

CIP budget includes \$119M for Kona airport

\$57M aimed at Kawaihae Harbor

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State legislators appropriated about \$225 million in West Hawaii capital improvement projects in the budget that goes for a vote early next week.

Projects range from \$119 million for Kona International Airport terminal expansion to \$180,000 for the Lai Opua Community Center. The budget bill passed from the Senate's conference committee late Thursday.

"It's great that the Legislature keeps focusing on West Hawaii's infrastructure needs," Kona Sen. Josh Green said. "I'm also very happy to see projects like health centers and community centers."

Gov. Linda Lingle and her successor will be responsible for releasing the funding, which is authorized for three years under the budget.

Kona International Airport is slated to receive funding for plans, design and construction for the terminal expansion program. Included in that project is the relocation of tenant facilities, baggage claim, additional hold rooms, new tenant spaces, rest rooms, infrastructure, a security access control, closed circuit television system, an aircraft rescue and fire fighting station, training pit and other improvements, all under the airport's modernization plant.

For Kawaihae Harbor, the budget appropriated \$57 million for deepening, widening and other improvements to the navigational areas, construction of terminal improvements adjacent to the proposed interisland terminal barge facility, and design and construction of other terminal projects, including paving, utilities, relocation of the harbor agent's office and interim ferry improvements.

About \$16.3 million was included for plans and design for the Kawaihae bypass, which would run from Waimea to Kawaihae. The budget set aside \$15.6 million for Ane Keohokalole Highway, for new roadways, relocation or construction of utilities and other improvements. The state Department of Transportation also received about \$3.4 million for Kuakini Highway road and drainage improvements near Kamehameha III Road.

The West Hawaii Education Center and East Hawaii's Manono Campus building development received \$10 million for plans, designs and equipment. Just more than \$1 million will go for a North Kona well, while a \$1.5 million grant will go for the Lai Opua Community Center.

Kona Community Hospital will get \$750,000 to match a federal predisaster mitigation grant for ceiling work. The West Hawaii Community Health Center received \$180,000 to plan, design and build a Waikoloa office.