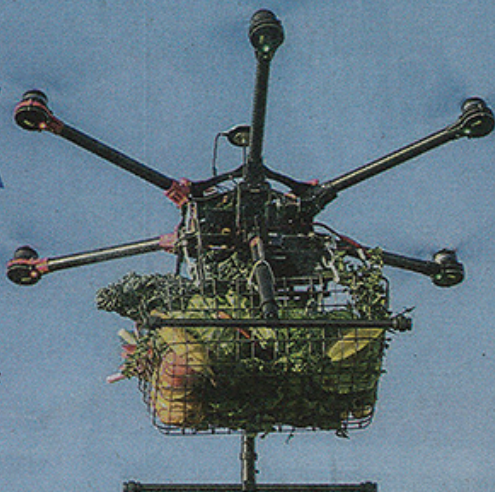




FIELD-TO-FORK DELIVERY

The Mill House restaurant on Maui gets its produce fresh from the farm via drones equipped with a camera and wire basket

TODAY / D1



Hawaii getting USC transfer

Former Punahou 2-sport star Larry Tuileta returning to play for the Rainbows

SPORTS / C1

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STATE CHILD SUPPORT

AGENCY FACES \$1.3M BUDGET HIT

Gov. Ige's proposed cut will affect enforcement and processing of payments, officials say

By Sophie Cocke
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The state agency responsible for enforcing and processing child support payments is facing a \$1.3 million hit to its budget for the 2017 fiscal year that begins in July — a loss that will hamper customer service and overall operations, according to officials who oversee the department.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency, which falls under the Department of the Attorney General, is facing a 10 percent cut in state general fund appropriations, or \$436,935. But because the federal government matches the state funding 2-to-1, the loss is felt all the more, said Lynette Lau, the agency's administrator.

"Any time there is any kind of restriction on our budget, it is always hard," she said, adding that the funding was meant to fill vacant positions.

The proposed cut was one of the issues highlighted Tuesday during a legislative briefing at the state Capitol to review Gov. David Ige's 2017 fiscal year budget proposal, which he submitted to lawmakers last month.



CRAIG T. KOJIMA / CKOJIMA@STARADVERTISER.COM

Gerald Yamane laughed with collection specialist Joy Agraan on Tuesday at the new Blood Bank of Hawaii primary donor center at 1907 Young St. Yamane was making his 500th blood donation.

Blood bank unveils new facility

The renovated site in Moiliili will serve as the primary donor center in response to rail construction

LOCAL / B1

Chief of parks wants to allow booze service for events at Queen's Beach

Michele Nekota proposes allowing liquor to flow at private Waikiki shindigs

By Gordon Y.K. Pang
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Drinking alcohol would be allowed at Queen's Beach in Waikiki for private events up to four times a year under a proposed rules change by the city Department of Parks and Recreation.

The proposal is drawing criticism from the Kapiolani Park Preservation Society, which objects to the use of the beach, also known as Queen's Surf Beach, for private functions that allow consumption of alcoholic beverages when city ordinance prohibits alcohol at city parks and beaches.

The proposed rules change will be the subject of a public hearing set for 2 to 4 p.m. Friday at Mission Memorial Conference Room, 550 S. King St., next to Ho-

local money

DRUGS IN THE WORKPLACE
Marijuana is the most prevalent
and cocaine use is up, testing
results show >> B5

911 REPORT >> B2
OBITUARIES >> B4

Answers on spending backlog sought

Lawmakers are pushing Gov. Ige's adviser to find out why federal funds are going unspent

By Kevin Dayton
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Gov. David Ige's top staff was warned Tuesday that lawmakers expect them to find out why state government has been so slow to spend federal funds, and find a way to fix the problem pronto.

House Finance Chairwoman Sylvia Luke said the

state departments of Health, Transportation and Hawaiian Home Lands are "terrible at utilizing federal funds."

"What state agency cannot spend money? That just completely baffles me," Luke said during a briefing for lawmakers on the budget for the Governor's Office.

Ige appointed Elizabeth

Kim as his special adviser on federal funds maximization, and members of the House and Senate money committees wanted to know what Kim is doing to get state departments to move more quickly to put federal funds to use in Hawaii for transportation, housing and clean-water programs.

Federal agencies are asking state departments why they are not spending the federal funds they have been given, and "that's just

clearly embarrassing," said Luke (D, Punchbowl-Pauoa-Nuuuanu).

Luke aimed special criticism at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, which she said fumbled the effort to spend \$10 million a year in federal funding under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. That funding for housing for Native Hawaiians had been arranged by the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

"NAHASDA money was

no strings attached, \$10 million they can do whatever they want, and the federal government pretty much told us they could have spent it on staff, they could have bought equipment, they could have done anything," Luke said. "All that the federal government wanted us to do was to spend the money."

"But what does DHHH do? They don't spend the money, and they put it in some kind of a loan program or investment. Why

are we investing when there's people on the wait list?" Luke asked, referring to the list of Native Hawaiians who are waiting to receive land under the department's homesteading program.

Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Jill Tokuda (D, Kailua-Kaneohe) said it is "absolutely unacceptable, the hundreds of millions of dollars we are leaving on the table, and

Please see MONEY, B3

Blood bank opens newly renovated donor facility in Moiliili

By Rosemarie Bernardo
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The Blood Bank of Hawaii is now accepting donations at its newly renovated Moiliili donor center after more than 35 years of operating in Kalihi.

The blood bank unveiled its new permanent donor facility at 1907 Young St. on Tuesday after closing the longtime donor center at 2043 Dillingham Blvd. on Monday.

The relocation of its primary donor center was prompted by concerns about access at the organization's headquarters in Kalihi due to planned rail construction.

Since 1980 a third of the state's blood supply and all of Hawaii's platelet supply have originated from donors who walked into the Dillingham Boulevard location. Also located on the site are the blood bank's laboratory and distribution facility.

The newly renovated 9,400-square-foot site in Moiliili had served as a satellite donor site.

"With the timing and resources we had available to us, this was the only option that we found to be sustainable, financially feasible," said the blood bank's president and chief executive officer, Kim-Anh Nguyen. Renovation costs were estimated at slightly more than \$1 million.

Previously, the Young Street facility accepted no platelet donations and was equipped to handle less than half of the capacity of the Dillingham Boulevard donor center. "In order to keep the Young Street donors here and add the Dillingham donors, we really needed to increase the capacity," Nguyen said.

The renovated facility can hold up to 14 donor beds — more than twice the capacity in Kalihi.

The move to Moiliili is one



PHOTOS BY CRAIG T. KOJIMA / CKOJIMA@STARADVERTISER.COM

The Blood Bank of Hawaii's remodeled facility on Young Street has room for up to 14 donor beds, more than twice the capacity of its Kalihi site.



Platelet donations are now accepted at Blood Bank of Hawaii's Moiliili site, where Felicia Cherry, above, is a collection specialist.

phase of the organization's plan to deal with rail construction, which the blood bank says will be too

much of a disruption to its operations to remain in Kalihi. It has been in a dispute with the

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, which had said its attempt to take 2,861 square feet of the approximately 21,780-square-foot Kalihi property didn't necessitate relocation. The Honolulu City Council stepped in to stop the attempt by HART to acquire the square footage it needs using eminent domain.

Relocation plans for the blood bank's processing laboratory and blood distribution facility housed on the second floor of the Dillingham headquarters have yet to be determined.

"That part of our operation never closes — 24/7, 365 days a year, we are distributing blood to the hospitals," Nguyen said. "So we need to be available for 'stat' deliveries, for traumas. And we're working on that — on a plan for what to do, finding shelter so we continue to operate without interruption in a compliant way."

In order to keep the Young Street donors here and add the Dillingham donors, we really needed to increase the capacity."

Kim-Anh Nguyen
President and CEO, Blood Bank of Hawaii

