

Senator Michelle Kidani
Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 - Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia
Ph: (808) 586-7100 Email: senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



SENATE
VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on
Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228
(808) 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As I look forward to my 12th session as your State Senator I feel a renewed sense of excitement. I remain firmly committed to increasing the educational opportunities for our keiki and future generations to come. I believe the Legislature is in a place to make substantial and ground-breaking changes to our educational system. I believe that our keiki deserve schools they can thrive in and be proud of--21st century learning environments that will prepare them for the college and careers of the future.

The separation of the facilities from the Department of Education is not a simple act and is not something that I endorse lightly. However, when I listened to the DOE's own facilities administrators talk about the need for restructuring how the DOE handles facilities, I knew something had to change. I believe this school construction authority, which is a concept many other jurisdictions across our nation employ, will equitably distribute our state resources, assist with the timely redevelopment of our schools through Act 155. It is unacceptable to me to believe that 10 classrooms every two years is an acceptable amount of expansion. This results in the unfortunate reality for thousands of local families who are left without a reasonable option for their keiki to receive any early learning at all.

I am thrilled that this year the Legislature has set forward an ambitious goal of opening 100 early learning centers throughout our state through a series of public and private partnerships through the Learning to Grow bill. We cannot wait for another generation of children and families to go without early learning opportunities and we are committed to working with stakeholders to ensure that this bill addresses their concerns and realizes our goal. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, we will ask for some tuition for families who can afford to pay.

The 2020 Legislative Session began with much excitement and determination this month, setting into motion new goals we hope to accomplish. My staff and I are committed to serving the residents of Senate District 18 and if there is anything that we can do to assist you please do not hesitate to contact my office.

OPENING DAY & STATE OF THE STATE PHOTOS





LCC SPECTRUM GIVEAWAY

A big mahalo to Charter-Spectrum for their generous support of the LCC Teacher Education Program. LCC has been running a partnership program with the Nanakuli schools to work with Education Assistants (EAs) and get them their BA degrees and Teaching Certificates so that they can become fully certified teachers in their own community. This program recognizes that EAs are some of the best candidates for becoming teachers in hard-to-fill communities if they are given the right opportunity to do so. LCC goes out to Nanakuli to teach classes to ensure that the EAs do not have to stop working, can get the education they need, and still be able to be with their families. Last session, I put in 5 full time positions and \$450,000 to support them because of innovative programs like this because we need to continue to Grow Our Own teachers. Mahalo to Charter-Spectrum for donating 5 laptops to the program for students to use to work on their assignments.

FREELANCE COURT INTERPRETERS

The Hawai'i State Judiciary is seeking individuals who speak English and other languages to become freelance court interpreters. Register before January 31, 2020 to complete one of the mandatory workshops held on all islands to apply for positions. Registration forms are available on the Judiciary website and from the Office on Equality. For more information and to complete the forms online visit: www.courts.state.hi.us/courtinterpreting

CHINESE NEW YEAR

This year of the Rat is an exciting one. It symbolizes a year of intelligence, energy, and the ability to adapt to any situation. As a person born on the Year of the Rat, I strive each day towards embodying the positive traits of my Lunar animal, setting sights on 2020 with new energy. I wish you all a Happy New Year and a strong, prosperous, and lucky Year of the Rat!



POLYNESIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

On January 16th, the Hawai'i State Senate recognized honorees Manase Jesse Sapolu, Ma'a Tanuvasa and Vai Sikahema for their incredible contributions to football, their work with the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame and for paving the path for other young Polynesian athletes.

