

# Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-eighth Hawaii State Legislature

*(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia*



*Chair*, Committee on Education

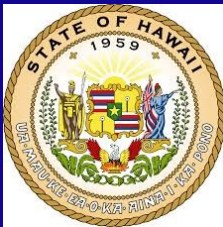
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As you may know from media reports this week, the Department of Education may not be able to move as quickly as anticipated on the massive program to provide air conditioning for the state's hottest classrooms. The Board of Education heard an update on the Cooling Our Classrooms program - funded by a \$100 million legislative appropriation - at its meetings this week. DOE Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi met with me last week to discuss re-opening bids, noting that while the costs of air conditioning equipment and fixtures are about what was anticipated, the State's construction industry boom has led to shortages of available qualified contractors and much higher labor costs than expected. She expressed the DOE's disappointment with these developments, and said that while re-bidding gets underway, there will be delays in reaching the goal of cooling 1,000 classrooms by the end of the year. I note my disappointment as well. We will be closely monitoring DOE's progress in making good on the promises made to our students.

By the way, I was informed this week that work will be underway soon on improvements to the air conditioning systems in Buildings B and D at **Mililani Waena Elementary**. A contract was awarded to Molina Engineering, Ltd., in the amount of \$187,522 for this work.

**Funds have now been released** for a major project in Central Oahu that my colleague Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and I worked hard to secure in the 2014 legislative session. The \$11.5 million appropriation will go for the purchase of about 150 acres of land for construction of a First Responders Technology Campus and Cyber Security Command Center at Mililani Tech Park. The facilities would provide a centralized and consolidated home for Oahu first responders, including training facilities and warehouse space. Potential tenants include HPD, HFD, State Sheriffs, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (formerly State Civil Defense), Hawaii National Guard and the State's data center.

I'm also pleased to announce that a contract has been awarded to Close Construction, Inc., for \$387,273 for several pending repair and maintenance projects at **Mililani Uka Elementary**. School administration and the contractor will be working on a schedule for work that will ensure the campus is safe and secure.

Next month, Waipahu area residents will have an opportunity to learn more about **ongoing rail construction along Farrington Highway**. Hawaiian Dredging and Construction Company has been awarded the contract to build three transit stops - West Loch Station, Waipahu Transit Center and Leeward Community College Station. The ongoing series of business and community meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month going forward. **The next session will be on Thursday, July 14, at Waipahu Intermediate School beginning at 6:30 pm.**

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

*Michelle*



## ***Mahalo and Congratulations Board of Education Student Representatives!***

How fortunate we are to have bright and capable students willing to step forward to provide a student voice at the Board of Education meetings. During the school year just ended, **Mililani High School senior Brennan Lee** served on the Board. We are so proud to note that his replacement will be a member of the **Waipahu High School Class of 2017 – Andrea Lyn Mateo**. She was chosen from a pool of a half-dozen applicants, all of them highly qualified. In his memorandum to the Board, Brennan said: "There is no doubt: Andrea Lyn will be an amazing member of the BOE. Her accolades are remarkable, her personality is likable, and her drive and determination is notable."

***Thank you for your service!***

## Public Invited to ESSA Team forum

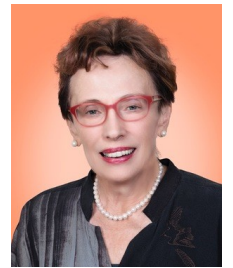


Governor Ige has asked a broadly-based team of educators and others to advise him and the Department of Education on how best to implement the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that shifts major responsibility for school success to the states.

I am pleased to be a member of the team; some members are pictured above. The ESSA Team will hold public meetings statewide, and I have invited **Lee Posey from the National Conference of State Legislatures** to be with us for presentations in Hilo and on Maui and Kauai. Here on Oahu, the Team is inviting public participation at an all-day forum to be held on Saturday, July 9, at the Hawaii Convention Center. **The forum is free, but registration is required online at <http://governor.hawaii.gov/essa-team/>.**



The Senate is meeting in Special Session this week to consider two judicial appointments. Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald appointed **James S. Kawashima** to an Oahu District Court seat position and **M. Kanani Laubach** to a Family Court judgeship on Hawaii Island. The nominees are pictured at left; final votes on confirmation are scheduled for Friday, June 24.



Congratulations to our Mililani neighbor and former State Legislator **Marilyn Lee** - recognized this month as one of four women leaders in our community by YWCA of Honolulu.



Kenneth Uemura

### Board of Education vacancies filled

Governor Ige has appointed **Kenneth Uemura** to a three-year term on the Board of Education. Uemura is a former Vice President and CFO at Hawaii Pacific University and is now a private consultant. Ken is also a Farrington High School classmate of mine! The Governor also re-appointed Board member **Brian J. De Lima** of Hawaii Island. De Lima will serve the remaining year in the term of Don Horner, who resigned from the Board effective June 30.



Brian De Lima

## Saluting our Super Students!



As each school year ends, I ask that elementary schools in my district identify two outstanding 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The students receive a congratulatory certificate from the Senate and a gift card to use as she or he wishes. Above, from left, here are the Super Students recognized at honors assemblies this year. **Sara Kaneshige and Alan Carrillo-Cobian, Kanoelani Elementary; Amber O'Neal and Mia Elin Herradura, Kaleiupu'u; Jade Herrera and Darnell Joe, Kipapa Elementary; Haylie Paige Olivas and Jada Hoopii, Mililani Uka; and Audrey Auna and Ty Wakahiro, Mililani Waena.** Great work, everyone!



My hometown **Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise** presented scholarships to graduates in the Mililani Class of 2016 for their academic and athletic achievements. Front row, **Rachel Yasunaga, Miki Sanco, Risa Askerooth, and Vanessa Roybal**; back row, **Evan Yonamine, Jacob Chang, Jaelyn Tanga, Dylan Fong, Kody Remington and Adam Guzman**. I was proud to present Senate congratulatory certificates to each of these ten outstanding young men and women.

