

# Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature

*(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia*



**Senate Vice President**

*Chair:* Committee on Education

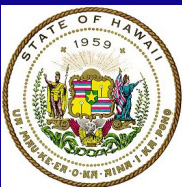
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Aloha, friends and neighbors:

Last week, the Department of Education issued a status report on its efforts to air condition classrooms or otherwise provide heat-relief to Hawaii public school students and teachers. The renewed pledge is to meet the stated goal of air conditioning 1000 classrooms by the time the new school year begins in just a few weeks. That's about eight months *behind* the initial goal laid out when the Legislature approved \$100 million in funding for this work in our 2016 session.

**Waipahu High, Intermediate and Elementary schools** are all on the DOE's priority list for air conditioning and heat-abatement projects; funds for planning and equipment have been approved for work to be done in some facilities on these campuses. In some cases, basic electrical system upgrades are necessary before air conditioning units can be installed.

Along with air conditioning, there are other ways to help cool our schools - landscaping, ceiling fans, heat-blocking tinted windows, "white roofs" that reflect heat, roof vents that draw heat out of classrooms, and even shade structures over open areas. The DOE's 33 top-priority schools have all been evaluated to determine what works best in their individual campus circumstances.

The Legislature approved **House Bill 957** to provide additional funding for heat abatement work—up to \$46 million through borrowing from a fund already earmarked for energy savings that have as yet been untapped. The Governor signed the bill this week so that this work can proceed—we hope at an accelerated pace. Bottom line, it's all a critical part of boosting student achievement in a more comfortable teaching and learning environments in our schools statewide.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

## **Waipahu Public Library offers summer activities**

**Every Thursday morning** at 11:30 am – puzzles, crafts and games for elementary-aged children and families

**Tuesday, June 27** at 10 am – music, magic, skits and games with Ronal McDonald; 6 pm – family movie night, showing **Lego Batman**

**Wednesday, June 28** at 6 pm – family movie night, showing Disney's **Moana**

**Saturday, July 8** at 11 am – Waipahu High School Robotics Showcase

**For more information, call the library at 675-0358**



## **Waipahu High School Principal will lead DOE in transition to new Superintendent**

WHS Principal **Keith Hayashi** has been designated interim superintendent of education for the month of July, providing leadership for the DOE as new Superintendent **Christina Kishimoto** prepares to begin her term on August 1. Principal Hayashi has been serving as Deputy Superintendent since March as the search for the new Superintendent proceeded. He plans to return to the Waipahu campus this summer.

**At left, Principal Hayashi, incoming Superintendent Kishimoto and senior DOE assistant superintendent Amy Kunz** who will serve as interim deputy in July.



**Departures . . .**

The Board of Education said farewell this week to **Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi**, leaving after seven years with the Department of Education, and to two Board members whose terms expire on June 30. Outgoing Board member **Grant Chun** is pictured above to the right of Superintendent Matayoshi; he's been on the Board since 2014. Outgoing **Student Representative Andrea Lyn Mateo** is wearing the white lei. **Andrea Lyn is a proud member of the just-graduated Class of 2017 at Waipahu High School** who was enrolled in Advanced Placement and Early College classes since she was a freshman. **Mahalo to everyone for your service on behalf of our public schools!**



Over the past several years, I have presented gift cards and congratulatory certificates from the State Senate to outstanding students at five elementary schools in my Senate District 18. Recognition this year went to **Joseph Fujioka and Chasity Pascua, Kipapa Elementary**, at left, and **Payton Lane and Evelyn Carillo Cobian, Kanoelani Elementary** at right. Those chosen by teachers and principals at other schools:



**Jamie Hirota and Robyn Harrison (Mililani Uka), Jasmine Smith and Quincy Coullahan (Mililani Waena), and Michaela Hernandez and Nerissa Roxas (Kaleiopuu).** *Congratulations to everyone, and enjoy the summer!*

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I was invited to accompany Hawaii Island lawmakers on a tour of public schools in Kohala and Waimea. At right, the **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)** building at Waimea Middle School will open for the new school year. I worked with my colleagues in the 2013-2014 sessions to obtain \$16 million in funding for this major new facility. The building includes a large interior corridor and three smaller rooms that can be used as alternative project work spaces for students.



**Waimea Middle School's still-under-construction \$16 million, nine-classroom STEAM Building will be the largest structure in Waimea.**



**Kohala schools' kitchen maximizes locally sourced, fresh food in the DOE's farm-to-school pilot program. With me are Representative Cindy Evans and Senator Lorraine Inouye.**

A pilot program was underway this year in Kohala schools to develop guides for **Farm-to-School** activities, including purchasing locally grown food and ingredients, modifying school lunch menus, kitchen staff training on scratch-cooking, minimizing food waste, and growing food for cafeteria use. The program will expand to all Hawaii Island schools, then to Maui, and eventually to Oahu campuses.

**With deep roots in agriculture, Waipahu, Mililani and Central Oahu schools should be the first on Oahu to benefit from the program.**