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[TEST] February Capitol Connection

1 message

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Friend --

Please read about the continuing progress made by the administration.

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[FEBRUARY 2017](#)

MAKING PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

We need to press on with the progress we've made over the last two years - transforming our schools, reshaping our economy, addressing homelessness and building more affordable homes, and making government more efficient so it can continue to work for the people. All of these are inextricably linked. To transform our economy we need to transform our schools, so our children can provide the brainpower and fill the jobs in a knowledge-based industry. ([Read more](#))

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

One national study predicts that 70 percent of Hawai'i's jobs will require some postsecondary education by 2020. I believe education reform in Hawai'i starts with changing the current top-down bureaucracy of the DOE to a school-centered one ([Read more](#))

INNOVATION TO DRIVE THE NEXT GREAT ECONOMIC SECTOR

Among our local success stories is the business startup **Shaka Tea**, owned by Bella Hughes and her husband, Harrison Rice. They have taken māmakī leaves, grown in Pahala on the Big Island, and used them to grow an exciting new local company. ([Read more](#))

GROWING A STRONG ECONOMY - NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

We have a goal to double local food production by 2020 with the purchase of farm lands, programs that support local farmers, incentives to grow organic, and incubators to help entrepreneurs create new food products and businesses. ([Read more](#))

PROTECTING HAWAII'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Last September at the World Conservation Congress, we unveiled our **Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative** to protect our watershed forests, better manage our oceans, double our food production and achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. ([Read more](#))

TAKING ACTION ON MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

To date, we've produced a total of 1,050 units in the past two years with over 4,000 more in the pipeline, 80 percent of which will be rentals. To build on that momentum, I convened a group of affordable home developers and advocates to listen to their suggestions to maximize state financing tools and provide the infrastructure needed. ([Read more](#))

TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER FOR PEOPLE

Three years ago, we set out to make government more efficient, effective and accountable to the people. One of the more exciting ways we're doing this is through a program with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services ([Read more](#))

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