

Update For Gentry Waipio Community Association Newsletter
June 13, 2013

Senator Michelle Kidani, whose 18th District includes Waipio Gentry, reports that the Legislature's budget for the two years beginning July 1, 2013, includes major appropriations for the Waipio community.

In line with her ongoing focus on Hawaii's public schools, Senator Kidani included \$450,000 in construction funds for an additional portable classroom at Kanoelani Elementary School to relieve pressure on existing facilities.

"I have continually advocated for improvements at our schools," Senator Kidani said. "There is no better investment in Hawaii's future than making sure the learning environments for our youngsters are safe and secure and up to the task of inspiring student success."

For the larger community – and to the benefit to other Central and West Oahu communities – the Senator also made sure funding was re-appropriated so that a new, state-of-the-art ambulance center and disaster command facility will be built in Waipio.

"This was the very first construction project I insisted on in 2009 when I was first elected," the Senator said. "Unfortunately, the state administration did not release the funds in a timely manner, and the city administration – which administers emergency medical services – did not act to keep the money from lapsing back to the state.

"We acted this year to re-appropriate the funds – a total of \$3.85 million – to get the project back on track. Adding this new ambulance station to critical care capacity in Waipio will greatly decrease emergency response time. I will be urging the Governor to release the money, and I plan to meet with Mayor Caldwell to make sure the emergency center becomes a reality," she said.

Meanwhile, preparations for the 2014 Legislative session are already underway. "I welcome ideas and suggestions from anyone in our neighborhoods to make sure government is responsive to citizens' needs and concerns," Senator Kidani said.

