

# COMMUNITY REPORT

## SENATE DISTRICT 18 | FEBRUARY 2026

Serving Mililani Town, Waip'i'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



*Michelle*  
**KIDANI**

**Senate Vice  
President**

**Vice Chair**  
Committee on  
Education

**Member**  
Committee on  
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### *Aloha Friends and Neighbors,*

As I reflect on nearly two decades of service to District 18, my commitment to this office and our community remains as strong as ever. My focus is clear: to continue working with the diligence and heart that the families and schools of our district demand. I am sincerely grateful to the constituents who have placed their trust in me. Serving you is my highest honor, and I look forward to leading our community forward with integrity, humility and a deep sense of Aloha.

The 2026 Legislative Session is underway, and this year, my top education priorities include fostering safe and effective learning environments, improving school facilities, and integrating technology to better meet the diverse needs of our keiki. Throughout this session, I am focused on advancing legislation that directly supports students, teachers, and families. Among my key bills are:

- **SB2611** - RELATING TO SCHOOLS: Authorizes DOE to deter violent misconduct on school premises with harsher penalties, including issuing a lifetime ban for egregious offenders. The ban includes include weekends and holidays as times. The bill would take effect upon approval.
- **SB2612** - RELATING TO MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION IN SCHOOLS: Clarifies that the Department of Education and its employees and agents shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability arising from assisting students with the administration of medication under certain circumstances.
- **SB2614** - RELATING TO EDUCATION: Authorizes the Department of Education to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the Armed Services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.
- **SB2615** - RELATING TO SCHOOL CAFETERIA MEAL COSTS: Requires the Department of Education to charge not less than one-quarter of the cost of preparing a school meal for each school meal.

I am pleased to announce, as of February 11, the Senate Education Committee passed SB2611 and SB2612, followed by SB2614 and SB2615 on February 13. All four bills will now move to the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees, where they await hearings.

Mahalo,

*Michelle*



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# Opening Day of the 2026 Legislative Session

Each year, the Legislature convenes on the third Wednesday of January, marking the official start of a new session. Opening Day is always a meaningful occasion, a time of renewal, purpose, and commitment as we begin the work of the biennium. I am sincerely thankful for the privilege of representing Senate District 18 and for the opportunity to continue my work on the Senate Committee on Education and Ways and Means. Mahalo for your ongoing trust and support as we begin another legislative year together!



Me, Camille Masutomi and Superintendent Hayashi



Me and MTA Director Bob Barrett



Me and Marlene Sai



Me with UH West Oahu's David McDonald, Wendy Tatsuno, and Carlos Peñalosa



Me and Waipahu HS Principal Zachary Sheets



Me and BOE Executive Director Capsun Poe



Me, Adult Friends for Youth members, and OHA Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey



Me and SPCSC Executive Director Ed Noh



Me and State Librarian Stacey Aldrich

## Honored at Women's Legislative Caucus Breakfast

I was very deeply honored to be recognized by our Women's Legislative Caucus, as they dedicated this year's bill package to me. This acknowledgment is especially meaningful because it comes from women I admire, respect, and am proud to serve alongside. The Women's Legislative Caucus plays a vital role in advancing policies that protect wahine and keiki, strengthen families, and promote equity and safety throughout our communities. This year's legislative package reflects those shared priorities by addressing critical issues such as human trafficking, domestic violence, image-based sexual abuse, expanding access to health care, and strengthening protections for our most vulnerable. My work in the Senate has always been grounded in the legacy of trailblazers like Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, whose dedicated commitment to equal opportunity continues to shape our laws and values here in Hawai'i. I am proud to serve as a co-convenor of the Women's Legislative Caucus and grateful to stand alongside colleagues who remain deeply committed to advancing meaningful, lasting change for our communities.



## AINA Kitchen Groundbreaking

I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for O'ahu's first regional kitchen, AINA Kitchen Network. This kitchen will prepare fresh, locally sourced menu items and ingredients and deliver them to schools to be finished on-site. It's an important step in strengthening our local food system from farm to school, supporting local farmers, creating jobs, and ensuring students have access to healthy, locally grown meals!



[L-R] Me, First Lady Jaime Green, Superintendent Hayashi, Senator Dela Cruz



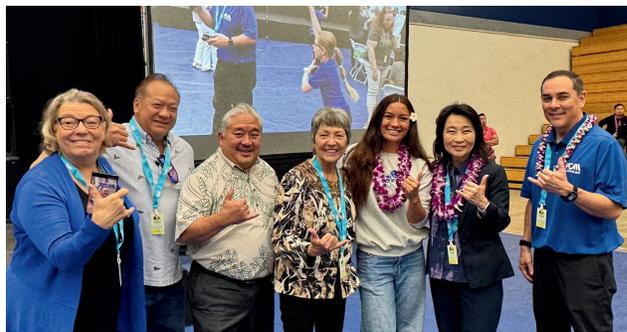
Breaking ground for the new AINA Kitchen!

## Shoots Summit Hawai'i – Student Media Conference

I attended the 2026 Shoots Summit Hawai'i, the largest student media conference in our state, with nearly 900 students and teachers participating from across Hawai'i. The summit brings together students, educators, and industry professionals who share a passion for digital media, creativity, and storytelling. Through hands-on workshops and competitions in photography, graphic design, film, and broadcast media, students are able to sharpen their skills and showcase their talents. Hawai'i is filled with incredibly talented young creators, and the Shoots Summit continues to provide an inspiring space for them to learn, grow, and pursue their passions. I enjoyed attending and meeting students, and learning about the great work our students are producing!



Me with students from different schools that participated in the conference



[L-R]: Georgina Skinner (DBEDT), Rick Manayan, Superintendent Hayash, me, Keynote Speaker Sydney Agudong, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke and Kevin Matsunaga (Moanalua HS)

With Superintendent, DOE staff, Deputy Director Dane Wicker (DBEDT), and staff

## 2026 Secondary Student Conference

From February 1st to 3rd, more than 165 public school students from across Hawai'i came to the State Capitol for the Secondary Student Conference (SSC). During this three-day program, students stepped into the role of policymakers: debating legislation, drafting testimony, and meeting directly with lawmakers on issues that affect their daily lives. I enjoyed meeting with students and hearing their thoughtful perspectives, questions, and ideas for strengthening our communities and schools. Their passion for civic engagement is an inspiring reminder that the future of Hawai'i is in capable hands!



Conversating with High School students on which bills they have been researching this year



Me with students who participated in the conference



Me, Senator Dela Cruz, and Mililani High School Students