



# Senate President Donna Mercado Kim

~ Senatorial District 14 ~

• Kapalama • 'Alewa, Kalihi Valley • Ft. Shafter • Moanalua Gardens & Valley  
• Portions of Halawa & 'Aiea

April 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The legislature is halfway through this session and pressure is building up to finish our work by May 7. Of the thousands of bills introduced, approximately 322 Senate bills crossed over to the House and an almost equal number from the House to the Senate. Measures that would bring us to a vote-by-mail process by 2020, set aside funds for beach restoration, continue with the GET surcharge for the rail, and establishing medical marijuana dispensaries, are still moving along.

The legislative process needs participation from our constituents. We welcomed individuals and groups who came to the Capitol and e-mailed us their support or opposition to certain bills. Some others voiced their concerns at neighborhood board meetings, such as cleaning up Kalihi Valley Stream. As a result, I sponsored SCR 49 and coordinated with the Bank of Hawaii as property owners to get the cleanup started. With regards to the Na Pueo Park facility brought up at the Alewa neighborhood board meeting, your legislators sent out letters requesting proposals for its future use.

I congratulate all teachers, educators and schools honored during Education Week—especially Red Hill Elementary School, for its designation as a blue ribbon school, and Red Hill's Jamie Takamura who was Central District Teacher of the Year. Congratulations also to Aiea's Baron Baroza for being recognized as Librarian of the Year, and to Farrington High School Boys Basketball Team for earning its 2nd straight Oahu Interscholastic Association Davision 1 Championship.

I will continue to keep you informed of developments at the Legislature and the community.

Aloha!



Area Legislators with Governor David Ige at the well-attended Aiea Pearl City Town Hall Meeting: Senator Breene Harimoto, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Governor Ige, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, Representative Gregg Takayama, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Councilmember Brandon Elefante and Representative Sam Kong.

# Say Cheese ..... At the Capitol



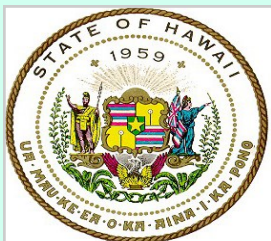
*Farrington High School Boys Basketball Team led by Head Coach Allan Silva poses with the legislators after the floor presentation and certificate awarding on March 30 at the Senate Chamber.*



*Keiki art given to Senator Kim on behalf of Keiki o ka 'Aina*



*Best Buddies Aiea High School Chapter expressed their support for anti-bullying bills to include developmentally disabled students.*



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*Honoring teachers during Education Week, including Jamie Takamura of Red Hill Elementary School.*