

COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | OCTOBER 2023

Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Michelle
KIDANI

**Senate Vice
President**

Chair
Committee on
Education

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Committee on
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I'm pleased to announce that the Emergency Proclamation Relating to School Bus Services, as outlined in section 127A-14, of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), has been extended. The extension comes as a result of my collaboration with the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the Department of Transportation (working with the U.S. Department of Transportation). The proclamation permits drivers possessing a commercial driver's license (CDL) with a "P" endorsement to drive school buses in lieu of a CDL with an "S" endorsement. This provision has enabled some affected routes to be restored across the state, particularly O'ahu and Kaua'i.

For more details of the proclamation, please refer to the following link, [Emergency Proclamation Relating to School Bus Services](http://www.bit.ly/schoolbusproclamation) (www.bit.ly/schoolbusproclamation), or section 127A-14, of the HRS. Mahalo Superintendent Keith Hayashi and Transportation Director Ed Sniffen for their continued support for our keiki!

I am excited about this month's newsletter, where you'll find an update from our Mililani for Maui donation drive, view more photos from recent events, and learn about Olympic gold medalist, author and philanthropist Kristi Yamaguchi's visit to my office.

I hope you and your 'ohana have a spooktacular Halloween and a festive start to the holiday season! Be sure to check out our final page where we offer Halloween safety tips and additional precautions to ensure that you and your keiki can enjoy all of the festivities.

Mahalo,

Michelle

*Note: A CDL with a "P" endorsement authorizes driving vehicles carrying passengers, and a CDL with an "S" endorsement authorizes driving school buses.



Above L-R: Superintendent Hayashi and I; Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympic figure skating champion and Founder of Always Dream, visited and shared her books, "Cara's Kindness" and "Dream Big, Little Pig!"

Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Office Visit

I had the pleasure of meeting with Olympic gold medalist, author and philanthropist, Kristi Yamaguchi, to receive the latest updates on her nonprofit organization, Always Dream, which she founded in 1996. It was truly inspiring to hear from Kristi and Executive Director Aarika Riddle.

Kristi and Aarika shared exciting news about Always Dream's partnership with the Department of Education since 2014 and her goal of reaching 4,000 students statewide by 2027. This collaboration has enhanced early literacy and family engagement for kindergarten students and their families.

Thanks to her support, every student in the program receives essential resources, including a digital tablet, internet connectivity for those lacking it at home, ongoing training from a family

literacy book coach, access to a digital children's library, and hard copy books to keep.

This year alone, Always Dream will make a significant impact by supporting children's literacy across 13 schools in pre-K and kindergarten classrooms. From the 2022-2023 school year, 93% of families report they are better able to help their child develop a love of reading

and 82% of families report their child asks to be read to more often. The annual average number of books read per student during the program is 200! I am so very grateful for Kristi's much needed support and dedication to Hawai'i's keiki and local families.

Below L-R: Executive Director Aarika Riddle, Kristi Yamaguchi, and I; proudly displaying Kristi's books in my office.



Mililani For Maui Update

After the Maui wildfires, my daughter Malia Cook and I led the Mililani for Maui donation drive at Mililani High School. We had surprise visits from Lieutenant Governor Luke and Senator DeCoite, who represents part of Maui. Because of your support, we donated **38 pallets** filled with essential supplies and raised nearly **\$20,000 in cash donations** to the Hawai'i Community Foundation-Maui Strong Fund and the American Red Cross to aid in Maui's recovery.

Mahalo piha to Malia and her Whitmore Economic Development Group for their tireless efforts on this event. I am very grateful to our community and neighbors for their outstanding kōkua for Maui!

Below: Donation pallets were generously filled and stacked taller than me!



Top L-R: My daughter Malia and I; Volunteers unloading a van filled with essential items. Second row: Three flatbed trucks were loaded with donations; Lt. Gov. Luke thanking our 100+ volunteers. Above: Malia, Lt. Gov. Luke, myself, Sen. DeCoite who represents part of Maui, and Mililani High School Principal Fred Murphy.

More Pictures from Recent Events

Waikele Elementary Career and College Fair

Below L-R: Students were able to explore various careers on the grounds of Waikele Elementary; Principal Oshio showing off Waikele Elementary's new performing arts stage.



Above L-R: Learning from an architectural and interior designer about the three-dimensional (3D) model on display; Observing Operation Next, a partner of Leeward Community College's Industrial Automation and Advanced Manufacturing, demonstrating how gears work; tuning in to Hawaiian Humane Society, Animal Care's presentation of various animal species.

At left to right: Interacting with K9 and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent; Community & Safety Director Duane Samson and General Manager Malcolm Ching of Waikele Community Association with their safety patrol bikes.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Site Visits on Maui, Moloka'i, and Kaua'i

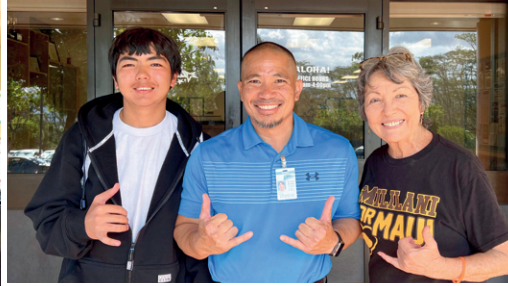


Above L-R: Sen. Dela Cruz and Sen. Shimabukuro; Department of Agriculture Deputy Director Dexter Kishida; Director of Health Dr. Kenneth Fink, Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Kali Watson, and Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Laura Ka'akua and I. At right, WAM Committee Members with department heads after a presentation.



Visiting Department of Education Schools

Top L-R: myself with Waikele Elementary Principal Sheldon Oshio; at Mililani Middle with Principal Shannon Tamashiro and my grandson Akoni, a student there; at Kanoelani Elementary with Principal Neil Blomberg. Bottom L-R: in a classroom at Mililani Uka Elementary with Vice Principal Marlene Ohira-Tayama; myself with Honowai Elementary Principal Stacy Kawamura.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

- Increase being seen by drivers. Wear something reflective on your costume (nothing flammable).
- Carry a flashlight to light your way safely and help others see you.
- Walk, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street.
- Watch out for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms before entering the street. Remember it may be hard for drivers to see you.
- Look for cars at driveways before crossing.
- Don't stop on the streets to check your treats. Have your parents do it at home when you meet. (Immediately report obviously tampered items and give it to police.)
- Limit your trick-or-treating to your own neighborhood. Trick-or-treat only at homes with porch lights on.
- Remember to say, "Thank You!" to the people who give treats and to the drivers who let you cross the street.
- Don't eat treats until checked by your parents.

FOR PARENTS

- Use a pre-planned, well lighted trick-or-treat route.
- Escort your children or designate a responsible older child to accompany the trick-or-treaters.
- Drive safely. Watch out for children when backing out of driveways. Use your headlights early and drive well below the posted speed limit.
- Leave your porch light on if you plan to participate in the festivities. Keep your walkways to your front porch clear.
- Give only commercially wrapped treats, coupons, gift certificates or coins.
- Inspect all treats brought home.

Halloween safety tips and word search courtesy of the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services. Mahalo Director Ed Sniffen and Director Roger Morton!

SAFETY WORD SEARCH



YIELD	PEDESTRIAN	CAUTION	CROSSWALK
ALERT	SAFETY	REFLECTIVE	TRAFFIC

R	F	X	M	K	G	Y	I	E	D	C	H
K	C	W	Q	L	V	B	C	T	E	R	N
P	S	S	B	O	P	O	C	O	R	O	L
C	A	U	T	I	O	N	D	Z	Q	S	E
R	F	X	M	K	G	Y	I	E	D	S	H
E	E	G	J	K	X	W	S	U	M	W	E
F	T	R	A	F	F	I	C	O	G	A	M
L	Y	I	B	J	C	E	O	A	R	L	F
E	B	C	P	Z	Y	I	E	L	D	K	E
C	C	E	O	B	H	O	Q	E	P	T	D
T	W	P	E	D	E	S	T	R	I	A	N
I	T	H	E	T	I	E	T	T	R	I	D
V	F	Y	P	K	M	Y	N	Z	O	D	T
E	C	E	O	B	H	O	Q	E	P	L	D