



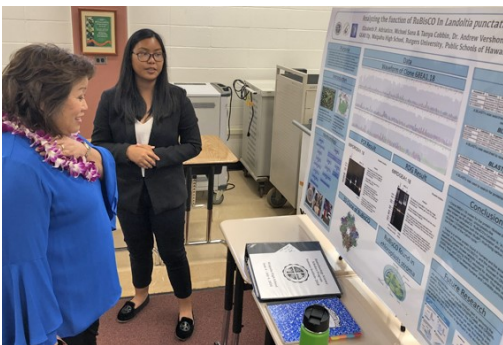
MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek WEST VOICE section on Wednesday, August 8, 2018.

Science Super-Stars

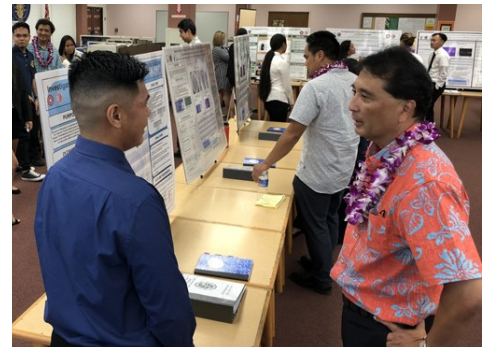
What happens when you combine a Milken Award winning science teacher with 30 eager students fully qualified to participate in an intense, college-level laboratory research program? With teacher **Michael Sana**, head of the Waipahu High School Science Department, and select students from Waipahu, Kapolei and Campbell High Schools, that’s a sure formula for an exciting summer of exploration and discovery.

The students committed five weeks of their summer break to a program developed by Rutgers University’s Institute of Microbiology. They worked in labs at Waipahu High School conducting research on the duckweed plant which has shown great potential for use as a biofuel source and in bioremediation – the use of living organisms to treat pollutants and toxins in the environment.



Waipahu High School junior-year science students showcase their summer projects:

At left, Elizabeth Adriatico talks with Asst. DOE Superintendent Phyllis Unebasami; at right, Rowan Eugenio explains his work to Ken Hiraki of the Hawaii Public Schools Foundation.



Waipahu Principal Keith Hayashi says he’d like to expand the program beyond his campus and other Leeward schools. Funding support was provided by the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation and the Gear Up Waipahu college prep program.

Congratulations to Michael Sana – who always amazes with innovative projects to stretch his students to strive for the highest – and to the young men and women who committed their time and energy to this exciting program.



Michael Sana, Milken Award winning Waipahu High School Science Department Director

Election Day reminder

This Saturday is Primary Election Day. With options to vote by mail or at early walk-in polling places, there’s a good possibility that you may already have cast your ballot. In the 2016 primary, about 62 percent of votes were cast early. But if you haven’t already voted, polls will be open on Saturday from 7 am to 6 pm, and election results will be reported by the media through the evening.

If you are properly registered to vote, you should have received a yellow official notice from the Hawaii Office of Elections letting you know where your polling place is located. If you did not receive such a card, or if you want to know where you should go to vote, you can find out by going online to the Office of Elections website: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/>.

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NOT REGISTERED to vote? Hawaii law has been changed so that you may still take care of that business at your polling place same-day on Saturday. You will need a valid ID (driver license or State ID) and your social security number – then you will be allowed to cast your ballot.

The point is, voting is one of the most important rights and obligations we have as citizens. This week is the time to do our part.



**Primary Election Day ~
Saturday, August 11**

**General Election Day ~
Tuesday, November 6**