

Hawai'i State Capitol — Timeline of Significant Legislation 1970 through 2018

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Hawai'i State Capitol - Legislative Timeline

1970 - 2018

1970

- **Abortion:** Hawai'i is the first state in the nation to pass an abortion law that the decision is to be made solely by mother and doctor.
- **Airport:** Honolulu Airport's reef runway wins final approval.



Hawai'i State Capitol - Legislative Timeline

1970 - 2018

1974

- **Governor George R. Ariyoshi** is inaugurated on Dec. 2, 1974. He is the first American of Japanese ancestry to head a state in the nation.
- **Minimum Wage:** The minimum wage eventually will raise the floor wage level in Hawai'i from \$1.60 to \$2.40 an hour, which is higher than any other state.
- **Prepaid Health Insurance:** A new bill makes Hawai'i the only state in the nation with a virtually universal health insurance, modeled on the Kaiser or HMSA plans.



Hawai'i State Capitol - Legislative Timeline

1970 - 2018

1986

- **Hotel Room Tax:** The TAT, Transient Accommodations Tax, is a 5 percent tax in addition to the General Excise Tax. The new revenue will go to the general fund despite the visitor industry's effort to use it specifically for tourism promotion.
- **Drinking Age:** The minimum drinking age was increased from 18 to 21 under threat of losing federal highway funds.
- **Gov. John D. Waihe'e III** is inaugurated on December 1, 1986. He is the first American of Native Hawaiian descent to be elected governor from any state of the United States.

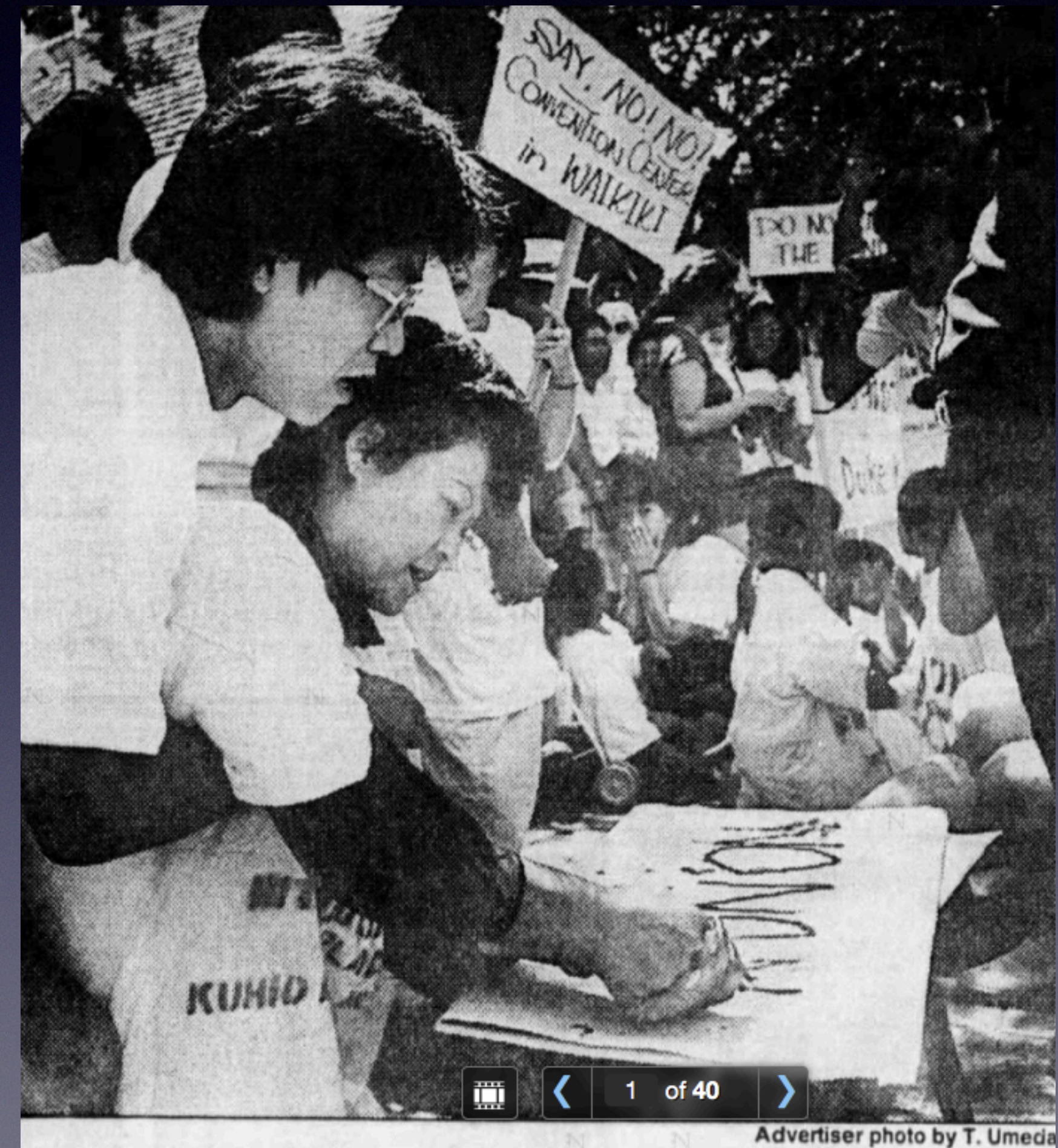


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1970 - 2018

1988

- **Budget Surplus:** The Regular Session began with a surplus of about \$500 million.
- **Convention Center Site:** This decision was waiting for the new session as a hold over from previous sessions. Although Fort DeRussy was a leading contender, the selected site is the International Market Place.



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1970 - 2018

1991

- **Family Leave:** Companies with more than 100 employees will be required to offer workers up to four weeks of unpaid leave when a child is born or adopted, or when a family member is seriously ill.
- **Unlawful Discrimination:** Hawai'i becomes the third state to make it illegal for an employer to discriminate because of sexual orientation.
- **State Capitol Building:** After this session, legislators and staff have to leave the building for five years for asbestos removal work to allow for electrical and technology updates and improve access for the disabled.



Hawai'i State Capitol - Legislative Timeline

1970 - 2018

1994

- **Same-Sex Marriage:** Legislators passed an act that only marriage contracts between a man and a woman are valid.
- **Governor Benjamin Cayetano** was inaugurated on December 5, 1994 at the 'Iolani Palace coronation pavilion, the first Filipino-American to serve as a state governor in the United States.



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1997

- **Auto Insurance:** Auto insurance reform was enacted to reduce premiums because the cost of insurance in Hawai'i's among the highest in the nation and an estimated 20 to 30 percent of the vehicles are not insured.
- **Domestic Relationships:** A reciprocal beneficiaries law will extend rights and benefits to couples who are legally prohibited from marrying under state law.
- **State Funeral:** On July 9, 1997, Hawaiian musician Israel Kamakawiwo'ole lay in state in the State Capitol Rotunda. "Iz" died on June 26.



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1998

- **Tourism Promotion:** The Hawai'i Tourism Authority was created to develop a strategic tourism marketing plan. The industry now accounts for 25 percent of gross state product and 30 percent of civilian jobs. The hotel room tax was increased to 7.25 percent and will include time shares.
- **Charitable Trusts:** Compensation for trustees of charitable trusts—including the Bishop Estate—are to be set at an amount “reasonable under the circumstances.”



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2002

- **Economic Relief:** The cigarette tax was increased and several tax credit measures were approved to provide economic relief for the impact of the September 11 attacks.
- **Bottle Fee:** A five cent deposit was imposed on most consumer containers to reduce litter and decrease landfill impacts.
- **Governor Linda Lingle** was inaugurated on Dec. 2, 2002, the first woman governor of the state of Hawai'i.



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2006

- **Education:** The biggest slice of the \$600 million budget went to education.
- **Homelessness:** An appropriation was made for the counties to provide for temporary emergency housing, and funds were appropriated for making existing federal and state buildings for shelters.
- **Smoking In Public Places** was prohibited in places open to the public and in places of employment.



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2007

- **Sen. Colleen Hanabusa** was unanimously elected President of the Senate, the first woman to preside over a chamber of the Hawai'i Legislature.
- **Superferry** operations were suspended after the first trip of the interisland ferry in a court order that cited the lack of an environmental impact study for Maui's harbor. A second special session allowed operations to continue pending completion of the study but all operations are suspended in March 2009.



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2009

- **Budget Deficit:** After the economic downturn that began at the end of 2008, the Council on Revenue estimated a \$2 billion deficit for the period thru 2010. The deficit was closed through a combination of spending cuts, program reductions, and eliminating 200 vacant state jobs.
- **Furlough Fridays:** Gov. Lingle announced that some state workers would be furloughed two days per month for 20 months, and the Board of Education announced “Furlough Fridays” for students and employees that lasted until May 2010.



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2010

- **Furlough Fridays:** The Legislature was able to redirect funds to end the furloughs for the public education system by the end of May.
- **Minimum Hours of Education:** To prevent future education furloughs, the Legislature passed minimum instructional hours for all levels of public education.
- **Social Services:** To repair some of the economic downturn's damage to Hawai'i's safety net, 39 social services programs received funding from the state's rainy day fund.
- **Gov. Neil Abercrombie** was inaugurated on December 6, 2010 at the 'Iolani Palace coronation pavilion.



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2011

- **Civil Unions:** Same-sex civil unions were legalized at the start of the session with the passing of Act 1.
- **Board of Education:** A constitutional amendment was approved that would replace the elected board with one appointed by the governor.
- **Native Hawaiian** people were formally recognized as the only indigenous people of Hawai'i. A Native Hawaiian Roll Call Commission was appointed to create a list of people who are of Native Hawaiian descent.



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2012

- **Kaka'ako Property:** To settle a long dispute between the State and the Office of Hawai'i an Affairs, prime waterfront land in Kaka'ako was conveyed to the OHA.
- **Charter Schools:** A Public Charter School Commission was created and authorized to oversee the state's charter schools and provide greater accountability.
- **Sen. Daniel K. Inouye** died on December 17, 2012. After laying in state at the United States Capitol for two days, his body was brought to Hawai'i to lie in state at the State Capitol.
- **Political Appointments:** In late December 2012, Governor Abercrombie appointed then Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz to succeed the late Senator Inouye, and former Senate President Shan Tsutsui became Lieutenant Governor.



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2013

- **Same-sex Marriage:** After a favorable ruling in June by the U. S. Supreme Court, the governor called for a special session in October to review the Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act of 2013. After passing in both houses, Gov. Abercrombie signed the act into law, making Hawai'i the 15th state to legalize same-sex marriage.



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2014

- **Turtle Bay Land:** A conservation easement will be created to preserve 665 acres of land at Turtle Bay.
- **Kaka'ako Height Limits:** Building height limits in the Kaka'ako development projects will be frozen, and public notice requirements will be expanded.
- **Gov. David Ige** took the oath of office at the State Capitol on Monday, December 1, 2014.

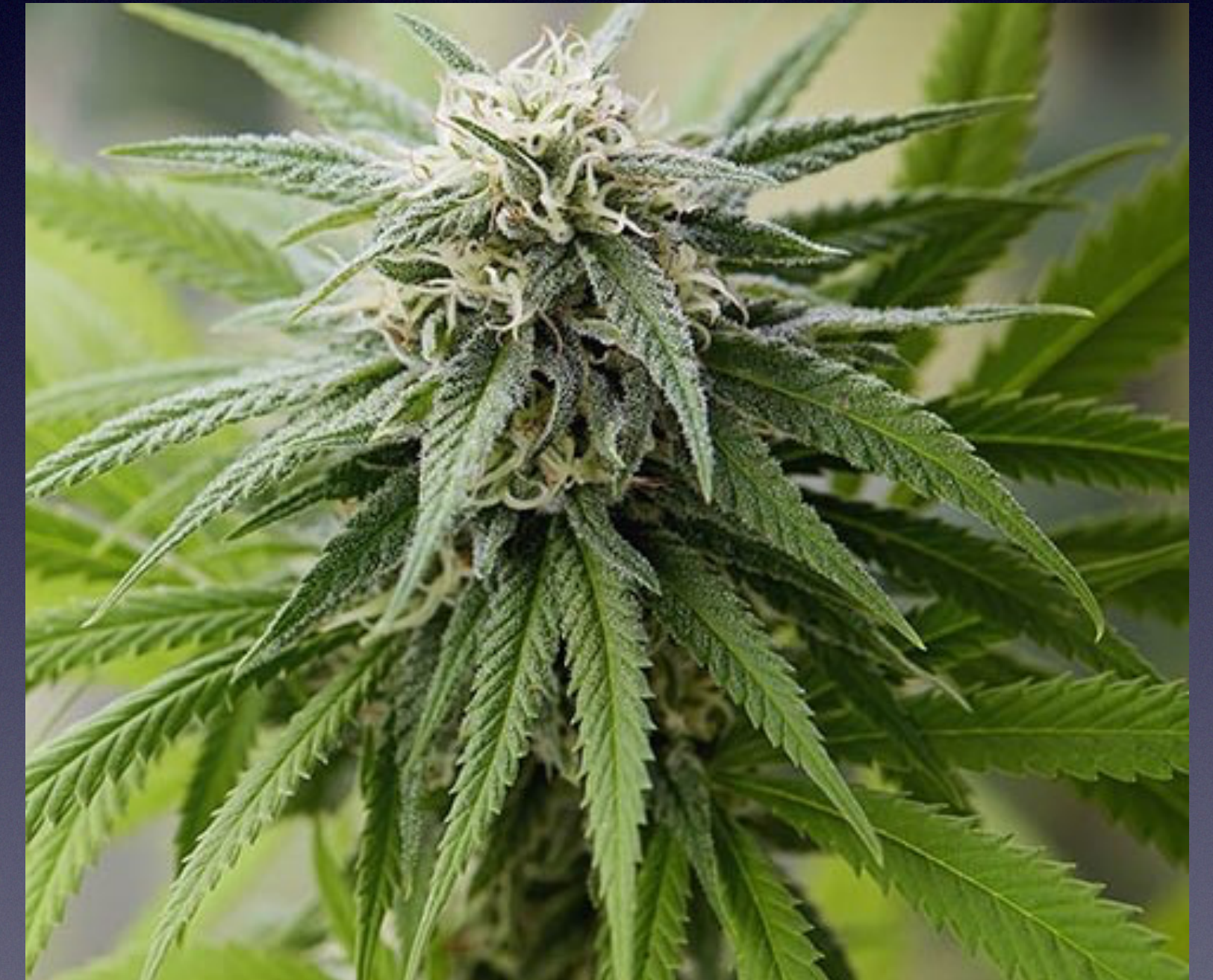


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2015

- **Marijuana:** Up to 16 dispensaries are approved to distribute medical marijuana.
- **Rapid Transit Rail:** A five-year extension of the half-percent excise tax surcharge was approved, allowing more funds for Honolulu's transit project.



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2016

- **School Room Cooling:** Funds to implement cooling measures in public school classrooms were authorized to come from unexpected federal reimbursements.
- **Homeless Shelters:** Minimum requirements for emergency shelters were established including storage space and partitions for family separation.



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2017

- **Climate Change:** The state will expand strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions statewide in alignment with the goals laid out in the 2015 Paris Agreement on global warming.
- **Homeless Housing:** The legislature provides funding for the Housing First program to quickly put homeless persons in housing.
- **Paraphernalia Possession:** All felony drug paraphernalia offenses will be reclassified as noncriminal violations, making them punishable by fines but no jail time.



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2018

- **Ohana Zones** will be established on public land to provide places where homeless individuals can access resources for basic needs and where social and health care services can be offered.
- **Affordable Housing:** Funding was approved to help finance affordable housing and rental projects, and is expected to fund development of 25,000 units by 2030.
- **Sunscreen Ban:** A ban was approved that will restrict certain sunscreen products that damage Hawai'i's coral reefs and marine life.



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Thank you to the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, especially
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Aloha & Mahalo!