



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA RELEASE

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Date: June 21, 2013

Governor Release \$134.7 Million for Hawai'i Island Schools

Honolulu- Governor Neil Abercrombie yesterday announced the release of \$134.7 million for various capital improvement projects (CIP) for Hawai'i Island schools. The Governor's CIP package included allocation of funds for priority projects identified by members of the State Legislature.

Senator Gilbert Kahele, who represents Senate District 1, encompassing Hilo, issued this statement in response to the Governor's release of funds:

"I would like to thank the Governor for releasing the funding for these much needed projects," said Kahele. "It is important that we invest in repairing and maintaining our public school facilities so that we can continue to provide safe learning environments for our island keiki."

\$500,000 towards additional construction for all-weather track and field facilities at Waiakea High School and \$350,000 for the design and construction of ADA accessible playground equipment at Waiakeawaena Elementary School are among the projects identified in the Governor's CIP package.

Kahele, who lobbied hard at the State Legislature to obtain funding for these two projects, said that they are essential to the safety and co-curricular development of the students.

"These two projects will not only provide a safe place for students to train, practice and play, but also encourages them to excel in and outside of the classroom," Kahele explained. "I appreciate the Governor for funding the Waiakea High School's all-weather track and field facilities and Waiakeawaena Elementary School's playground equipment. Our students will be able to enjoy using these facilities for years to come."

Additional construction for all-weather track and field facilities at Waiakea High School will be shared with Hilo High School. Both schools are currently using county facilities to host track and field events. Funding for this phase of the project will involve the replacement of grass turf with all-weather surfacing and drainage enhancements.

Design and construction at Waiakeawaena Elementary School will provide safe and accessible playground equipment to meet ADA accessibility guidelines.

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