

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

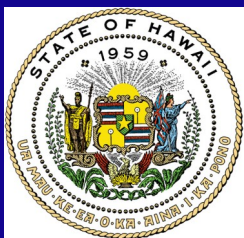
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Technical Education programs — up six points over the year prior.

Performance results are available for all schools in Senate District 18. If you would like to take a look at the specifics, go online to hawaiipublicschools.org and enter "**STRIVE HI performance system report**" in the search box. Be prepared to follow several links to get to specific school information.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Aloha friends and neighbors:

With the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, the Department of Education has released the official enrollment figures - and Central and Leeward schools once again are at or near the top for the numbers of students on their campuses.

◆ Campbell (3,095 students), **Waipahu** (2,682) and **Mililani** (2,616) top the list of high schools.

◆ **Mililani Middle** (1,886 students), Kapolei Middle (1,526) and **Waipahu Intermediate** (1,275) serve the most students in grades 6 through 8.

◆ Among elementary schools, the top five are all in central and west Oahu: August Ahrens (1,244 students), Holomua (1,137), Keoneula (1,072), Ewa (1,067) and **Waipahu Elementary** (1,016).

Years ago, enrollment pressure at **Mililani Middle School** led to implementation of a year-round, multi-track instructional calendar, but now relief is on the way. A construction contract has been awarded to T. Iida Contracting Limited to build an additional, large classroom building on the campus. Of the \$23 million allocated for the project, about \$1.7 million was expended for planning, with the remainder designated for construction. The contractor's bid came in for less than the total, and unspent dollars will be earmarked to build additional dining space.

Construction is expected to begin next summer and continue for approximately 18 months, which means we may be able to dedicate the new building sometime in 2021 as MMS continues to plan for transition from multi-track to the traditional school calendar.

The DOE has also issued its by-the-numbers **performance reports** for public schools for the last (2017-2018) school year. Test scores measure achievements in language arts, math, and science - and provide information about graduation rates and post-secondary college enrollment for high school grads.

As with many statistical reports, the **STRIVE HI** charts and documents may take a while to review and digest. **Here's the DOE's overall assessment over the last three years (2016-2018):**

◆ Statewide Strive HI results in Language Arts, Math and Science have shown growth over the past three years.

◆ The data also show more students are achieving grade-level literacy in the third and eighth grades. Third graders reading near, at, or on grade level is up eight points over the year prior; eighth grade is up six points.

Also, continuing a strong readiness trend, more students are completing Career and



In the several months before the Legislature convenes in January, we are continuing our review of state programs and priorities. As a member of the Senate's budget committee – the Committee on Ways and Means – I have been touring state facilities on Oahu and will also travel to the neighbor islands later this year.

In central Oahu, the committee's itinerary included a visit to the **UH West Oahu** campus to review progress on construction of the very impressive Allied Health Professions and administration building. Artists renderings (below) depict several features; design details in the building (at right) promise dramatic changes in the UHWO skyline.

The major work of the coming session will be to formulate the state's spending plan for the two-year period that begins in July 2019, and these site visits are of great value to this process.



With me above at UH West Oahu, from left, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, UHWO Chancellor Maenette Benham, along with Senators Breen Harimoto and Gil Riviere.



On another day, **WAM Committee** members visited the Department of Land and Natural Resources field lab where work is underway to preserve several species that are native only to Hawaii. They include the Kamehameha butterfly (1) - to whom I was introduced personally (at left) – the Hawaiian Blue butterfly (2), and the happy-face spider (3) and others.



The mission of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is to responsibly manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems and cultural resources.



I had the privilege of meeting Waipahu High School Spanish language teacher **Mayra Hickling** earlier this month. Mayra has taught Spanish for a dozen years at WHS, and she received the **2018 Excellence in Teaching Award** from the Hawaii Association of Language Teachers.

Waipahu High is home to one of the largest foreign language departments in any DOE school, offering instruction in seven different languages. **Principal Keith Hayashi** says that about 60 percent of WHS students are enrolled in at least one foreign language class.

Congratulations, Mayra, and mahalo for the good work you do for our students!

In a presentation ceremony at the Lieutenant Governor's office, I was joined by senior administrators from Waipahu High School to recognize Mayra. From left, Kristy Nishimura, WHS School Renewal Specialist, Mayra's spouse Livingston Hickling, our honoree, WHS Principal Keith Hayashi and Assistant Principal Meryl Matsumura.

While all Hawaii celebrated the inspiring success of the Little League World Series champions, Mililani had its own top team that brought home their own world series title.

Congratulations to the **Mililani Mustang-9** players and coaches who travelled to California to face teams from across the U.S. as well as the Philippines, Mexico and Aruba. Over two weekends of play in the Pony West Zone and World Series tournaments, Mililani went a perfect 8-0. In those eight games, Mililani scored a total of 105 runs, giving up only 13 runs to opponents.

Players from left to right are Eleu Colburn, Jonah Brub, Trycen Kaimiola, Jonah Parker, Timmy Villamor, Deagan Kawahakui, Hoshio Oyama, Kamau Passi, Pono Kala, Joey Katano, and Ryeder Takahashi. Back row coaches from left to right are Clement Kaimiola, Daniel Kawahakui, and Ryan Takahashi.

Congratulations!



Parents and Guardians! All public schools in my Senate District 18 are participating in the Department of Education's new text message information system using SchoolMessenger.

Schools now have the ability to send important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more directly to your mobile phones.

You can join this information network by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to the school's short code number – 67587. You can also OPT OUT of these messages at any time by simply replying to any message you receive with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge so you can be assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

If you have questions about this new communication system, call your student's school office.



Waipahu High School students find real-life solutions to real-world challenges

Thousands of people who attended last month's Building Industry Association Home Building and Remodeling Show at Blaisdell Center had the opportunity to see a Tiny House project created by students from the WHS Academy of Industrial and Engineering Technology. Junior and senior students used state-of-the-art design software to create a prototype Tiny House that could be used for housing the homeless or as cost-effective additions to Hawaii residences. They built a portion of the project to full scale for their booth. WHS was the only high school at the show – **Great work!**





Friday Night Lights shine ~ thanks to Dean Nathan Murata

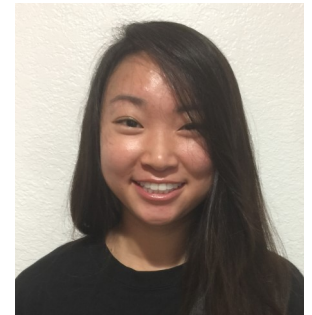
Students at four Honolulu high schools have an extra opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports thanks to an innovative program organized by Nathan Murata, Dean of the UH Manoa College of Education. The athletes are students with disabilities or who may be at-risk who play basketball on teams from McKinley, Moanalua, Roosevelt and Kalani High Schools.

Dean Murata was inspired by the 2004 film *Friday Night Lights* that highlighted team spirit, pride and teamwork as inspirations to families in a small town. “Our concept was to create equal opportunity and access to afterschool programs, improve quality of life through physical activity, and offer students of all abilities and their families a chance to experience

the excitement of sports competition,” Dean Murata said.

The program receives private sector support from the MATSON Foundation, Allstate Insurance and Sugarland Farms.

When I found out about the work Dean Murata was doing for these students, I brought it to the attention of my Senate colleagues and prepared a congratulatory certificate from all of us. Dean Murata plans to expand the program to more schools – and we wish him every success in the years ahead. ***Mahalo for your great work on behalf of our students!***



Congratulations to **Kayla Ueshiro** – President of the UH College of Education Student Association! Kayla is also Secretary of the HSTA *Aspiring Educators* program. She’s a Pearl City grad whose family lives in Waipio Gentry, and will earn her education degree next year. Then she plans to work toward an International Teaching Master’s Degree. ***Mahalo, Kayla, for all you do to mentor students and our teachers-to-be!***

Waipahu High School Alumni organize summer program for aspiring engineering students



WHS Junior Chase Kaseli

Mahalo to **Dolly Ricapor**, Class of 2014, and **Karen Calaro**, Class of 2013, who helped to organize and teach an innovative summer program for current students at their alma mater. A dozen WHS students spent part of their summer designing and building little cars that are programmed to move with the flex of a bicep muscle. The technology, which has real-world applications for prosthetic devices, was the focus of an intensive four-week summer program that exposed students to the mechanical, electrical and biomedical engineering fields. Each student built a “muscle car” – with parts valued at \$200 provided by GEAR UP Waipahu. (That’s WHS junior **Chase Kaseli** with his car at left). Some of the students even had the opportunity to demonstrate their projects at a GEAR UP conference in Washington, D.C.

Great work, everyone!

China friendship and economic development delegation visits the State Capitol



As Vice President of the Senate, I represented President Ronald Kouchi in welcoming a delegation from the China Association for International Friendly Contact to the Hawaii State Capitol. The Association is a non-government organization that works worldwide to promote regional people-to-people exchanges as a way to foster international cooperation and economic development.

I was fortunate to have the assistance of Danicia Honda (above, far left), one of my 2018 Legislative session staffers—and a resident of Waipio Gentry—who is fluent in Chinese languages.