.35 million for the master plan of the Whitmore Agribusiness Tech Park

#### **ECONOMY**

- \$3 million for the Entrepreneurs Sandbox
- \$55,000 for the Whitmore Economic Development Group for the development of an ag-tech innovation hub

#### **EDUCATION**

- \$100 million to fund equipment and installation costs for air conditioning at public schools across the state
- \$50 million to address capacity, equity, and program support for the Department of Education
- \$11.5 million for a 15-classroom building at Mililani Middle School
- \$1.1 million for the planning of a High Technology Workforce Development Center

## HEALTH

- \$160 million for the Hawaii State Hospital
- \$700,000 for the Wahiawa Center for Community Health

## HOUSING

- \$61 million for the development of new affordable housing units
- \$35 million for repairs and maintenance for public housing units

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- \$64 million for repairs and maintenance of our state correctional facilities

## TRANSPORTATION

- \$17 million for construction and rehabilitation to the Kipapa Stream Bridge
- \$2.5 million for the replacement of the Upper Stream Poamoho Bridge on Kam Hwy

## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

- \$48 million for projects at UH Manoa, UH West Oahu, and UH Hilo
- \$35 million for a Creative Media Facility at UH West Oahu
- \$25 million for community colleges

The state budget also includes **\$2.5 million** to provide financial assistance to **Wahiawa General Hospital**.

I want to thank you all for your support this legislative session and I look forward to our continued work through the interim.

Mahalo,

