



# MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **CENTRAL VOICE** section on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

## Spotlight on Kipapa Elementary

Students are back on campus for the new school year, and there was an added community resource at Mililani's oldest school, Kipapa Elementary. On a very successful back-to-school night, community sponsors passed out backpacks and school supplies, and the social services agency ALEA Bridge opened a food pantry with the assistance of Hawaii Foodbank.

ALEA Bridge is the primary non-profit organization that helps to serve the needs of the homeless in Mililani, Wahiawa and on up to the North Shore. Director Phil Acosta says that they met about 200 people who stopped by the school during the late-afternoon event, and the food pantry now has a permanent presence at Kipapa with food lockers and a refrigerator for dairy and perishable items.



## *Kipapa Elementary—Home of the Cougars!*

Going forward, the food pantry will be staffed by Kipapa's A+ staff from the YMCA – two days a week to start, and then adjusting the schedule if demand for services increases. The goal, Phil says, is for families in need to know where and when to get assistance. If there are other needs beyond food insecurity, ALEA Bridge will work with Kipapa's administration and counselors to identify appropriate resources for these families.



**Hope ♦ Purpose ♦ Success**

ALEA Bridge is prepared to respond to concerns; they urge residents to call their offices at 379-2532 in non-emergency situations.

In our 2018 session of the Legislature, we approved a \$200,000 grant-in-aid for ALEA Bridge as they move forward to build a new central office facility on Mango Street in Wahiawa. We wish them well in the good work they do for our communities.

## **A well-deserved memorial tribute**

Along with many Mililani neighbors, I extended my sincere condolences to the Iwase family at the passing of their son and brother Jarand. Jarand was a standout tennis player at 'Iolani and played for UH Manoa from

*Continued next page . . .*

1997-2000, and he served for many years as a volunteer coach for the OIA championship boys and girls teams at Mililani High School. His passing from chronic kidney disease came suddenly and unexpectedly.

As MidWeek has reported, the tennis complex at Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park has now been named in Jarand's honor – a wonderful memorial to his talents and eagerness to mentor young people.

Jarand's mom Jan retired earlier this year as Principal at Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School at Schofield after many years of service to our public schools, and dad Randy has dedicated his life to public service as an elected official and current Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. Jarand carried forward their important example of service to others, and we are grateful for that.



*Jarand M.Y. Iwase*  
*Tennis Complex*  
*at Patsy T. Mink*  
*Central Oahu Regional Park*