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Budget: \$175M for Big Island CIP

MONEY WOULD BE FOR ROADS, SCHOOLS, AIRPORTS AND HARBORS

BY NANCY COOK LAUER
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The two-year spending plan is \$50 million higher than the previous bienni-

um, according to figures provided by the state House of Representatives. About \$175 million of the \$419.4 million two-year plan is for the 2009 budget year that starts July 1.

In an election year, lawmakers are glad to report good news from the Capitol as the session winds past its midpoint and campaigning begins to top legislative agendas.

"Since 2004, the Legislature has

appropriated over \$200 million in roads, schools and health facilities for the Big Island," said Rep. Josh Green, D-North Kona, Keauhou, Kailua-Kona.

"Big Island legislators continue to be very effective as a team to secure funds for our physical infrastructure," said Rep. Cliff Tsuji, D-South Hilo, Puna, Keaau. "We are always concerned about the condition of our roads and harbors, and the maintenance of our schools

and universities because they directly impact the quality of life for Big Island residents."

The budget, HB 2500, has been assigned to the Senate Ways and Means Committee but has not yet been scheduled. There's \$11.5 million for the North Kona water system improvements, money for roads and schools, and major

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