



**KEITH A. REGAN**

MESSAGE FROM THE COMPTROLLER

## Comptroller's Corner

Aloha Team DAGS!

I would like to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to Governor Green for providing me the honor of being able to serve alongside such an incredible group of dedicated, hardworking, and caring individuals. These past three months has been an amazing experience as our new leadership team worked diligently to acclimate to our new roles.

Together, we've successfully navigated some challenging issues, reviewed internal processes, and provided the critical support needed to ensure we were moving forward in the right direction. We are grateful to each of the divisions and attached agencies for their willingness to explore new ways of approaching old issues. There is no doubt in my mind that, as we walk down this path

together, we will transform DAGS into one of the State's flagship departments but that change will only be possible if we support each other.

As part of our efforts to improve understanding and awareness, we are proud to launch the inaugural edition of the *DAGS Dispatch*, a quarterly newsletter created especially for you! As I have found in my 16+ years in government service, communication is one of the most important keys to success. We hope that you find the stories, photos and other tidbits in your newsletter helpful and interesting. As we continue to build on this newsletter, we are seeking your input and involvement by joining our newsletter committee, submitting articles and photos, and helping to share the newsletter throughout our team and beyond.

In addition to our newsletter, we have also launched our social media sites on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn in an effort to further improve our outreach and communication with the community we serve. If you are interested in connecting with us via social media, please visit our website at <https://ags.hawaii.gov/>.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet each of you over the next few weeks and months.

Mahalo!

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# From The Deputy's Desk...

Hello and welcome to the inaugural edition of the *DAGS Dispatch*!

At noon, on December 5, 2022, **Keith Regan** and I took over the reins at this wonderful department from the capable hands of former Comptroller, **Curt Otaguro**, and Deputy Comptroller, **Audrey Hidano**. Since then, we have been running at full speed as we tackle the many challenges that come along with our roles, while endeavoring to build relationships with those we serve and learn how we can better serve.

To be successful, we are cognizant of the fact that we cannot do it alone. Our employees are the key to our success.

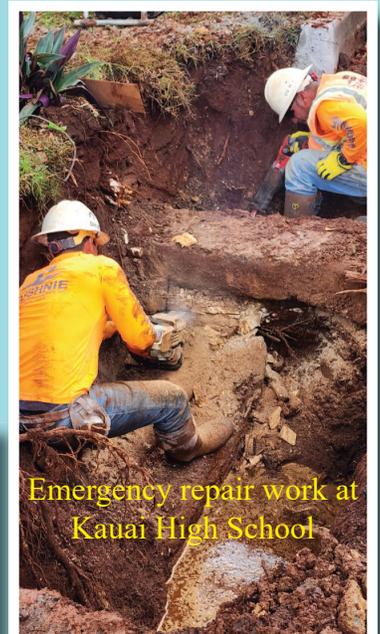
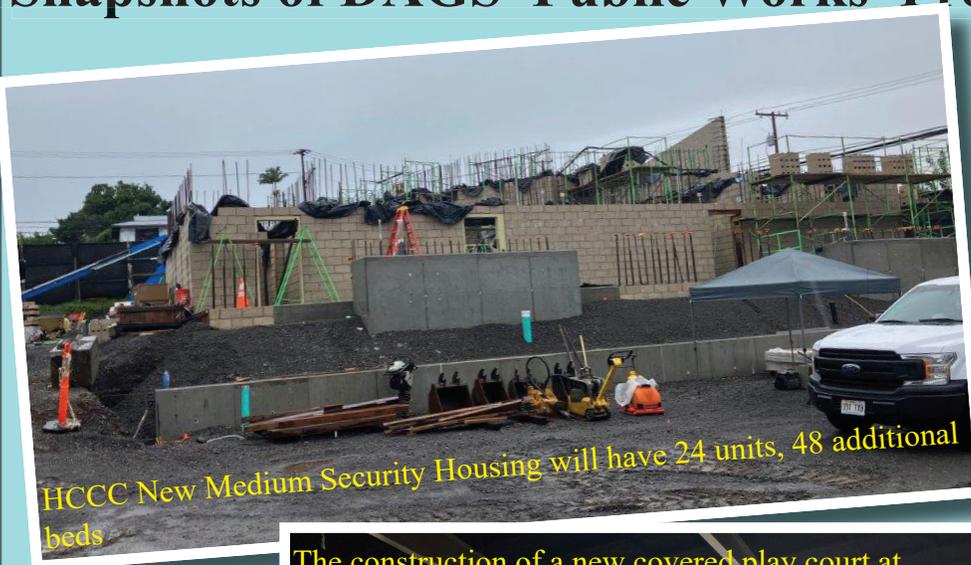
The *DAGS Dispatch* is where we will be sharing information on departmental projects that are impactful to stakeholders, announcements of upcoming events that are of interest, articles that inform on topics of wellness and preparedness, tips and tricks, and employee news, among other things. We are particularly excited and look forward to profiling our employee accomplishments and recognizing the great work of our employees.

With the launching of this newsletter, we begin our efforts to engage our employees, elected officials and our community, and we invite you to partner with us on this exciting journey.



MEOH-LING SILLIMAN

## Snapshots of DAGS' Public Works' Projects Underway



# A Message from the Governor

Congratulations to our team at DAGS on the launch of the inaugural edition of the *DAGS Dispatch*!

As Governor, I am proud of the great work performed by our hard working employees at the Department of Accounting and General Services.

We appreciate the dedication and commitment you display every day in support of state government and the community.

As you support us, please know that we are here to support you as well. Thank you again for all that you do, congratulations on your newsletter, and I look forward to continuing our work together to move Hawai'i forward.

- Governor Josh Green, M.D.



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## New Changes at the Automotive Management Division

by: **Michael Arakaki**, Automotive Management Division

After many years of service with the Automotive Management Division (AMD), we would like to recognize and thank five individuals for their years of service, and dedication to AMD whom all retired in 2022: **Brian Saito** who served 19 years at AMD as the Administrator; **Debbie Shiroma** who served 20 years at AMD as the Division Secretary; **Art Oshita** who served 33 years at AMD as the Automotive Technician Supervisor; **Carlton Lum** who served 22 years as an Automotive Technician I; and **Anthony Liu** who served 16 years at AMD as a Parking & Security Officer II.

AMD wishes all of them well on their retirement. The AMD also welcomes new staff who joined the

AMD team in the past 4 months. In November 2022, **Michael Arakaki**, who transferred from Central Services Division, is the new AMD Administrator; **William Yip**, who was previously an Automotive Technician II, is now the Automotive Technician Supervisor; **Ami Aiona** who is our Administrative Service Assistant joined our team in December 2022; two Oahu Parking and Security Officers I **Nolan McHugh**, who started in October 2022, and **Shawn Mutch**, who started in January 2023; and **John Noguchi**, our newest addition to our team who was hired in March 2023 as a Parking and Security Officer I on Maui.

# Emergency Repair Work Completed on Holiday

by: Eric Agena, Kauai District Office

Just because the week ends doesn't mean the work ends, and emergencies don't take holidays!

On the neighbor islands, the DAGS District Offices provide repair and maintenance services for the public schools and provide assistance in times of need. The President's Day holiday was no exception.

On Sunday afternoon preceding the President's Day holiday, DAGS Kauai District Office received a call from Kauai High School about a waterline leak that was discovered on campus. Both school and DAGS staff responded to the call but, despite their best efforts, the leak could not be isolated, so water service to the entire school had to be shut off to prevent the continued loss of water.

The problem is that, if a campus has no water, the school needs to be cancelled for health and safety reasons, so it was critical to repair the line as soon as possible.

Thankfully a local contractor, Cushnie Construction, was avail-



able with a crew the next day to perform the emergency repair. The Kauai Department of Water was also available and willing to loan the contractor the parts needed to expeditiously complete the repairs.

It was found that a large root from a nearby monkeypod tree sandwiched

itself between a concrete jacket and a six inch cast iron waterline, causing the line to crack and leak onto the driveway above. The root had to be removed and it proved to be a formidable adversary, as it was so dense it took a combination of three

saws (a Sawzall, a circular saw, and even a chainsaw), a mud gun, and sheer will and determination to remove it. Once the root was gone, the actual repair work on the line could begin, and the repair was completed just as a torrential downpour began.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the contractor, school, and DAGS personnel, and the generosity of the Department of Water in lending the needed parts, water service was restored in time for school to open the next day.

# Building Civic Engagement and Lifelong Voters

by Jaime Kataoka, Office of Elections

It's reported that turnout among young voters has been on the rise across the nation. In fact, during the 2022 Elections, turnout among voters under 30 was the second highest that it's been in the past three decades.

**Why is this important?** Participation by any group of eligible voters is surely something to celebrate! But we at the Office of Elections are especially excited to hear that the youth vote is increasing as we believe this to have a great impact on the overall health of our democratic process.

When citizens are civically engaged early in life, it is more likely that they'll have built a habit around voting and remain engaged in the future!

**How can we grow youth participation?** One of the most powerful ways we can encourage this early engagement is by getting Hawaii's young people registered to vote. Voter pre-registration is just the tool for that.

## What is Voter Pre-Registration?

It's simple! To pre-register means that you have registered to vote ahead of turning 18. If you are at least 16 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Hawaii, you are eligible to pre-register.

Those who have pre-registered don't have to do anything further. As soon as they turn 18, they will automatically receive their ballot in the mail for every election.

**Fun fact!** Hawaii is 1 of 15 states and Washington, D.C. to allow teens 16+ to register to vote.

## Hawaii's Annual Young Voter Registration Program

Each year, our office invites all public, charter, and private high schools statewide to participate in our Young Voter Registration Program (YVRP). We distribute thousands of voter registration applications to the participating schools and work with school liaisons to help students complete and submit the application. We also provide voter education materials addressing questions they may have about the voting process.

We recently wrapped this year's program, which ran from September 2022 through January 2023. Seventeen schools participated, giving thousands of Hawaii students the opportunity to register to vote conveniently from their classrooms.

Shout out to the students and faculty from this year's participating schools: Assets High School, Doris Todd Christian Academy, James B. Castle High School, James Campbell High School, Kahuku High School, Kalani High School, Kamaile Academy PCS, Kamehameha Schools Hawaii, Kau High School, Lahainaluna High School, Lanai High School, Maryknoll School, Punahou School, Seabury Hall, Theodore Roosevelt High School, University Laboratory School, Wallace Rider Farrington High School.

## Do Your Part!

First, let's make sure that your voter registration is in order by using the online voter registration system at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov). If your information is current, you're all set!

Next, if anyone in your household is 16+, encourage them to register to vote today.

- **Got a Hawaii Driver License or Hawaii State ID?** Register to vote online at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)
- **No State-Issued ID?** Complete a paper [Voter Registration Application](#). Instructions for submitting are on the application.

# DAGS Logo Contest Underway

by: **Keith Regan**, Office of the Comptroller

Have you ever noticed the logos of some of our sister departments?



We here at DAGS would also like to develop a nice logo that embodies our mission and visually shares the diverse range of responsibilities that is our kuleana. Do you have a creative side? If so, we are looking for you!

Today, we are officially launching our DAGS Logo Contest open to all DAGS employees. Logo contest

submissions must be in one color (like the ones shared in this article). This will allow us to print our new logo on various items. The logo should embrace the work we perform and take into consideration the variety that makes us unique as a department. Submissions must be in JPEG, TIFF, PNG, EPS, or PSD. Submissions should be sent to **Lee Leonard** at [lee.a.leonard@hawaii.gov](mailto:lee.a.leonard@hawaii.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28th. Submissions will be reviewed by the DAGS Logo Committee. The winner of the DAGS Logo Contest will receive a \$100 gift card to Foodland donated by Comptroller Regan. Should you have any questions, please contact the Comptroller's Office and ask for Lee.

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## Enterprise Skills Initiative Provides Free IT Training for State Employees

by: **James Gonser**, Office of Enterprise Technology Services

As part of the State of Hawaii's strategic partnership with Microsoft, the Enterprise Skills Initiative (ESI) is a free learning program to expand the technical skills of our employees.



ESI provides training on a wide range of cloud fundamentals, just-in-time technical sessions, certification opportunities, and more. Any employee with a hawaii.gov account can access these training resources and take advantage of the free certification exams at no-cost.

“This partnership provides state employees with an easily accessible way to develop their technical

skills. Not only does ESI provide a better understanding of Microsoft's programs and capabilities,

but it also helps our workers stay on top of technical changes which in turn leads to better service for Hawaii residents,” said **Doug Murdock**, state Chief Information Officer.

This opportunity is geared towards IT professionals or those looking to gain fundamental understanding of the various Microsoft cloud services.

To access the ESI Learner Experience Portal, visit: <https://esi.microsoft.com/>.

### DAGS DIGEST CREW

**Eric Agena**  
**Mari Joy Angsioco**  
**Michael Arakaki**  
**Ruth Baker**  
**Mamiko Carroll**  
**Karen Ewald**

**Governor Josh Green**  
**Jaime Kataoka**  
**Lee Leonard**  
**Jeffrey Pearson**  
**Keith Regan**  
**Meoh-Ling Silliman**

# State Procurement Office Shares Its Initiatives

by: Ruth Baker, State Procurement Office



**Procurement Consolidation Working, [Act 282, SLH 2022](#)**, established a working group to develop a plan for the phased-in consolidation of procurement services and staff within executive branch agencies within a five-year timespan and requires the working group to make recommendations for attracting high-quality procurement professionals to the State. An interim report was submitted to the Legislature in December 2022. Moving forward, the SPO will be conducting monthly meetings with department stakeholders to decide on a business model for the consolidation.

**Past Performance Database, [Act 188, SL 2021](#)**, requires the SPO to establish and administer a past performance database and adopt rules by December 2023. The online database and vendor assessment questionnaire have a targeted launch date of May 2023, which allows a few months to work out any glitches and provide training to government entities before the deadline.

**Small Business Initiative, [Act 168, SLH 2022](#)**, established a five-year small business initiative to assist small businesses, particularly Native Hawaiian owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned to contract with government entities. The bill appropriated funds for a small business coordinator in the SPO, plus procure the services of a contractor to provide outreach services. The SPO is currently negotiating with a vendor for the services.

**eProcurement Automation System.** The SPO has selected a contractor to develop an eMarketPlace and eProcurement system. The contract is in the process and we expect to start development in May 2023.

**SPO Fun Fact:** Seven of the SPO staff speak languages other than English are available to provide assistance to Limited English Proficient persons. Languages represented in the SPO are as follows: Japanese, Cantonese, Ilokano, Tagalog, Thai, German, and Swedish. One SPO staffer is tri-lingual!

# News from State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

by: **Karen Ewald and Mamiko Carroll**, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

## *Filipino Veterans of WWII Memorial Dedicated at Waipahu Public Library*



A dedication ceremony was held on Friday, February 24, 2023 for the “Filipino Veterans of WWII Monument” at the Waipahu Public Library. This is a commissioned work of art project set in motion by the 2017 Hawai‘i State Legislature through HB 942, Relating to Filipino veterans, appropriating funds for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to commission a permanent monument to show Hawai‘i’s gratitude to Filipino veterans, provide a visual reminder of these Filipino veterans’ unique place in American and global history, and to educate the public on the role that minorities played in the outcome of World War II.

“With the guidance and support of an art advisory committee comprised of Filipino Veterans, we were very fortunate to commission an artist who could create a of art that honors Filipino veterans.” – **Karen Ewald**, Interim Executive Director, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

View photos and read more about the monument on the SFCA website:

<https://sfca.hawaii.gov/filipino-veterans-of-wwii-monument-dedicated-at-waipahu-public-library/>

## *2023 Poetry Out Loud Hawai‘i State Champion*

**Irene Zhong** is the 2023 Poetry Out Loud Hawai‘i State Champion! 12 high school students representing Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Moloka‘i, and Hawai‘i Island participated in the state finals, which took place at Tenney Theatre on Sunday, February 26, 2023.

The event which was held in-person for the first time since 2020, was hosted by **Ben Gutierrez** and featured an appearance by **Brandy Nālani McDougall**, the current Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate. Guest judges included **Laurel Nakanishi**, **Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng**, **Mark Branner**, and **Sean-Joseph Choo**.

Irene will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Semi-Finals in Washington, DC. All 55 state and jurisdictional champions will compete in the national semifinals on Tuesday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, with the top nine students advancing to the finals on Wednesday, May 10, from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. ET. Both days are free and open to the public and will be available through a one-time-only webcast at [arts.gov](https://arts.gov).

## *Bishop Museum & ‘Iolani Palace to Receive \$19,500,000*

**Governor Josh Green** authorized \$17,500,000 for Bishop Museum and \$2,000,000 for the Friends of Iolani Palace through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The funding was a legislative line item in the SFCA’s 2022 fiscal budget but was not released during the previous administration. SFCA leadership and staff have been working with the two institutions and the two administrations since July of 2022 on the release of the funding. The funding will support the two institutions operations and construction projects.

SFCA continued on page 9



# RECIPE ROW

*The AMD staff looks forward to building new relationships and continued partnerships with everyone. With new staff comes new ideas and suggestions. We would like to share a favorite recipe from one of the AMD staff members called "Lemon Grass Chicken." Hope you enjoy this recipe!*

## Lemon Grass Chicken

1 whole chicken  
1 bunch of lemon grass  
1 small onion  
1 green onion  
Vegan oyster flavored sauce  
Salt and pepper  
2 T. butter

### Instructions

Pat dry whole chicken  
Place soft butter underneath chicken skin  
Season chicken with salt and pepper  
Rub vegan sauce all over chicken skin and in cavity  
Stuff cavity with lemon grass and onion  
Place chicken in roasting pan and cover with foil.  
Refrigerate at least 24 hours  
Preheat oven to 325F.  
Add about ¼ cup of water to roasting pan to make a sauce for basting.  
Place covered roasting pan with chicken on the center rack of oven.  
Baste chicken periodically until internal temperature reaches 165F.

"I am happiest when eating meals prepared by my mother-in-law. She's a great cook and consistently prepares nutritious dishes which I particularly enjoy. This is one of them." - **Keith Regan**

## Butter Yaki

2 lbs. tender beef, thinly sliced (e.g., shabu shabu beef thickness)  
1 block butter  
2 lbs. vegetables (watercress, won bok, mushrooms, bean sprouts)

### Sauce

1 c. shoyu  
1/2 c. daikon, grated  
1/4 c. mirin  
1/4 c. sugar

### Instructions

Heat shoyu, sugar, and mirin together. Cool and serve in individual sauce dishes. Fry meat and vegetables in butter using electric skillet at dinner table. Add grated daikon before dipping meat and vegetables in the sauce.

The next issue of the DAGS DISPATCH will include:

- A graduation section - If you'd like to highlight your or a family member's graduation, please submit a digital photo, name of the graduate, your name, school, and the graduate's future plans.
- Employee Spotlight - If you'd like to spotlight an employee, please submit a digital photo, name of the employee, and the employee's highlights.
- More recipes - If you'd to submit a recipe, please do so, and, if possible, include a photo of the finished product!

All submissions may be emailed to [lee.a.leonard@hawaii.gov](mailto:lee.a.leonard@hawaii.gov) and are due on May 15, 2023.