



# Josh Green (politician)

**Joshua Booth Green** (born February 11, 1970) is an American politician and physician who has served as the governor of Hawaii since 2022. A member of the Democratic Party, he is the state's ninth governor. He was the 15th lieutenant governor of Hawaii from 2018 to 2022, a member of the Hawaii Senate from 2008 to 2018, and as a member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from 2004 to 2008.

## Early life and education

Green was born on February 11, 1970, in Kingston, New York to a Jewish family.<sup>[1]</sup> He was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.<sup>[2]</sup> He attended Quaker Valley High School, where he graduated as one of four valedictorians in 1988; as a Quaker Valley student, he was president of the Key Club and played on the school's soccer and tennis teams.<sup>[3]</sup>

Green received a Bachelor of Science in anthropology from Swarthmore College in 1992 and his Doctor of Medicine from the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University in 1997.<sup>[1][4]</sup> In 2022, Swarthmore College awarded Green an honorary Doctorate of Science.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Medical career

After completing his residency in 2000, Green joined the National Health Service Corps and was stationed in Hawaii as a physician for the Big Island. He practiced family medicine and worked in emergency rooms. At times, he was the only physician in the island's rural areas.<sup>[2]</sup>

Green has been awarded Physician of the Year by the Hawaii Medical Association twice in his career, first in 2009, and again in 2022 for his leadership and service during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>[6]</sup> He has remained a physician in Hawaii's rural emergency departments while serving in public office and returns to the Big

**Josh Green**



### **9th Governor of Hawaii**

**Incumbent**

**Assumed office**

December 5, 2022

**Lieutenant** Sylvia Luke

**Preceded by** David Ige

### **15th Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii**

**In office**

December 3, 2018 - December 5, 2022

**Governor** David Ige

**Preceded by** Doug Chin

**Succeeded by** Sylvia Luke

### **Member of the Hawaii Senate from the 3rd district**

**In office**

November 4, 2008 - November 6, 2018

**Preceded by** Paul Whalen

**Succeeded by** Dru Kanuha

### **Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 6th district**

Island to practice medicine.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Early political career

### Hawaii House of Representatives

Green was elected to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 2004. He represented the 6th district, based in a rural area of the western portion of the Big Island. Green served two terms before being elected to the Hawaii Senate in 2008.

### Hawaii Senate

Green was first elected to the Hawaii Senate in 2008. He represented the 3rd district, which encompassed the southwestern portion of the Big Island. He was reelected in 2012 and 2014. As a state senator, Green served as majority leader and chaired the Committee on Health and Human Services.

In 2013, Green was honored as "Hawaii Legislator of the Year".<sup>[8]</sup> He championed the initiative to create an insurance mandate for children with autism via legislation known as Luke's Law. The legislation went into effect on January 1, 2016.

In 2018, Green fought to establish a legal safeguard so that parents with disabilities would no longer have their children taken away from them because of their disabilities. He also led the charge to raise the legal age to obtain tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21, making Hawaii the first state to do so.

Green opted not to run for reelection to the Senate in 2018. He was succeeded by Dru Kanuha, who now serves as majority leader.

### Lieutenant governor of Hawaii

In 2018, Green won the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor of Hawaii and was the running mate of incumbent Democratic governor David Ige, who was running for a second term. Ige and Green won the general election on November 6, 2018.<sup>[9]</sup>

Ige tasked Green with addressing Hawaii's chronic homelessness crisis and called on him to use his background as a physician to address how mental illness and addiction affect Hawaii's homeless population.<sup>[10]</sup>

In 2019, shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic, Green led a team of over 75 doctors, nurses and other Hawaii health care workers on an emergency medical mission to Samoa. They aided in vaccination efforts against a measles epidemic across the region.<sup>[11]</sup>

<b>In office</b>	
November 2, 2004 – November 4, 2008	
<b>Preceded by</b>	Mark Jernigan
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<u>Denny Coffman</u>
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	Joshua Booth Green February 11, 1970 <u>Kingston, New York</u> , U.S.
<b>Political party</b>	<u>Democratic</u>
<b>Spouse</b>	<u>Jaime Green</u> (m. 2006)
<b>Children</b>	2
<b>Residence</b>	<u>Governors' Residence</u>
<b>Education</b>	<u>Swarthmore College</u> (BS) <u>Pennsylvania State University (MD)</u>
<b>Signature</b>	

On March 3, 2020, Ige appointed Green as the administration's liaison between the state and healthcare community as it pertains to COVID-19 preparedness and response.<sup>[12]</sup>

A poll conducted in April 2021 by Hawaii News Now found that Green had a 63% approval rating, with only 17% of voters disapproving of his work as lieutenant governor, while Ige held an approval rating of 22%.<sup>[13]</sup> It is speculated that Green's visibility throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and background as an emergency room doctor contributed to the difference.<sup>[14]</sup>

## **Governor of Hawaii**

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### **2022 Hawaii gubernatorial campaign**

In August 2019, Green announced he was considering a run for governor of Hawaii in the 2022 election.<sup>[15]</sup> He launched his gubernatorial campaign on February 10, 2022.<sup>[16]</sup>

Green won the Democratic primary on August 13, 2022; his running mate was Democratic state representative Sylvia Luke. On November 8, 2022, Green won the general election, defeating Republican nominee and former Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona in the general election.<sup>[17]</sup>

### **Tenure**

Green was inaugurated as the ninth governor of Hawaii on December 5, 2022.<sup>[18]</sup> In his inaugural address, he addressed the rising cost of living and vowed to combat it through affordable housing and tax priorities.<sup>[18]</sup>

In 2023, Green issued an emergency declaration on Hawaii's housing crisis that included an executive order streamlining housing construction in Hawaii and suspending various state and local land use regulations.<sup>[19]</sup>

## **Personal life**

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Green is Jewish.<sup>[20]</sup> He married Jaime Ushiroda in 2006. The couple met when Ushiroda, a family law expert, was clerking for Suzanne Chun Oakland, who was chair of the State's Human Services committee.<sup>[21]</sup> They have two children.<sup>[22]</sup>

Green is a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **Electoral history**

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### **2018**



Green's official portrait as Lt. Governor

2018 Hawaii lieutenant gubernatorial election Democratic primary results<sup>[23]</sup>

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b>Josh Green</b>	<b>74,845</b>	<b>31.4</b>
	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Jill Tokuda</u>	68,124	28.6
	<u>Democratic</u>	Bernard P. Carvalho	45,825	19.2
	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Kim Coco Iwamoto</u>	34,243	14.3
	<u>Democratic</u>	Will Espero	15,463	6.5
<b>Total votes</b>			<b>238,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2022

2022 Hawaii gubernatorial election Democratic primary results<sup>[24]</sup>

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b>Josh Green</b>	<b>158,161</b>	<b>62.91%</b>
	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Vicky Cayetano</u>	52,447	20.86%
	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Kai Kahele</u>	37,738	15.01%
	<u>Democratic</u>	Van Tanabe	1,236	0.49%
	<u>Democratic</u>	Richard Kim	991	0.39%
	<u>Democratic</u>	David Bourgoin	590	0.23%
	<u>Democratic</u>	Clyde Lewman	249	0.10%
<b>Total votes</b>			<b>251,412</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2022 Hawaii gubernatorial election<sup>[25]</sup>

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
	<b>Josh Green</b> <b>Sylvia Luke</b>	<b>261,025</b>	<b>63.16%</b>	<b>+0.49%</b>
<u>Republican</u>	<u>Duke Aiona</u> Seaula Tupa'i Jr.	152,237	36.84%	+3.14%
<b>Total votes</b>		<b>413,262</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
<b>Turnout</b>		417,215	48.44%	-4.24
<b>Registered electors</b>		861,358		
<u>Democratic</u>	<b>hold</b>			

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## External links

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- [Governor of the State of Hawai'i \(https://governor.hawaii.gov/\)](https://governor.hawaii.gov/) official government website
  - [Josh Green for Hawaii \(https://joshgreenforhawaii.com/\)](https://joshgreenforhawaii.com/) campaign website
  - [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?135810\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?135810) on C-SPAN
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