

# Senator Michelle Kidani

## Thirtieth Hawaii State Legislature

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



**Senate Vice President**

*Chair:* Committee on Education

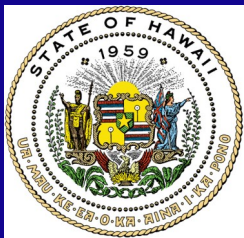
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Aloha friends and neighbors:

The young men and women pictured below are all new members of the first-ever high school chapter of Phi Theta Kappa - the international academic honor society for 2-year colleges and other academic programs. Their induction into the society marked a historic moment in the ongoing efforts to enhance Waipahu's already well known college and career readiness programs. Under the leadership of **Principal Keith Hayashi, Early College Director Mark Siliman and Career Academies Director Gail Izumigawa**, Waipahu has adopted a "can do!" approach to improving academic performance and made the campus a real source of community pride.

*"Our goal continues to be to challenge and inspire our students to achieve more than they ever thought possible," says Principal Hayashi. Congratulations!*



We are about to begin year-end holiday celebrations with Thanksgiving this week and Christmas and New Year's just a few weeks away. My fondest hope is that you have much to be thankful for, and that you can enjoy the sentiments of the season among family and friends. At the same time, it is important that we remember those who for one reason or another have little to celebrate, and for whom we can do something through the gift of time as volunteers or donations to service organizations that do offer shelter and solace.

I am grateful to be able to serve, and pledge my best efforts on your behalf in the next four years. Mahalo for the opportunity . . . and Happy Thanksgiving!  
Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

### ***Gail Izumigawa named 2018 Leeward District Teacher of the Year!***

We hear often about the successes of Waipahu High School's Career Academies that are a key component of the school's college and career readiness programs. Much of that success is due to the leadership of **Gail Izumigawa**, Director of Waipahu's Career Academies.

For her leadership and more than 30 years of dedicated service as an educator, Gail has been selected 2018 Leeward District Teacher of the Year!

Waipahu's six academies cover two-dozen programs of study that reach more than 2,500 students and involve 200 teachers. With Gail's guidance the Academy of Health & Sciences and the Academy of Natural Resources became the first in the state to be nationally certified. Waipahu even hosted the National Career Academy Coalition earlier this year where delegates learned about the school's approach to career education.

***Congratulations, Gail, and best wishes for many more years of service to our Waipahu students!***

***With me at left, Gail Izumigawa, Waipahu Principal Keith Hayashi, and my Legislative colleague Representative Ty Cullen.***



## Notes from the Capitol

The State Senate met in special session in late October to fulfill its constitutional authority to advise and consent to nominees to fill judicial positions.

After hearings before the Judiciary Committee, the Senate confirmed **Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo**, an attorney in private practice appointed by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald – to fill a Circuit Court vacancy on Oahu.

In addition, the Senate approved the Governor's appointment of **Keith K. Hiraoka** – a Circuit Court judge – to serve on the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals. Attorney Kupau-Odo and Judge Hiraoka are pictured above.

In the absence of Senate President Ronald Kouchi, I presided over the special session in my position as Vice President. Since the Senate Chamber was being used by the Office of Elections for election logistics and ballot printout distribution, and we convened our sessions in the State Capitol Auditorium.



### New science & classroom building on the drawing board for Waipahu High School!



**Highlights:** (1) Natural resources lanai (2) Dining lanai (3) Lanai canopy (4) Native planting courtyard (5) Phase 2 classroom building (6) Connection to classroom

Right now, the structure in this conceptual drawing is known as **"Building W."** It's scheduled for construction over the next couple of years at Waipahu High School – and promises to become a true campus landmark. I was at WHS recently to discuss some of the design details for the building that may require appropriation of additional funds in the coming legislative session. Target date for completion is December 2021.

Building W is planned to house the WHS Culinary and Hospitality and Natural Sciences Academies under one roof along with administrative and classroom space. One unique feature (number 2 in this drawing) is a rooftop food services and dining area where culinary students will be able to stage private functions with community partners, focusing on using locally-produced foods in preparing their menus.

### The Joint Venture Education Forum

(JVEF) this year marks 17 years of a partnership with the DOE in support of military dependent students and their families. 2018 awards went to Leilehua High School's **Renee Mulberry** and Army Public Affairs officer **Dennis Drake** (pictured at left and below) for contributions to program success.



About 15,000 students (around eight percent) in Hawaii public schools are military-connected. That's the highest such enrollment per-capita in the nation.



## Marauders heading into D-1 Championship game!

Our fingers are crossed for the Marauder football team that is scheduled to play Hilo in the OIA Division 1 championship game later this week after a thrilling one-point win over 'Iolani in the semifinals.

Congratulations to Head Coach Bryson Carvalho, his assistants and the players and their supportive families who gave us a lot to cheer about all throughout the 2018 season.

**Go Marauders!**