



# Governor's E-Newsletter



December 23-29, 2006

**Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i**  
It is with pleasure we send you this e-newsletter.

## Quotes of the Week

*"As the New Year approaches, I look forward to working with everyone to build on our successes, while meeting the challenges and embracing the opportunities before us."*

- Governor Lingle, wishing Hawai`i residents and visitors a "safe and happy New Year, filled with hope and optimism."

*"With the passing of former President Gerald R. Ford, America has lost a faithful and long-standing leader."*

- Governor Lingle, extending her deepest sympathies to former First Lady Betty Ford and other members of the Ford family on the passing of former President Gerald Ford. Read the [proclamation](#).

## Thoughts of the Week

*"Among its [the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce] proposals is one that Hawai`i could easily endorse. These experts believe schools that are state-funded, but locally controlled stand a better chance of bridging the gap between rich and poor students - as long as the schools have more autonomy in the actual delivery of*



• **Happy New Year!** [Read](#) or [listen](#) to a message from Governor Lingle.

• **State breaks ground on newest emergency, transitional and affordable housing project.** Read more [here](#).

• **Governor celebrates holidays with Onelau`ena transitional shelter residents.** Read [more](#).

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**Governor Breaks Ground on State's Newest Emergency, Transitional and Affordable Housing Project**

education."

- Honolulu Advertiser's Editorial "[Schools' Progress May Rest in Local Control.](#)"

*"I think it's going to mean happiness for children, health, safety. It's going to mean a new beginning for many people."*

- Kehau Hanohano, commenting on the hope Kahikolu `Ohana Hale `O Wai`anae affordable and transitional housing brings to the community.



*"I feel secure here. It feels so good to take a warm shower and cook a good meal for my kids."*

- Eleen Matias, a mother of two boys and resident of the state's Onelau`ena transitional shelter in Kalaeloa. Matias and her family moved into the shelter earlier this month after living on the beach for six months.

### Upcoming Events

**December 30**, Governor Lingle will present the championship trophy to the winning team of the Merv Lopes Holiday Classic.

**January 1**, Happy New Year!

**January 2**, Governor Lingle will attend the swearing in ceremony for members of the Honolulu City Council who were re-elected to a new term.

**January 2**, Governor Lingle will attend the inauguration ceremony for Maui County Mayor Charmaine Tavares.



Governor Lingle and Kaulana Park, state homeless solutions team leader (fifth from left), joined state, city and community leaders at the groundbreaking site of the Kahikolu `Ohana Hale `O Wai`anae transitional and affordable housing.

**"Government can't do it alone," Governor Lingle said at a groundbreaking ceremony for the state's new emergency, transitional and affordable housing project on O`ahu's Leeward Coast - Kahikolu `Ohana Hale O Wai`anae. The project, a partnership between the state, private and nonprofit organizations, will provide 72 units when complete. It will incorporate two elements: an emergency shelter, which will provide immediate shelter and services for up to six weeks, and a transitional shelter, which will allow residents to stay for up to two years. The transitional shelter will also provide residents with a nursery/pre-school, case management programs, life skills training, parenting classes, vocational training, substance abuse counseling, Child Protective Services/family issues assistance, mentoring, a literacy program, and community involvement training.**



Watch the [KHNL News broadcast](#).

### **Governor Celebrates Holidays with Onelau`ena Transitional Shelter Residents**

The Governor joined residents of the



**January 6**, Governor Lingle will attend the 2007 FIRST Robotics Competition kickoff in New Hampshire. The Governor will also meet with FIRST founder Dean Kamen to discuss opportunities for developing the Administration's innovation initiatives.

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Onelau`ena transitional shelter at a holiday celebration, where she visited with families staying at the shelter. "It's a great time of the year because you can give them hope," the Governor said. "That's what they needed more than anything. They needed an opportunity to get their

lives stabilized and back on track." Onelau`ena opened on October 29 as part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's efforts to work collaboratively with the community and other partners to find solutions for the homeless problem in Hawai`i. The shelter houses approximately 210 residents, about 100 of whom are children.

## New Laws Take Effect January 1, 2007



Several new laws signed this year by Governor Lingle or Lt. Governor Aiona will take effect at the start of the New Year. To read highlights and learn more about some of the laws, please click [here](#).



*Mahalo for your service.*



Photo courtesy of John Dibbs/ Maj Gen Robert Lee

Hawai`i Air Guard pilots flew in formation during a recent mission.

**We invite you to submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country in the defense of freedom and liberty around the world. Please e-mail your photos and a brief caption to [governor.lingle@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingle@hawaii.gov).**

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## [Department of the Week](#)

### **Defense**



USS Russell (DDG 59) sailors saluted while passing the Arizona Memorial during the commemorative ceremony. Pictured in foreground is the wreath Governor Lingle presented on behalf of the State of Hawai`i.

As the year draws to a close, Governor Lingle would like to thank Hawai`i's men and women in uniform, and their families, for their dedicated service in support of our nation.

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# A home for the holidays

[A home for the holidays](#)  
Honolulu Star-Bulletin, December 24, 2006

A child from Lingie helps celebrate the anniversary of residents of Oahu's homeless shelter.

By Robert Wilkins

**T**HE RESIDENTS of the Waialae Community Center in Kalaheo celebrated their first Christmas together yesterday. Honolulu's largest and oldest homeless shelter for men, women and children gathered for a special anniversary celebration at the Waialae Community Center, the shelter's permanent home. Linda English and other guests.

"We are very blessed," said Karen Robinson, executive director of Waialae Community Center, the shelter's permanent home. "The shelter is 98 percent full every day. It's a really happy place. It's really happy for the kids, that they have a shelter."



Gov. Linda English (center) and her son (left) are joined by other residents of the Waialae Community Center.

Construction on a new shelter was under way at the Waialae Community Center, which is expected to be finished in about 18 months. The new shelter will be a 100,000-sq-ft facility that will house about 100 people, including men, women and children. The new shelter will be built on the site of the old shelter, which was destroyed by a fire in 1997. The new shelter will be built on the site of the old shelter, which was destroyed by a fire in 1997. The new shelter will be built on the site of the old shelter, which was destroyed by a fire in 1997.

## A NEW HOME AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, TOO



Bredana Quain, 1, unwraps a Christmas present during the Oahu's homeless shelter Christmas Party at Kalaheo, while her mom, Lisa Ann Quain, watches from behind. The Kalaheo facility is the second shelter opened by the state to house homeless people.

[Shelter residents 'feel secure'](#)  
Honolulu Advertiser, December 24, 2006

# Shelter residents 'feel secure'

Governor distributes gifts, gives pep talk to families at Kalaheo

By MARY MORING

For some at the shelter, this holiday season is their first in years spent off the beach. They couldn't think of a better Christmas present.

The 270 people — including some 800 children — living at the newly opened Oahu's new state transitional shelter in Kalaheo celebrated Christmas yesterday with lively dances, festive eating and plenty of co-

munera.

Many gave thanks for the roof over their heads and a chance to start a new year with the hope — sometime down the road — for a home of their own.

"I feel secure here," said Eileen Matias, a 29-year-old mother of two boys, who moved into the shelter two weeks ago after six months on the beach. "It feels so good to have a warm shower and cook a good meal for my kids."

Gov. Linda Lingie attended to give residents a pep talk and hand out presents to kids. Shelter residents even got her to dance the Electric Slide.

The shelter, a converted military office building at the old Redwood Point Naval Air Station, started admitting families living along the Waialae Coast in October. It is the second shelter the state has opened as it tries to get homeless people off beaches and into permanent housing.

A third shelter is set to open in Waialae next month.

Karen Robinson, executive director of Waialae Community Outreach, which runs the shelter, said her families and couples — only a fraction of the homeless living along the Waialae Coast — are optimistic about their futures and

their prospects for permanent housing for the first time in a long time.

"They've been given the opportunity to make decisions," Robinson said.

Joseph Pinares spent 10 years on the beach before deciding to enter drug treatment and straighten up his life. Girlfriend Teresa McCullum decided to go clean and sober with him, and the two are now looking forward to a life together. "We made a choice to change our lives," McCullum said.

The two moved into the shelter.

SEE SHELTER, A20

# Lingle seeks unprecedented funds to protect resources

[Lingle seeks unprecedented funds to protect resources](#)

By TARA GOOVIN

HONOLULU — Gov. Linda Lingle wants to boost funding for the state agency responsible for protecting Hawaii's environment, parks and monuments by 72 percent.

Even though the state protects Hawaii's glorious green mountains and crystal blue waters to prospective visitors, funding to protect the islands' natural resources has long been a problem, Lingle's administration propo-

ses increasing the Department of Land and Natural Resources operating budget to \$102 million in fiscal year 2008, which begins July 1, and \$103 million in 2009. That compares to about \$60 million in 2002.

"These are mountains that people don't think ever imagined before," said Fred Young, chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Young said that he felt it was clear the state had the right combination of need, place and the fi-

nancial means to expect enhancement of Hawaii's natural resources here.

Among the programs benefiting:

- \$5 million to help boost the number of officers enforcing Hawaii environmental laws by 40 to 150 over two years. The funds will also cover 10 support staff.
- \$2 million to protect Hawaii from invasive species on land and in the state's waters.
- \$1 million for purchasing invasive specimens, promoting water

stitch and developing the state's forest industry.

- \$104,000 for three positions in the state's Data Entry Program. Following a pilot phase in Kauai that lasted seven and a half months, the department will also hire two officers with charge and support offices to help coordinate the state's data entry program.

The department will also hire two officers with charge and support offices to help coordinate the state's data entry program. The change is among the recommendations of a task force of the de-

partment released earlier this year, Young said.

The state had said that the state's environmental protection officers are spread too thin, are inadequately trained and lack the equipment to do their jobs.

House Majority Leader Kirk Caldwell said lawmakers and Lingle's administration agree on what the problems are — including the need to boost up enforcement — and the solutions may be similar but there will likely be disagreements on the three points of the budget.

The House, which gets its first crack before the Senate at working on the budget, will likely look favorably on increasing funds for enforcing the state's laws.

"There's no doubt that there is something very real and we believe something that is much needed," he said.

Last year the department set out for a record-breaking \$12 million operating budget for 2007. Lawmakers ended up approving \$14 million for the year.

Saturday  
December 23,  
2006

## DLNR budget may get big boost

Lingle proposes 72 percent increase to protect resources

By TARA GOOVIN

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[DLNR budget may get big boost](#)

Honolulu Advertiser,  
December 25, 2006

[Schools' progress may rest in local](#)

## Schools' progress may rest in local control

A national bipartisan panel on building a thriving workforce through education came up with a fairly startling assessment in a recent report.

The summary statement: America's school system simply won't cut it anymore in the global marketplace.

It's incredible, Americans! Unable to produce the best and brightest as well as some developing nations do!

The New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce has released a report titled "Tough Choices or Tough Times" that lays out some indisputable facts about the global economy, alongside some disturbing educational trends.

The bottom line is that our students can't compete when a better-educated, lower-paid workforce exists elsewhere.

American students' performance levels have stalled and the wide achievement gap between the white and minority students remains, something that the federal No Child Left Behind Act was intended to close. But what this panel concluded is that only a complete restructuring of the educational system held out any hope of producing improvement, rather than increased funding, decreased classroom sizes or any of the other, more incremental reforms that have been tried.

What's clear is the need for change and for creating an environment where students — and student achievement — are at the center of any reform.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To see the executive summary of the report, go to [www.skillscommission.org/issuebrief.htm](http://www.skillscommission.org/issuebrief.htm).



Join the conversation. Post your comments about free education at [www.honolulu.com](http://www.honolulu.com).

in the system.

Among its proposals is one that Hawaii could easily endorse. These experts believe schools that are state-funded but locally controlled stand a better chance of bridging the gap between rich and poor students — as long as the schools have more autonomy in the actual delivery of education.

This seems to underscore the argument so many state here: Funding equity is essential, but the focus of education should rest at the school level, not in a bureaucracy.

"This is a world in which a very high level of preparation in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, literature, history and the arts will be an indispensable foundation for everything that comes after for most members of the workforce," say the writers of the report.

These are words that everyone concerned with education should take to heart.

[control](#)

Honolulu  
Advertiser,  
December  
26, 2006

## State pushes health via the Web

Star-Bulletin.com

The state has started an Internet service to encourage healthful lifestyles among young people and their families.

Li Gov. James "Duke" Aiona and state Human Services Director Lillian Koller joined with Dr. Drew Pinsky, who hosts the "Strictly Dr. Drew" series on the Discovery Health Channel, in launching the service.

Pinsky, an addiction medicine expert, participated in an event at Washington Place last month via a live satellite television feed from California.

The Discovery Health Connection Web service will be provided free by the Department of Human Services to 29

community groups and 191 locations through a federally funded, one-year pilot project.

The DHS-Discovery Health Connection project will promote educational achievement and increase awareness about drug abuse, underage drinking, tobacco, violence, nutrition, the human body, mental health, growth and development, physical activity and safety.

"Using this Web service to help young people and their families is a promising new approach for our state," Aiona said.

Koller said, "By providing this Internet service, we are targeting some of the most critical challenges facing Hawaii, including unwanted pregnancies, bullying in

schools, domestic violence and obesity-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension."

Steve Sidel, Discovery Education president, said the health and prevention educational content of the Web service addresses the mind and body and "will extend learning beyond the classroom for children and families across the state."

The educational content meets No Child Left Behind requirements and includes 14 curriculum programs, more than 500 videos for children and adults, hundreds of literacy lessons and group learning activities.

More information is available at [www.discoveryhealthconnection.com](http://www.discoveryhealthconnection.com).

[State pushes health via the Web](#)

Honolulu  
Star-Bulletin,  
December  
26, 2006















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