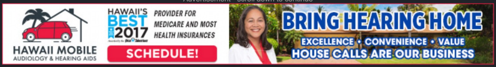
Advertisement - scroll down to continue


HAWAII MOBILE
AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AIDS
HAWAII'S BEST 2017
PROVIDER FOR MEDICARE AND MOST HEALTH INSURANCES
SCHEDULE!
BRING HEARING HOME
EXCELLENCE • CONVENIENCE • VALUE
HOUSE CALLS ARE OUR BUSINESS

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 75° Today's Paper

HAWAII NEWS

Green looks for common ground with Trump to help Hawaii

By Dan Nakaso

Today • Last updated 12:14 a.m.

Editors' Picks

GEORGE F. LEE / GLEE@STARADVERTISER.COM

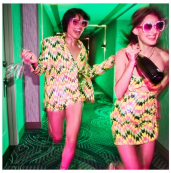
Gov. Josh Green, pictured Tuesday in his office at the state Capitol, said he spoke to President Donald Trump about homeless kauhale during a recent meeting.

Gov. Josh Green said he has chosen a more conciliatory, collaborative approach with President Donald Trump if it means preserving as much federal support for Hawaii as possible.

Unlike some Democratic governors who have openly challenged Trump and his policies, Green said he wants to avoid direct confrontations with Trump on issues where they likely disagree in order to gain Trump's support for Hawaii priorities such as reducing homelessness that affect both red and blue states.

Challenging Trump on his stances can be "combustible," Green said, as evidenced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's testy exchange with Trump in the Oval Office on Friday, followed by Trump this week halting U.S. military support for Ukraine amid its three-year-long war with Russia.

ADVERTISING



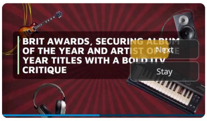
The Cosmopolitan - Sponsored

Make a Suite Escape

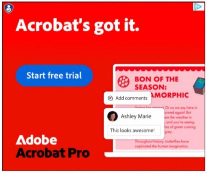
The Cosmopolitan - Sponsored

Be Totally Consumed

Plot


BRIT AWARDS, SECURING ALBUM OF THE YEAR AND ARTIST OF THE YEAR TITLES WITH A BOLD ITV CRITIQUE
Next
Stay

Advertisement



SUBSCRIBER FAVORITES

1 Trump eyes selling DOJ, FBI headquarters in federal downsizing

2 Actress removes Hawaii turtle video after social media outcry

3 Trump addresses Congress for first time since returning to power

4 Tokuda wears opposition to Trump on her pink sleeves

5 Organ transplant system 'in chaos' as waiting lists are ignored

MORE EDITORS' PICKS

2 women are indicted in 3-year-old girl's death

Corruption probe ends with misdemeanor sentences

Kokua Line: What government offices are closing in Hawaii?

UH's Wieter will see his old teammates across the net vs. Lindenwood

U.S. Rep. Tokuda documenting fallout of federal firings

Stay in Vegas ›
Stay in Vegas ›
Stay i

Trump has pledged to slash federal financing and the federal workforce across the country, prompting Green to search for common ground because, Green said, “I need to protect our budget … and protect resources to help our people.”

As usual, Green flew in coach and took a red-eye to Washington, D.C., for a whirlwind, five-day trip beginning Feb. 18 to attend the winter meeting of the National Governors Association, where Green also met face to face with Trump and members of his administration to lobby for support for Hawaii.

Trump’s early pledges to slash federal funding for a long list of programs could cost Hawaii “several hundred million if we don’t fight for every dollar,” Green told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on Tuesday in his fifth floor office atop the state Capitol.

Don't miss out on what's happening!
Stay in touch with breaking news, as it happens, conveniently in your email inbox. It's FREE!

Enter your email **Sign Up**

By clicking to sign up, you agree to Star-Advertiser's and Google's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. This form is protected by reCAPTCHA.

He especially wants to ensure that $1.6 billion in promised federal aid arrives to help Maui rebuild following the August 2023 wildfires.

“If Democratic governors don’t show up (in person), he’s only going to hear opinions that are much more conservative,” Green said. “If it’s good for Hawaii, I’m going to push it.”

Green said he recognizes Trump’s desire to rely even more on fossil fuels, for instance, but will work to serve as a “bridge” for more renewable-energy efforts, a key issue in an island state that continues to push for clean energy and reduce its dependence on imported oil and fuel.

Green said Trump told him that he didn’t mind if Green continues to challenge his new Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy for RFK’s failure to emphasize the need for vaccinations, especially following the current measles outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico that led to the death of an unvaccinated child in Texas.

But when it comes to Trump, specifically, Green said, “I established that I don’t have a desire to be punching one another.”

With Trump’s landslide victory in November, recognition of Hawaii’s often moderate Democratic values and now into his third year as governor, Green said he considers himself more politically moderate. But he said he will keep battling to help the needy and working-class families and to reduce Hawaii’s high cost of living while continuing to push forward on social issues, including guaranteeing reproductive rights.

Overall, Green said, “I’ve changed a lot … and don’t focus on purely ideological purity tests.”

While in Washington, Green believes, he received a sympathetic ear from Trump on issues such as homeless kauhale by appealing to Trump’s business background.

Green repeatedly referred to the ROI — or return on investment — for getting homeless people off the street and into kauhale, which Green referred to only as “villages” while addressing Trump and Democratic and Republican governors from around the country.

Getting homeless people the help they need while living in kauhale tiny homes diverts them from emergency rooms, often saving hospital bed space and thousands of dollars per patient, along with reducing the demand for first responders who treat them on the street and transport them — only for them to return to the street.

“This is a model that will make sense if we’re talking about resources,” Green said he told Trump both in private and during a luncheon with other other governors.

Green also encouraged the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a “villages” pilot program for three red and three blue states, including more and less populated ones, that he said will show that kauhale save $4 for every $1 spent.

Green said he wanted to “throw in a dash of return on investment, or fiscal conservatism,” in order to “find a balance where we can work together. There has to be some form of compromise. … I’m going to try to apply a little bit of calm.”

Green said his outreach in Washington means he now has access to Trump administration officials to further advocate for Hawaii and continue lobbying for federal support that will help Republican and Democratic states.

Upcoming Events

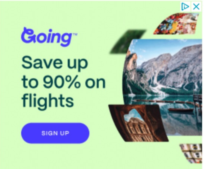
Wed, Mar 05 @6:30pm Sponsored
The Return of Kapaemahu Free Hula Show
Kuhio Beach Hula Mound

Wed, Mar 05 @5:00pm
The Magical Mystery Show!
Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel

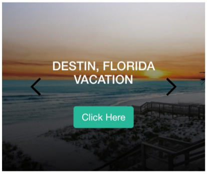
Wed, Mar 05 @10:00am
Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt
Puzzling Adventures Start & Finish L...

Wed, Mar 05 @9:00am
Talk Story: Sharing Gems of Kaimukī's Past!
Kaimukī Public Library

See All Events **Add Your Event**



Looking for MidWeek?
View Latest Edition



AdChoices
Join ANA + Your State Nurses Association for ONE LOW PRICE.
Fighting for you locally and nationally.
JOIN NOW
American Nurses Association
RN
FREE GIFT
Use Promo Code: MBRHeartBadge03

Quiz Star ★ Advertiser

Who called Trump's 2024 tariff plans against Canada and Mexico "counterproductive"?

○ Kamala Harris
○ Justin Trudeau
○ Joe Biden
○ Claudia Sheinbaum

powered by Insticator Skip ›

Green avoided issues such as how Trump's ban on programs that embrace diversity, equity and inclusion continue to generate fear, anxiety and confusion in Hawaii, which has no ethnic majority and traces its diversity to immigrant plantation workers who began arriving in the 1890s.

Green especially avoided talking about Hawaii's ongoing efforts to help Native Hawaiians.

"We should not draw extra attention to the issue of Hawaiians," he said.

If pushed, though, Green said he would argue that the state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Kamehameha Schools do not reflect "a demonstration of favoritism."

He continues to support DHHL, OHA and its board chair, Kai Kahele — a former Senate colleague turned political gubernatorial rival — "to restore lands to the Hawaiian people," Green said.

Personally, there's also been a change of attitude regarding the desire by a majority of Hawaii's first family for a dog.

First lady Jaime Green — who's allergic to dog fur — has long vetoed the idea but finally agreed to let Green and their son and daughter have a new poi poodle puppy at Washington Place.

Poodles have hair, not fur.

The puppy was born among a litter of eight in Kailua, continues to be weaned but has been promised by Green's "uncle." The puppy should join the first family in April.

Its name has not been decided, but the leading contender at the moment seems to be Boba, after the Star Wars galactic bounty hunter Boba Fett.

Jaime Green made her canine concession after Green had advocated that walking a dog every day would be good for both the physical and mental health of America's only sitting governor who's also a medical doctor.

Green's position was that a dog would help relieve some of the stress after long days at the state Capitol and, now, while advocating for Hawaii with a new Trump administration.

63 COMMENTS

Sponsored Content

Eat 1 Teaspoon Every Night, See What Happens a Week Later

By Health Wellness Journal - Cardiologists: How Older Women Are Slimming Down Quickly

Short on height, Dillon Gabriel invites NFL to measure results | Honolulu Star-

ŌURA

Put an Oura Ring on it.
Commit to your body

Shop Now

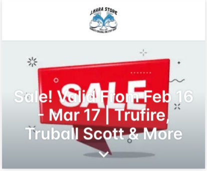
LOOKING BACK ›

Exhale

Tsunami threat fades as waves forecast to top 8 feet never arrive

Monstrous quake kills hundreds in Chile

Feb. 27, 2010: Huge quake in Chile puts Hawaii on high alert for tsunami



Sale! Valid From Feb 16 - Mar 17 | Trufire, Truball Scott & More

Advertisement

Turn Headlines Into Heirlooms

SHOP NOW

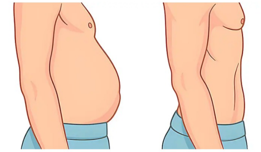
Custom Plaques - Acrylic Frames - Wall Clings

FIND THE BEST
HONOLULU
HAS TO OFFER
Restaurants
CLICK TO EXPLORE

Advertisement

ancestryDNA
Explore more of you.
Buy today

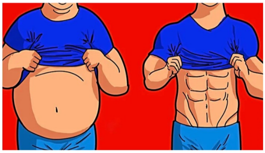
Advanced Trading Tools
Leverage a powerful platform designed for self-directed traders.
TradeStation | Sponsored



Cardiologists: How to Quickly Lose a Hanging Belly
Try it tonight
Rising Health Trends | Sponsored
Learn More

Neurologists Amazed: These Barefoot Shoes Help Seniors Lose Weight and Live ...
Barefoot Shoes are the Ultimate Weight Loss Tool for 2025.
Barefoot Vitality | Sponsored
Learn More

Amazon Is Losing Money as Shoppers Are Cancelling Prime For This Clever Hack
This simple trick can save tons of money on Amazon, but most Prime members are ignoring it.
Online Shopping Tools | Sponsored



Doctors Say “Slimming Down After 44 Comes Down To This”
Try it tonight
Rising Health Trends | Sponsored
Learn More

Using Gabapentin? These Shoes Are a Must if You Have Pain
Barefoot Shoes are the Ultimate Weight Loss Tool for 2025.
Barefoot Vitality | Sponsored
Learn More

Amazon Is Losing Money as Shoppers Are Cancelling Prime For This Clever Hack

This simple trick can save tons of money on Amazon, but most Prime members are ignoring it.

Online Shopping Tools | Sponsored

Flight Attendant Reveals How To Fly Business Class For The Price of Economy

Seniors, you'll want to check this out ASAP

Airlines | Search Ads | Sponsored

Learn More

Fight Nail Fungus and Keep Your Nails Healthy

Use this LLLT device daily for 15-20 minutes to help clear fungus and promote healthy nails.

Okita Nail Fungus Light | Sponsored

Learn More

This Is The Highest Rated Hearing Aid In Hawaii

German-engineered featuring enhanced speech clarity

hear.com | Sponsored

Vance ignites outrage in Britain with ‘random country’ comment | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Star-Advertiser

Murderer avoids sentence of life term without parole | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

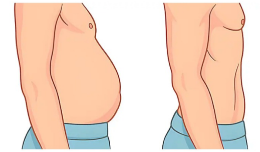
Star-Advertiser

Top 10 Blood Pressure Monitors of 2024 Tested by DocReviews

We tested the most popular blood pressure monitors of 2024. Read on to discover the most accurate devices and make an informed decision before your purchase.

DocReviews | Sponsored

Learn More



Cardiologists: How to Quickly Lose a Hanging Belly

Try it tonight

Rising Health Trends | Sponsored

Learn More

This Red Light Wand Sells Out Weekly on Amazon—See What's Behind the Hype

This FDA-Approved Red Light Wand Keeps Selling Out on Amazon (Here's Why!)

Norelie | Sponsored

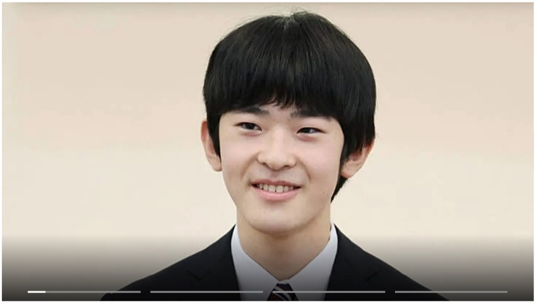
Learn More

Seniors Are Clearing Fungus at Home With Laser Tech

Use this LLLT device for 15 minutes daily to help clear fungus and promote healthy nails.

Okita Nail Fungus Light | Sponsored

Learn More



Japan's Prince Hisahito vows to fulfill royal duties | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Star-Advertiser

Neurologists Amazed: These Barefoot Shoes Help Seniors Lose Weight and Live a Life with Less Pain

Barefoot Shoes are the Ultimate Weight Loss Tool for 2025.

Barefoot Vitality | Sponsored Learn More

WA
OR
MT
ID
WY
ND
SD
MN
NE
IA
WI
MI
NY
ME
PA
NV
UT
CO
KS
MO
IL
IN
OH
WV
VA
KY
CA
AZ
NM
OK
TX
AR
TN
NC
SC
MS
AL
GA
LA
FL
AK
HI

Who Charges the Most for Car Insurance in Hawaii? (Check Zip Codes)

Reduce the cost of your car insurance if you live in these zip codes

BestMoney.com | Sponsored Learn More

These New Bamboo Arthritis Gloves Are Taking Hawaii By Storm

Put These Gloves on For 20 Minutes and Watch What Happens

OneCompress | Sponsored Read More