

COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | MAY 2026

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



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As the 2026 Legislative Session officially comes to a close, I wanted to share several key initiatives which I was proud to support this year. If signed into law, these measures will bring meaningful improvements to Hawai'i's working families, students, and communities.

One important measure passed by the Legislature this session was **SB3125 SD1 HD1 CD2**, which preserves the income tax cuts enacted in 2024 for joint filers earning under \$350,000, heads of household earning under \$262,500, and single filers earning under \$175,000. This measure continues to provide critical financial relief for working and middle-income households across Hawai'i.

Other meaningful measures this session include **SB2613 SD1 HD3 CD1**, which revises tax map key numbers and streamlines the conveyance process for properties transferred to the Department of Education. These changes are intended to improve efficiency and support the long-term management of public-school properties.

In addition, after two years of advocacy on behalf of our veterans, **SB2614 HD2** was advanced to authorize the Department of Education to award high school diplomas to qualified individuals whose education was interrupted by military service or wartime circumstances during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. This significant measure honors the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families by recognizing the educational opportunities they were unable to complete while serving our country.

I am also pleased to announce the Notice of Award for Construction improvements at Kanoelani Elementary School, this includes classroom expansion and restroom facilities for SPED. The awarded contract totals \$301,450.00, and represents an important investment in creating a more accessible, supportive, and accommodating learning environment for students and staff.

Although this year's Legislative Session has officially concluded, the work of serving our community continues year-round. Throughout the summer months, I remain committed to advancing meaningful progress in public education, supporting opportunities for our students and families, preserving and celebrating our local culture, and strengthening the communities we call home.

Mahalo,

Michelle



Michelle
KIDANI

**Senate Vice
President**

Vice Chair
Committee on
Education

Member
Committee on
Ways and Means

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HB1800 HD1 SD1 - State Budget

Lawmakers in the Hawai'i State Senate and House of Representatives reached agreement on HB 1800 CD1, the supplemental budget for the 2025–2027 fiscal biennium. The final version emerged from joint conference committee meetings after each chamber had previously approved its own draft. The measure moved to a final reading in both chambers for a vote, where it passed unanimously, and will now be sent to the Governor for review and signature.

General Fund:

Fiscal Year 2026: \$10.42 billion

Fiscal Year 2027: \$10.63 billion

All Means of Financing:

Fiscal Year 2026: \$19.77 billion

Fiscal Year 2027: \$20.31 billion

For More Details Visit the Link Below:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1800&year=2026

Mahalo to Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, along with the entire WAM staff and members, for their tireless work and dedication throughout this process. Their attentiveness, collaboration, and deep commitment to serving our communities have been essential in shaping a thoughtful and responsible budget that reflects the values and priorities of our state!



With Senate and House members celebrating the agreement of the State Budget!



With Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Sharon Moriawaki

Kanoelani Elementary Spring Showcase “Colors of Kanoelani”

I had a wonderful time attending Kanoelani Elementary School’s Spring Showcase, “Colors of Kanoelani”! The morning was filled with energy, creativity, and an incredible sense of school pride as students took the stage to showcase their many talents. From lively musical performances to beautifully coordinated dances, every performance reflected the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of the students and their teachers. It was truly inspiring to see the confidence and joy shining through each student as they performed for their families, friends, and the community. Events like this highlight the importance of arts, culture, and teamwork in education, while also bringing everyone together to celebrate the unique spirit of the school.

Mahalo to Principal Neil Blomberg, the teachers, staff, students, and families for organizing such a fun, memorable, and successful event. Your commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and express themselves was evident throughout the morning.



Second graders dancing to “Golden”!



[L-R]: Complex Area Superintendent Richard Fajardo, Principal Blomberg and myself



Talented students performing!

Nourishing Hawai'i's Future Means of Agreement Ceremony

On May 15th, state leaders and legislators gathered at Mililani High School to sign a joint memorandum of agreement formalizing a statewide partnership to expand the use of locally sourced foods in Hawai'i public school meals and strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural and food systems. The agreement formalizes cooperative roles and responsibilities among the Hawai'i Board of Education, State Departments of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and Department of Education, Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), Health (DOH), Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and Transportation (HDOT), along with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR), and Community Colleges. Together, these agencies and organizations are working to build a stronger, more sustainable local food system that supports both our students and our agricultural community.

This important initiative reflects Hawai'i's ongoing commitment to improving food security by increasing the availability of fresh, locally grown produce in school cafeterias across the state. Expanding locally sourced meal programs not only benefits students, but also strengthens Hawai'i's economy by supporting local farmers, food producers, and agricultural businesses. This effort creates new opportunities for workforce development, increases demand for locally grown products, and encourages the creation of school menus that incorporate more native and Hawai'i-grown ingredients.



With legislators, agencies and organizations leaders signing the Means of Agreement!



[L-R]: BOE member Elynn Chung, DOT Director Ed Sniffen, MHS Students, me, First Lady Green and Superintendent Hayashi



With MHS Culinary teacher Shannon Marxen



With MHS Principal Fred Murphy



[L-R]: BOE member Elynn Chung, UH President Wendy Hensel, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, me, Superintendent Hayashi



[L-R]: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, me, DOT Director Ed Sniffen, and First Lady Green



With First Lady Jamie Green



Students of Mililani High School

Student-Grown Produce Served in Public School Cafeterias

School-grown fruits and vegetables are beginning to appear in cafeteria meals as Hawai'i public schools strengthen their farm-to-school programs through expanded gardens and new micropurchasing efforts. The initiative is part of DOE's broader farm-to-school program, which supports food sustainability in Hawai'i and aligns with Act 175's goals to improve student health while strengthening the local agricultural economy. Students at Waipahu High School, Leilehua High School and Hāna High & Elementary School are taking part in every stage of the growing process, from planting and harvesting to seeing the produce served in school meals. Lettuce grown by students at Waipahu and Leilehua are now being used in their cafeterias, while students at Hāna are growing 'uala or sweet potato. These efforts support a larger initiative by the Hawai'i State Department of Education aimed at increasing the use of locally grown food in public schools and helping students better understand where their food comes from and how it connects to their communities.

As Vice Chair of Education, I strongly believe that education goes beyond the classroom. Students learn and perform better when they have access to healthy, nutritious meals. Proper nutrition supports concentration, academic achievement, and overall well-being, helping our keiki succeed both in school and in life!



Students checking on the freshly grown lettuce



Free Summer Meals Offered at DOE Schools to All Children 18 and Under

The Hawai'i State Department of Education announced that 74 public schools will offer free summer meals to children ages 18 and younger, starting June 9 through July 17. Meals are available Monday through Friday through the USDA's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. Children do not need to be enrolled in public school to participate. Breakfasts will be served from 7:15 to 8:45 a.m. and lunches from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Children do not have to be enrolled at a participating school to be served, and meals will consist of solid foods. For special diet accommodations, email specialdiets@k12.hi.us with as much detail as possible.

DOE Website with more details: <https://hawaiipublicschools.org/2026-summer-meals-offered/>

