

COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | APRIL 2025

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KIDANI

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We are approaching the final weeks of the 33rd Legislative Session, and I am pleased to share some highlights of our work in the Senate. This session, I remained focused on legislation that supports our students, educators, and families. The nominees for the Board of Education, Hawaiʻi Teacher Standards Board, and School Facilities Authority were confirmed this month by my committee.

The Senate took time to recognize exemplary members of our community, including Blaine Miyasato for his 40 years of service and leadership at Hawaiian Airlines. Our very own District 18 Healthcare Hero, Trevor Fujisaka, was one of four recognized for his outstanding contributions to our community.

At the end of March, we welcomed the Portuguese Delegation to our State Capitol, including Ambassador Duarte Lopes and Consul General Ramalheira, as part of our continued efforts to strengthen international partnerships. This month, we also continued our annual tradition of giving back through our Easter Basket Drive organized by the Women's Legislative Caucus. Thanks to the generosity of our legislative 'ohana and community members, we were able to collect and distribute baskets filled with essential items to families in need.

Outside of the Capitol, we also had a busy and inspiring month of community engagement. I had the honor of attending the inaugural HHSAA girls flag football match, a historic moment for girls' athletics in Hawaiʻi. The energy and enthusiasm from the players and fans are incredible, and I'm confident this program will continue to grow and thrive across the state. Finally, I'm thrilled to share that Mililani Uka Elementary is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! I worked with Principal Kardash last year to secure \$1.5 million in funding to improve the school's telecommunications infrastructure—an investment that will help students and teachers stay connected and supported in today's digital age.

As the legislative session reaches its final stages, I want to extend a heartfelt mahalo for the continued privilege of serving you. Representing Mililani and Waipahu in the Hawaiʻi State Senate is very much an honor I hold close, and I'm grateful for your trust, engagement, and support throughout this 33rd Legislative Session.



Opening Conference Session for Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance.

[L-R]: Senators Glenn Wakai, Lorraine Inouye, myself, Donovan Dela Cruz, Sharon Moriwaki, Dru Mamo Kanuha, and Donna Kim.



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HHSAA Inaugural Girl's Flag Football Game: Roosevelt vs Moanalua High School

The Hawai'i High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) hosted the inaugural girls flag football game, kicking off the season with Roosevelt vs. Moanalua High School. Governor Josh Green was in attendance, executing the coin toss with a special Patsy T. Mink coin. We were also joined by the Vice Chair of the Board of Education, William "Bill" Arakaki, and Superintendent Keith Hayashi. HMSA Chief Financial Officer, Jenny Smith, and Government Relations Manager Walden Au were also in attendance. HMSA provided headgear for the girls' flag football program.

Hawai'i became the 12th state to officially sanction girls flag football. These young women have paved the way for future generations of female athletes. The inaugural match ended with Moanalua winning over Roosevelt.

The state tournament is on April 26. As the grandmother of a girls' flag footballer, I am incredibly proud of these girls paving the way for future generations. While the season is almost over, this is only the beginning for girls' flag football in Hawai'i!



[L-R]: DBEDT Director James Tokioka, HMSA CFO Jenny Smith, Senator Kidani, HMSA Gov. Relations Manager Walden Au, Governor Josh Green, Superintendent Hayashi



[L-R]: Moanalua Team, Superintendent Hayashi, William "Bill" Arakaki, Senator Kidani, Governor Josh Green, Roosevelt Team



[L-R]: Moanalua Flag Football Coaches and Team, Governor Josh Green, Roosevelt Team and Coaches

Healthcare Hero from District 18: Trevor Fujisaka



[L-R]: Executive Vice President of the Hawaii Medical Service Association, Hilton Raethel, Trevor Fujisaka, Senate President Kouchi

Several Senators honored Healthcare Heroes at the Senate Floor. It was my privilege to honor Trevor Fujisaka, a paramedic from Waipio.

In August 2024, Trevor responded to a call at the Kamehameha Schools Kapalama swimming pool after Dustin Kealoha was found unresponsive. Because of Trevor's skill and determination, Dustin survived – and thrived. Dustin is now a college student at Dartmouth University, a testament to the heroes in our healthcare industry.

Mahalo, Trevor, for your service to our community!

Visit of Ambassador Duarte Lopes & Consul General Ramalheira



[L-R; B-F]: Senator Donna Kim, Consul General Ramalheira, Ambassador Duarte Lopes, Senate President Ronald Kouchi

I was honored to meet Portugal's Ambassador to the United States Francisco Duarte Lopes and Consul General Filipe Ramalheira during their visit to the Capitol.

Ambassador Duarte Lopes has served as Portugal's Ambassador since 2022. Prior to his Ambassadorship, he served as the permanent representative of Portugal to the United Nations since 2017.

Consul General Ramalheira previously represented Portugal to the World Trade Organization and was the permanent representation to the European Union.

Their visit to our islands continues our State's long relationship with Portugal and Portuguese culture that has slowly been woven into the cultural fabric of Hawai'i for over 150 years.

Recognizing Blaine Miyasato Floor on 40 years of Service

I was honored to co-sponsor a certificate of recognition for Blaine Miyasato. It was a privilege to honor Blaine for his historic contributions and dedication to Hawaiian Airlines for the past 40 years. Among his contributions, Blaine has been a long-time supporter of our annual Education Week at the State Capitol. He and Hawaiian Airlines have played a crucial role in making it possible for our numerous neighbor island awardees to attend and be honored by the Senate.

Blaine's continued dedication to our keiki, educators, and community reflects the deep aloha he has for Hawai'i.



[L-R]: Blaine Miyasato, Senate Majority Whip Lorraine Inouye, and Assistant Minority Floor Leader Kurt Fevella

Department of Human Services Director Ryan Yamane Confirmed

This month, the Senate confirmed Mililani's very own Ryan Yamane as the Director of the DHS.

Director Yamane has served as a State Representative for nearly 20 years, and as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Ryan's career is marked by a deep commitment to improving lives. Through compassion and empathy, Ryan supported and strengthened state systems.

Congratulations Director Yamane! We are proud to see a Mililani leader take on this important role in serving Hawaii's families.



With Director Ryan Yamane during his confirmation vote on the Senate Floor



Legislators with Advocates from Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Advocacy Day

April 3rd was Alzheimer's Advocacy Day. On this day, advocates from the Alzheimer's Association were welcomed to the Capitol.

Alzheimer's is the most common disease causing dementia, and affects 31,200 people aged 65+ (2020) in Hawai'i. Alzheimer's not only affects those with the disease, but their family and caregivers as well.

Alzheimer's Association is the leading voice for Alzheimer's disease advocacy, using their platform to accelerate global research and advocate for change. It was a privilege to receive and discuss with them.

Mililani Uka 50th Anniversary

Mililani Uka Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary. Since its founding, the school has nurtured generations of students, fostering their growth. Their strong academic performance and community initiatives has set them apart, and encourages students to reach their highest potential.

As part of my ongoing efforts to improve public schools, \$1.5 million in funding for telecommunications improvements were released as part of the Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) for Mililani Uka. This fund will support the design, construction, and renovation of essential telecom infrastructure, so the school remains equipped with modern technology.



Each grade level performed a dance that represented each decade of Mililani Uka



Presenting Principal Jake Kardash with a congratulatory Senate certificate

Kipapa Elementary: “Spongebob” the Musical

The Kipapa Elementary School Drama Club graced us with a wonderful performance of “SpongeBob.” The work, creativity, and dedication the students and their teachers put in was clear in the resulting Musical. I encourage all students to find their passion, whether in the Arts, Athletics, or Academics.

Mahalo to Kipapa Elementary students, faculty, and staff for *your* passion that shined through your performance!



The SpongeBob Musical Programme

Women’s Legislative Caucus 26th Annual Easter Basket Drive

Organized each year by the Women’s Legislative Caucus—which I’m honored to be a part of—this meaningful tradition brings together legislators, staff, and community members to collect and distribute essential items to organizations that serve our most vulnerable residents.

Together, House and Senate members, along with dedicated staff and community volunteers, gathered donations and assembled Easter baskets filled with everyday necessities. These care packages will be delivered to community partners, including the Domestic Violence Action Center, Institute for Human Services, Mohala Mai Women’s Prison Project, Parents & Children Together, and the Salvation Army Hawai’i. This is an event I look forward to each year as a reminder that, even during a busy legislative session, there is time for pause and service back to the community.



[L-R]: Easter Chick Rep. Lee, Senator Kidani, and Easter Bunny Rep. Kusch. {Courtesy of the Office of Representative Matsumoto}



The Women’s Legislative Caucus and our Easter baskets