

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

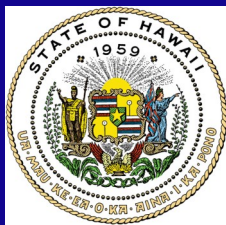
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Aloha friends and neighbors:

The deadline for acting on bills passed by the Legislature in the 2018 session has now passed. There were 2,260 bills introduced this year. About ten percent of them - 229 bills - were given final approval by the Senate and House, and 212 of those bills were signed into law. In addition, 8 bills became law without a signature, and another 8 bills were vetoed. The remaining bill, SB 2922, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment that needs no signature - it goes directly to the General Election ballot to be voted on by the people.

Unfortunately, one of the bills vetoed by the Governor was my Senate Bill 2919 that would have benefited our public libraries. The bill proposed a pilot program to allow the State Library System to explore the lease of unused library lands to generate revenues to support public libraries. An example of such properties is the now-unused former site of the Aiea Public Library.

I wanted to find ways to support the libraries expand services by, for example, cultivating public-private partnerships to make best use of these lands and provide a sustainable source of revenues.

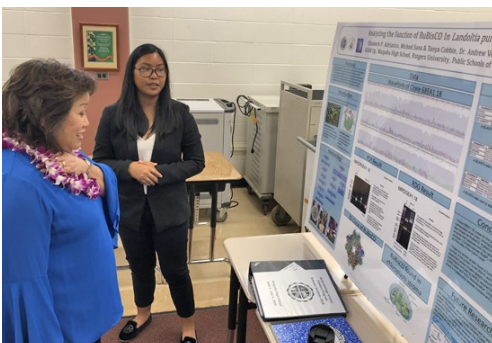
The Governor, in his veto message, indicated he didn't think this was something the library system should be involved in, preferring instead a return of unused lands to the Department of Land & Natural Resources. Our libraries need and deserve additional support, and this bill - which easily passed both the Senate and the House - was a creative proposal to generate additional funding.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

We salute Waipahu High School's Super Scientists!



Rowen Eugenio, a Waipahu junior, talks with Ken Hiraki, Trustee of the Hawaii Public Schools Foundation.



Waipahu HS junior Elizabeth Adriatico explains her research to Assistant DOE Superintendent Phyllis Unebasami.

Thirty Hawaii public high school students who opted to spend most of their summer break in school said they gained invaluable experience during a five-week research project focused on plant DNA.

As part of Waipahu High School's Biotechnology Science Scholars Program, students from Waipahu, Campbell and Kapolei high schools essentially became an extension of New Jersey-based Rutgers University's Waksman Institute of Microbiology.

The students worked in labs at Waipahu High to contribute to ongoing graduate-level research Rutgers scientists are conducting on the duckweed plant. The freshwater plant is of interest to the scientific community for its potential use as a biofuel source and in bioremediation – the use of living organisms to treat pollutants and toxins in the environment. **Congratulations to WHS Science Department Director, Michael Sana, for guiding these super students through their summer exploration and discovery!**



As required by the State Constitution, the Senate convened a two-day special session this month to consider the nominations of four people to fill vacant judgeships on two islands. The nominations were approved for (above, with lei, from left) Mahilani E.K. Hiatt and Wendy M. DeWeese, for the Circuit Court on Hawaii Island, and Kenneth J. Shimozono and Kristine Y. Yoo, for Circuit Court positions on Oahu. They were nominated by Hawaii Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, front row, far left.

Waipio MMA Center is home to the Champ! At right, it was exciting to meet members of the Lee



family who own and operate the United MMA and Fitness Center in Waipio. They include three-time MMA atomweight world champion **Angela Lee**, holding a congratulatory certificate from the Senate for having successfully defended her title at the “ONE: Unstoppable Dreams” tournament in Singapore. With us in the photo from left, Angela’s dad, **Ken Lee** and sister **Virginia**, and Angela’s new husband of the last couple of weeks, **Bruno Pucci**. **Congratulations!**



With me above, nine outstanding teacher/mentors from Mililani Middle School who have all contributed 20-23 years of time and talent to the **Challenger Science Learning Center** in Kapolei – this year celebrating a 25th anniversary. **From left, Diane Awana, Michael Nishiki, Yvonne Kauihou, Paul Sasaki, Carrie Hata, Amy Kim, Laurie Sogawa, Lynn Yoshioka and Glory Ann Kama. Mahalo for your great work on behalf of our keiki!**



A reminder to vote

Hawaii’s primary election day is just a couple of weeks away – with walk-in voting at polling stations from 7 am – 6 pm on **Saturday, August 11.**

Many Hawaii voters have chosen to vote by mail-in “absentee” ballots, even though they won’t be out of town on election day. The Office of Elections notes that 62 percent of those who voted in the 2016 primary did so by mail-in ballot or at early walk-in polling stations – and the percentage is expected to be higher this year.

If you have requested a mail-in ballot, you should have received it by now. It must be returned by 6 pm August 11 for your vote to be counted. ***If you wish to request a mail-in ballot, you may still do so until Saturday, August 4 – one week before election day.***

It is also possible to vote before primary day at walk-in voting sites set up at **Kapolei Hale in West Oahu or downtown at Honolulu Hale.** Those sites will be open for voters through Thursday, August 9.

NOT REGISTERED to vote? Hawaii law has been changed to allow registration at polling places same-day on election day. Be sure you have appropriate identification (driver license & Social Security number) if you do this - then you can cast your ballot..

All the information you need about voting - including online voter registration - is available at <https://elections.hawaii.gov/> . You may also call for information - 453-8683.

Please vote – it’s our privileged right and responsibility to participate.

**Primary Election Day
Saturday, August 11**

**General Election Day
Tuesday, November 6**