

# SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

**2023 END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER** – *Serving Mililani Town, Koa Ridge, Waipi‘o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park & Royal Kunia*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

It has been a busy but productive few months since the close of the 2023 legislative session. I attended graduation events for our three district high schools—Mililani, Waipahu and Pearl City—to honor and congratulate students as they celebrated the end of their high school years. It was a heartfelt reminder of the hard work of our dedicated DOE faculty, staff and administrators who support student success, for which we are so grateful. I was also happy to offer certificates to the student recipients of my 2023 Kidani awards at Kanoelani, Kipapa, Mililani Waena and Kaleiopu‘u Elementary Schools, as well as Mililani Middle School. I enjoyed attending many of these school assemblies and celebrating with our school communities.

The end of session is always a time of reflection for me to look back on the work accomplished and to note the work ahead. It was a challenging and rewarding session, and I am proud of the strides made for our local residents, and especially our students and teachers. As your Senate Education Committee Chair, it has been particularly meaningful to me to witness the passage of important legislation that will improve the working conditions, support and resources for HIDOE staff, which in turn will positively impact students and teachers for years to come. Included in this newsletter is a comprehensive breakdown of bills passed this year, our state budget breakdown, and a list of Capitol Improvement Projects (CIP) in our districts which I was able to secure. I hope sharing this information with you each year in this annual End of Session newsletter helps to keep you updated about the significant strides we have made throughout the session. I also send monthly digital newsletters via email, so if you would like to be added to our monthly mailing list, please contact us at [senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov) with your name, email and mailing address.

In closing, I’d like to send my aloha and congratulations to our Waipahu, Mililani and Pearl City High School graduates! It was heartwarming to celebrate at the Stan Sheriff Center and Hawai‘i Convention Center as we cheered on the accomplishments of our graduating seniors, whose countless awards, scholarships and achievements were deservedly lauded. The success of these students is a testament to their admirable dedication to their studies and the collective support from their families, teachers and staff. **Congratulations to the class of 2023!**



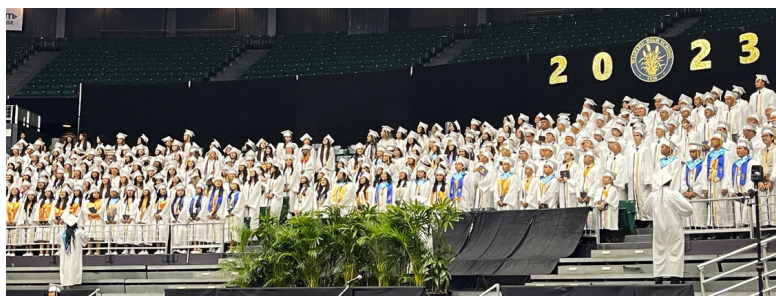
**SENATE VICE PRESIDENT**

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Committee on Education

**Vice Chair:**  
Committee on  
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**Member:**  
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Top L-R: Mililani High School’s graduation at the Stan Sheriff Center; Pearl City High School’s ceremony at the Hawai‘i Convention Center; and Waipahu High School’s class of 2023 graduates celebrating together at the Stan Sheriff Center. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

# NOTABLE BILLS OF 2023

\*SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill; CD = Conference Draft

## **SB941 SD2, HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY**

This bill aims to address the chronic shortage of affordable teacher workforce housing, while also providing incentives for teacher recruitment. SB941 appropriates \$170M out of the School Facilities Special Fund for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This will provide critical funding and greater flexibility to the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to construct and develop on or off-campus housing to be prioritized for teachers, educators, and staff, and the development of classrooms. This effort will help alleviate both the chronic affordable housing shortage as well as teacher shortage.

## **SB105 HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

This transitions the Department of Education (DOE) from its current, quarterly report requirement to an annual report on autism spectrum disorder. An annual report offers the DOE an opportunity to synthesize key data to examine trends, identify additional resources needed, and areas of improvement to assist students with autism spectrum disorder.

## **SB531 SD2, HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

This bill authorizes the SFA Board to select its Executive Director rather than by gubernatorial appointment. This measure provides the Board the flexibility to select a leader who is highly qualified and dedicated to the mission of the Authority.

## **SB1518 SD2, HD3, CD1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Authorizes the DOE to temporarily procure goods and services of less than \$100K and construction of less than \$250K subject to administrative rules. These exemptions will help equip students and teachers with appropriate instructional tools and resources necessary for the achievement of academic, career, and life goals and student success. It is our hope to make this a permanent change if this pilot program is effective.

## **SB7 HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY**

This bill clarifies certain references to the SFA which is responsible for all public school development, planning and construction related to Capitol Improvement Projects and public-private partnerships.

## **HB961 HD1, SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Early childhood education (including pre-k and preschool programs) provides critical social, physical, and academic development for Hawai'i's keiki. Expanding access to early childhood education ensures our youngest have a head start for bright futures ahead. The Legislature affirmed its support of the Ready Keiki initiative, a multi-faceted plan sponsored by **Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke**, utilizing public-private partnerships to expand high quality childcare and pre-k for early childhood education. This bill will expand the State's Preschool Open Doors Program to eligible three-year-old children beginning January 1, 2024. This measure also expands the types of accrediting entities for Preschool Open Doors Program service providers. The Legislature also continued its ongoing efforts to provide additional classrooms and early childhood education facilities through **HB960 HD1, SD2, CD1**, which includes construction of pre-k and new school facilities, renovations, improvements, and expansion to existing facilities to increase pre-k student capacity.

## **HB503 HD2, SD1, CD1- RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Beginning July 1, 2023, this bill will require the Board of Education to work with the Department of Education to conduct an analysis of the necessary timeline and appropriate process to determine whether making computer science a graduation requirement would be in the best interests of public school students and a graduation requirement no later than the 2030-2031.



### **SB1232 SD1, HD1, CD1 - RELATING TO THE STATE LIBRARY SYSTEM**

This authorizes the State Librarian, with approval from the Board of Education, to impose and collect rates, rents, fees, fines, and charges for the use of services of state library facilities and revise rates, rents, fees, fines, and charges as necessary without regard to statutorily required processes.

### **HB960 HD1, SD2, CD1 – RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY**

This bill will include pre-k facilities within the scope of authority of the School Facilities Authority. Appropriates \$200M out of the School Facilities Special Fund for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the School Facilities Authority to expand access to pre-k for eligible children in the State.

### **HB1329 HD1, SD2, CD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

This bill requires the Department of Education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public and charter schools. It also authorizes public and charter school parents and students to decline participation in active shooter training as well.

### **HB1045 HD1, SD1, CD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

This bill requires a minor student’s parent or legal guardian, rather than the student, to produce the required student records when transferring schools. It clarifies that emancipated minors may produce the required student records when transferring schools, and that the transfer process is the same whether a transfer happens within the same complex area or to another. It also exempts students eligible for assistance provided under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 from producing required student records when transferring schools.

### **HB388 HD1, SD2, CD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

This bill requires the Department of Education to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center and obtain instructional materials in appropriate, accessible formats for eligible students in accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act and the Copyright Act. Requires instructional materials to be provided to eligible students at the same time the corresponding print instructional materials are provided to all other students in the classroom.

### **SB830 SD2, HD1, CD1 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE.**

This bill establishes a one-year Critical Emergency Response Pilot Program within central O‘ahu schools to establish a critical emergency response team (selected by the DOE) and within each public charter school selected by the State Public Charter School Commission. Appropriates \$350K for fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Department of Education to implement the Pilot Program. Appropriates \$150K for fiscal year 2023-2024 to the State Public Charter school commission to implement the Pilot Program.



I was excited to join members of the Legislature, HIDOE (including Superintendent Hayashi and DOE Chief of Staff Camille Masutomi, pictured left with me during our ride) and the Department of Transportation on the inaugural Skyline rail ride, which officially opened to the public on June 30th.

## EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS: RESOLUTIONS

*(Resolutions are a request but have no force of law, unlike bills.)*

### SCR34 SD1; SR28, SD1 - DOE FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

This resolution urges the DOE to create a priority list for repairing public school fire alarm systems and study acceptable alternatives.

### SCR40 SD1; SR34, SD1 – DOE JUNIOR POLICE PILOT PROGRAM

This resolution requests the Honolulu Police Department in conjunction with the DOE to establish and operate a junior police pilot program at department high schools.

### SCR56 - BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Each year we are asked to include other subjects in our school curriculum. This resolution requests the Board of Education (BOE) to review various subject matter areas for consideration in public school curriculum. The requests for consideration are: financial literacy, media literacy, civic education, bicycle grants, and American Sign Language. Of course, with limited classroom hours, adding subjects may require other changes to curriculum.

### HCR59 – DOE ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM

This resolution requests the DOE to prioritize funding for the English Learner Program in public schools to address the increasing population of English learner students in the State.

### HCR116 SD1 - BOARD OF EDUCATION WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA

This resolution urges the Committee on Weights to make a recommendation to the BOE that gives equal consideration to small and remote rural schools. It also requires the BOE adopt a weighted student formula that gives equal consideration to small and remote rural schools based on the recommendation made by the Committee, in addition to considering creative ways for remote schools to collaborate and share resources.

### SR150 - EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES REPORT

This resolution requests the BOE to report on ways to increase access to extended learning opportunities or course credits for non-traditional and external learning experiences.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**Waipahu High:** \$2.5M for the design and construction of a campus-wide exterior repainting project.

**Mililani High:** \$6M for the design and construction of a covered court, which will be used as a secondary gym space and for community farmers market events.

**Pearl City High:** \$396K to finance construction to resurface the school parking lot driveway.

**Kanoelani Elementary:** \$1.4M to finance the design and construction for a new portable classroom building.

**Kipapa Elementary:** (1) \$2.5M for the design and construction of a new covered play court and (2) \$1.6M for the design and construction of cafeteria air conditioning.

**Mililani Uka Elementary:** \$1M to finance design and construction for ADA compliant improvements.



HIDOE is offering free meals to children 18 years and younger throughout the summer! Beginning in June, the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program started serving meals at select public school locations Mon-Fri, with the exception of federal holidays. 86 public schools including Kipapa Elementary and Pearl City High School in Senate District 18 are participating to support the SSO program. For more information or to find out what schools will be offering free meals, head to [hawaiipublicschools.org](http://hawaiipublicschools.org).



# WOMENS LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS BILL SIGNING



Governor Green signed bills dedicated to addressing issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, in addition to those committed to improving childcare and the overall health and wellness of local families. The passage of these bills will ensure better protections and resources for issues deeply impacting women and keiki to support our residents.



(L-R: Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC) members, Senators DeCoite, Inouye, San Buenaventura and myself with Governor Green; Senators joined by Domestic Violence Action Center Executive Director Nanci Kriedman)

## 2023 KIDANI AWARDS

At the end of each school year, I enjoy visiting as many District 18 middle and elementary schools as I can, celebrating their achievements and recognizing the recipients of Kidani awards! These students are selected by the teachers and staff of their respective schools and I have the pleasure of joining them to present them with Senate Certificates. This year, I was fortunate to recognize awardees from Kaleiopu'u, Kanoelani, Kipapa and Mililani Waena Elementary schools, as well as Mililani Middle School, attending many of their ceremonies in-person as well. Mahalo nui to all of the District 18 school principals and teachers for helping us to celebrate these deserving students as they venture off into the next phase of their educational journey to middle school, high school and beyond!

In addition to presenting student awards, I was thrilled to join the Kipapa Elementary community in sending our aloha to 4 of their dedicated staff members, Principal Corrine Yogi, longtime Upper Grade Counselor, Dr. Silvia Koch, longtime PCNC Val Broussard, and Cafe Manager Lei Fujinaga, all of whom have served the DOE for over 25 years. The school community gathered to celebrate their many years of service. I have had the pleasure of knowing Principal Yogi and Counselor Koch for many years, seeing the tremendous impact of their leadership. I am awed, inspired and deeply grateful to these amazing educators and staff for their many years of service to our students, and wish them the very best upon their retirement. Here are a few wonderful captures from my visit to some of the various district schools:





# GUN SAFETY BILL SIGNING

In observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Governor Green signed SB1230 and HB1329 into law in support for gun violence prevention in Hawai'i. It is a sad fact that we needed a bill such as HB1329, which requires HIDOE to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public and charter schools. This bill will help prepare our educators and staff for the necessary safety in our schools. I shared a few words regarding the impact of this important legislative bill signing, which I pray will never be used but which will work to keep our keiki safe from gun violence.



Hawai'i Chapter Representatives from Moms Demand Action for Guns Sense in America, Brady United Against Gun Violence, Indivisible, Students Demand Action, Everytown for Gun Safety and the Kendall 'ohana gathered together for the momentous bill signing ceremony of gun violence legislation. The passage of these bills marks Hawai'i's continued call to action for gun safety.



## 2023 OIA AWARDS BANQUET

I attended the 2023 O'ahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) Awards Banquet, which recognized the Mililani High School Varsity Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Track & Field and Girls Golf teams, who were runner ups in their state championships this year. This fantastic event also celebrates officials, coaches and principals with over a decade of service. I had the pleasure of honoring Mililani High School Principal Fred Murphy with a certificate acknowledging his contributions and leadership. We should all be proud of these deserving educators and student athletes for their hard work and dedication to their sports and congratulate them on their successful seasons!

## DATA CENTER & EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER TOURS

Senate members recently toured the State's Data Center at Kalanimoku and the Emergency Operation Center in Diamond Head. The impact of this visit was profound, as we saw firsthand the outdated buildings and facilities which no longer meet Hawai'i's needs and those of important state agencies. Built in the 1970s, such facilities house vital computer systems, cybersecurity operations and extensive communications networks used by state agencies and departments to keep our communities safe and our data secured. In this modern age, we recognize the need for secure and protected facilities to help us face natural disasters and emergencies. It was the Senate intent to move these facilities to the proposed 243-acre First Responder Technology Campus in



Mililani Tech Park. This site would have addressed major concerns and provide important, necessary solutions. This proposed campus would have hosted up to 19 federal, state and city law enforcement, fire, defense, emergency response agencies, cybersecurity data center and office spaces. However, the Governor line item vetoed this funding from the budget bill on June 14th.

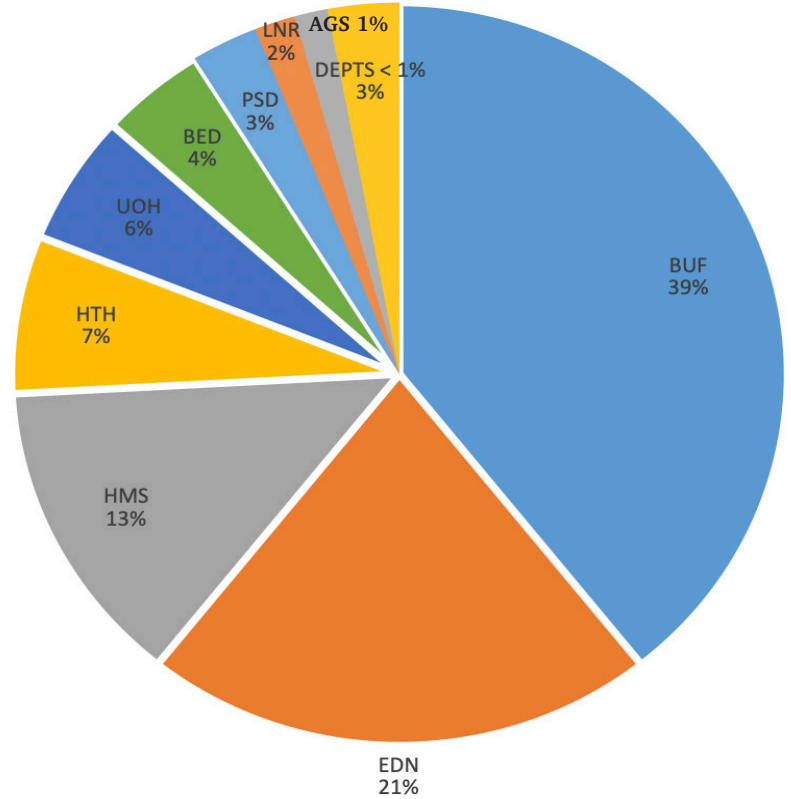


# 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

The Legislature’s total budget for the fiscal year 2022 for all means of financing is **\$21,714,410,650**.

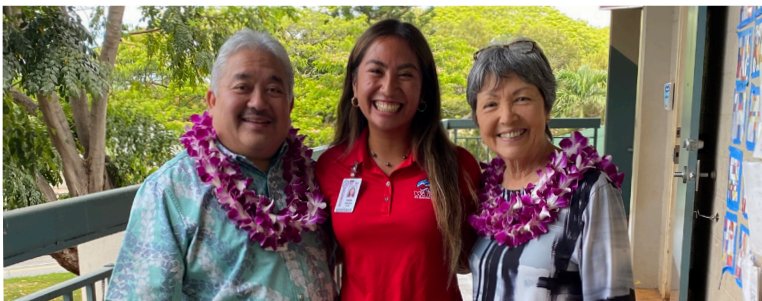
Charted below are the budget breakdowns for all categories during the 2023-2024 years:

DEPARTMENT	HB300 CD1 FB23-25 TOTALS	%
BUF	8,532,000,168	39.29%
EDN	4,652,285,831	21.42%
HMS	2,916,253,008	13.43%
HTH	1,497,279,213	6.90%
UOH	1,231,213,550	5.67%
BED	963,822,544	4.44%
PSD	605,732,617	2.79%
LNR	368,080,365	1.70%
AGS	300,685,926	1.38%
DEPTS < 1%	647,057,428	2.98%
DEPTS < 1%	FB23-25	%
LAW	119,476,677	0.55%
ATG	93,916,644	0.43%
LBR	93,824,332	0.43%
TAX	79,791,173	0.37%
DEF	78,476,147	0.36%
HRD	57,137,777	0.26%
HHL	53,224,291	0.25%
AGR	52,157,262	0.24%
GOV	10,767,927	0.05%
LTG	4,685,198	0.02%
TRN	3,600,000	0.02%
CCA	-	0.00%
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 21,714,410,650</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## VISITS TO WAIU & PALISADES ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Superintendent Hayashi and I made a visit to Waiu and Palisades Elementary Schools, where we toured their campus and met with students and faculty. While at Waiu, I was reunited with Justine Jumalon, who I welcomed to my office two years in a row as a legislative intern during session. I first met Justine when she was a student at Waipahu High School, and she has since gone on to become a teacher! I am so incredibly proud to see her thriving in the classroom and see the tremendous impact of her work with her students. It was a joy to visit these schools and to witness the dedicated work of our devoted educators.



Top L-R: Superintendent Hayashi and I with Waiu teacher Justine Jumalon; visiting with Waiu students in the classroom; Bottom L-R: Superintendent, my committee clerk, Lisa Barnett, and I with Palisades Principal Gavin Tsue and CAS Richard Fajardo, visiting the classroom of amazing 5th grade teacher Danielle Barnett; catching up with my wonderful nephew, Kenny Paresa, who is a Technology Assistant at Palisades Elementary.



# SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI

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## FIRST ANNUAL KALO CHALLENGE

What a wonderful day spent at the Alternative Learning Programs, Supports, and Services' 1st Annual Kalo Challenge! This new program was an exciting opportunity for students to share the knowledge they gained over their year-long project, which focused on the cultivation and exploration of kalo. The result was delicious and inspiring, and proof of the true value of these alternative learning opportunities. Congratulations to all of the dedicated students and teachers who participated and congratulations to the winning team from Kohala High!

