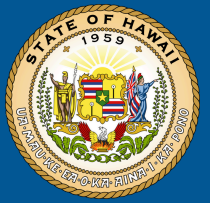


COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | MAY 2024

Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



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KIDANI

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As another eventful legislative session has concluded, I would like to express my gratitude for your engagement in the legislative process by submitting testimony and sharing your input with my office. I'd like to highlight several important bills that passed both the Senate and House chambers during the conference phase and are on Governor Green's desk for consideration:

SB2475 SD2 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO EDUCATION. This measure, the first in Hawai'i, establishes a Harm to Students Registry to ensure safer learning environments and hold accountable those who have committed egregious actions towards students, preventing them from securing employment at other educational institutions.

HB2404 HD1 SD1 CD1: RELATING TO INCOME TAX. This bill increases the standard deduction amounts and adjusts income tax brackets, which designate how much tax is owed for different levels of income, every two years from 2025 to 2031. If enacted, this will be the biggest tax cut in the state's history, benefiting working families beginning with the 2024 tax return.

SB2305 SD2 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS. This bill establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing kūpuna, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

SB2476 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS. This bill permits licensed dental hygienists to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply preventive dental sealants in a school-based dental program.

I am also pleased to share that **SB582 SD2 HD1 CD1, RELATING TO STATE BUDGET** was signed into law as Act 10. The Act appropriates emergency Lahaina recovery funding for this fiscal year, including \$297 million for shelter, food, and other assistance and \$72.5 million for temporary homes. Act 10's enactment reminds me of the Mililani for Maui donation drive we hosted last August at Mililani High School, where many of our neighbors and community members rallied to gather over 38 pallets of essential donations and \$17,000 in cash donations for our friends and family in Maui.

I would like to thank my staff- Committee Clerk Lisa Barnett, Office Manager Danicia Honda, and Legislative Aides Mary Janell Murro, Malachi Burrows, and Michael Mori- for their hard work and dedication throughout this legislative session.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming End of Session newsletter, which will provide a more comprehensive overview on measures passed and budget breakdown by departments. I am proud of the progress we've made during this legislative session and look forward to continuing our momentum throughout the interim. Mahalo nui loa for your steadfast support!



Left (L-R): My colleagues and I celebrating the end of the legislative session with shakas, which is now the official gesture of the State of Hawai'i; Right (L-R): My daughter Malia Cook, Lt. Gov. Luke, myself, Sen. DeCoite, and MHS Principal Fred Murphy during last August's Mililani for Maui event.



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Mental Health Day at the Hawai'i State Capitol

More than twenty-five service providers and community organizations came together at the Hawai'i State Capitol to celebrate Mental Health Month. The event highlighted various programs and resources aimed at promoting mental health education. I had the opportunity to meet mental health providers and explore ways to integrate mental health initiatives into our educational systems for our youth and young adults to address our state's persistent mental health challenges.



Left (L-R): My staff and I with Deborah Goebert, Co-chair of the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce; my staff interacting with Mental Health Educator Keke Walker from Mental Health America of Hawai'i; speaking with an Ohana Health Plan representative.

2024 Flores de Mayo & Filipino Fiesta at Waipahu's FilCom Center

Mabuhay! The 2024 Flores de Mayo and Filipino Fiesta held at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu was a lively celebration of Filipino culture. The event showcased vibrant music and dance performances, colorful displays showcasing traditional clothing and history, and delicious Filipino food and drinks. It was fascinating to learn more about the culture and traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. It was my pleasure to join the community in honoring Filipino traditions and heritage!



Mililani High School's Community Champion Award

I was deeply honored to stand alongside Collette Miyamoto-Kajiwara, Director of Storefront School for At-Risk Youths, as we both received the Community Champion Award from Mililani High School. This recognition, which acknowledged our contributions, positive attitude, and commitment to the students and staff, was truly humbling. At the same event, University of Oregon quarterback Dillon Gabriel visited his alma mater to gift the entire football team with new uniforms and helmets, unveiled at the school's John Kauinana Stadium. Witnessing the ongoing support for our community's youth was an inspiring reminder of the impact we can make together. The shared spirit of dedication and generosity at this event highlights the strength of our community and our collective commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders.



Above (L-R): Collette Miyamoto-Kajiwara, University of Oregon quarterback and MHS Alum Dillon Gabriel, myself, and MHS Principal Fred Murphy.

University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Spring 2024 Graduation

Congratulations to all the Spring 2024 graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu! It is truly inspiring to see each of you reach this significant milestone, having shown your hard work, dedication, and perseverance in your educational journey.

As you embark on this new chapter of your life, I have no doubt that you will continue to make a positive impact in your respective fields, in your community, and beyond. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors!



Above left: With Dr. Michael Nakasone, who received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from UHWO;
Above right: With Dr. Hoku Kwan, UHWO's Director of Student Equity and Success, who served as a faculty marshal for commencement.