

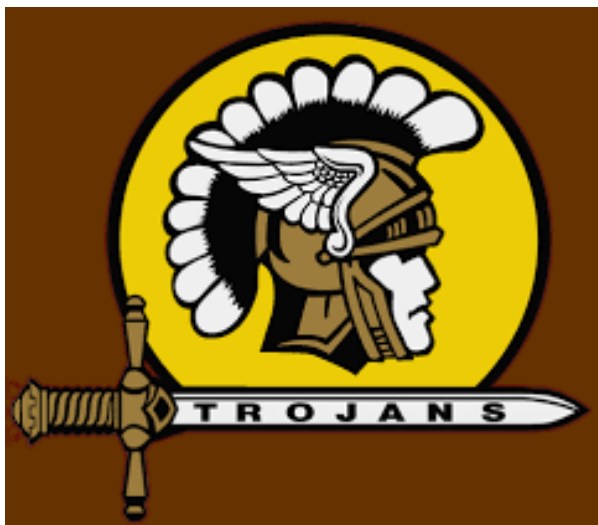


MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani
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Sports report

Our congratulations to Mililani High School student athletes who are wrapping up the fall sports season. **Kudos to the girls varsity volleyball squad and head coach Val Crabbe**, undefeated in regular season play and runner-up in the OIA Division 1 tournament. In first-round play at the State Championship Tournament, the Lady Trojans stretched Kalaheo to five sets before yielding to the Mustangs, and finishing the year with a dozen wins and just two losses.



The Trojan Varsity Football Team was set to play Baldwin High School in the first round of the State Championship on Maui this past weekend. This column was submitted to MidWeek a few days before the game, but regardless of the outcome, it was another wonderful season for the school and the Mililani community. Congratulations to players, head coach **Rod York** and his staff, parents and families and everyone who has supported the team through the season.

Thefts a serious loss to our schools

Two recent thefts from our neighborhood schools have been reported in the media recently. A substantial amount of money that the **Waipahu High School JV and varsity football teams** had raised to help cover miscellaneous expenses and season ending banquets was discovered missing just after the fall break. And closer to home, more than two dozen computers and other equipment were taken from **Wahiawa Middle School** in late September.

In both cases, members of the communities served by those schools have stepped up to help cover the losses. We are grateful to my colleague, **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**, for helping to organize a fundraising effort with the Leilehua Alumni and Community Association to replace the computers.

Our public schools are a tremendous source of pride for students, teachers and staff and the families in their neighborhoods, and losses like this hurt all of us. Community response to these kinds of unfortunate incidents is always heartwarming.

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Service beyond self

Here's a shout-out to my fellow members of the **Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise** who have been visiting our elementary schools to conduct Keiki Vision Screenings for third graders again this year. **Keiki Vision Chair Linda Conboy** reports that club members conducted screenings at Mililani Ike, Mauka and Uka in September and were at Mililani Waena in October. Volunteers will be at the Hanalani Schools in mid-December. The vision screening program is just one of many ways RCMS reaches out to our neighborhoods to support our youngsters. Mahalo!

Legislative session approaching

With the 2016 elections behind us and the holidays approaching, we are reminded that the time between our Legislative sessions is passing quickly. The next Legislature will convene in just a few weeks as we again sort through spending priorities as weighed against available resources. As always, I encourage you to join the discussion as our sixty-day working session approaches to find the most effective ways for state government to sustain our communities.

