

Senator Michelle Kidani
Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 - Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

During this difficult time I want to take a moment to mahalo everyone who continues to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously by abiding to the guidelines of social distancing, washing their hands, and avoiding all unnecessary travel and gatherings. We will continue to hear this emphasized over and over again for a good reason, as it is the best way for all of us as individuals to do our part to contain the spread and flatten the curve.

As many of you have already heard, Senator Clarence Nishihara did test positive for COVID-19, and as a precautionary move the Senate closed all offices at this time. Upon hearing this news I went into self-quarantine that day while I awaited my test results, having come into direct contact with Senator Nishihara in my usual business at the Senate. Thankfully, my test came back negative but I will continue to practice social distancing to ensure that I continue to do my part to keep myself and my family safe.

The Senate has been very active in ensuring that departments are taking proactive steps to manage COVID-19 in our state. The Senate, at the order of Senate President Ron Kouchi and the urging of Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, formed a special COVID-19 committee consisting of myself and Senators Dela Cruz, Kim, Moriwaki, and Fevella. We have held meetings with the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and many others to push for things such as naming General Kenneth Hara as the Incident Commander for the State, implementing the mandatory quarantine, closing of port calls for cruise ships, and screening incoming visitors. We are pleased that the Governor acted on many of the recommendations coming out of our committee. Despite the office closures, we will continue to hold teleconference meetings as we must continue to ensure that our Government is doing all it can to proactively manage this public health emergency.

We will continue to see new cases as testing expands across our state. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being serious about these health practices and taking all necessary precautions. Remember, while you may be healthy and do not have any underlying conditions you can still become a carrier for COVID-19, potentially putting your kupuna or vulnerable family members at risk. Stay at home, avoid unnecessary travel, wash your hands, and maintain social distancing. We must all do our part to protect our community.

I will continue to work to ensure that our state has what is needed to overcome COVID-19 and our office continues to remain open and working remotely to answer your questions and concerns. State updates are posted regularly to my Facebook page as well as helping resources regarding education and how to stay healthy in body and mind while at home during this time. We encourage you to follow, share your own thoughts and ideas and to repost those which you may find helpful for your own family as well. We are all in this together!

HONORING DR. CHRISTINA KEAULANA



Dr. Christina Keaulana was honored by the Senate for the incredible work of the Nānākuli Educational Assistant-to-Teacher Pilot Program. She designed the program for the recruitment, support and retention of educators to specifically alleviate the chronic shortage of special education teachers. Thanks to their efforts with the Leeward Community College's (LeeCC) Teacher Education Program and The Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE), a pathway was created for Educational Assistants to complete an accelerated, State Approved Teacher Education Program (SATEP) to achieve a Bachelors of Science in SPED degree and further teaching licenses. Mahalo Dr. Keaulana for your dedication to our teachers!

LOKAHI LOUNGE EVENT

Congratulations to Principal Stacie Kunihisa, Vice-Principal Neil Blomberg, and the rest of the Kanoelani Elementary school staff on the grand opening of their new Lokahi Lounge. The lounge is a service center for English-Learner students, families and funded with the monetary award given to Principal Kunihisa as recipient of the 2019 Masayuki Tokioka award.

The lounge offers lunch bunch clubs, cultural sharing events, and other casual activities for students to connect with their peers and strive for success. The lounge will not only serve its students but their families as well, with Kanoelani welcoming them to experience these opportunities and access their technology. Through the Lokahi Lounge, families will be able to apply for benefits and jobs as well as to stay connected with their keiki. A BIG mahalo as well to Charter Spectrum for their generous donation, providing 5 laptops and 5 tablets to the lounge in support of the Kanoelani community. Mahalo nui for setting a wonderful example for our children and families and congratulations to all on this exciting endeavor!



EDUCATION WEEK HONOREES

Recognizing the achievements of our schools, our hardworking educators, and our diligent students is an exciting and integral part of our work at the Capitol. It encourages excellent work for years to come and serves as a reminder for us to provide even greater opportunities for our keiki to achieve educational excellence. I commend the hard work and dedication of our honorees and extend a heartfelt mahalo to all those involved in celebrating Education Week who worked tirelessly to make it a success. Although we were disappointed to postpone our annual Education Week festivities, we are thrilled to recognize the amazing district honorees who earned some of the prestigious awards this year.



RYLEE BROOKE KAMAHELE
2020 Honoree- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards
(Mililani Middle School, home-schooled)

Rylee spearheaded numerous community projects such as “Love Is A Verb,” a community service organization for youth; “Secret Santa Project” for children in need, which has since expanded to three shelters and a youth program; and “Promise To Our Keiki (PTOK),” an initiative that cultivates young leaders and raises awareness about the impact people have on the planet.

JOIE AGOO
2020 Honoree- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards
(Mililani High School)

As a member of the YMCA of Honolulu-Mililani West O‘ahu Branch and a senior at Mililani High School, Joie worked with a group of friends to prepare and serve lunches with fresh produce once a week for 50 people who live in encampments or on the streets of her community.



PRINCIPAL FRED MURPHY
2019 Principal of the Year (Mililani High School)

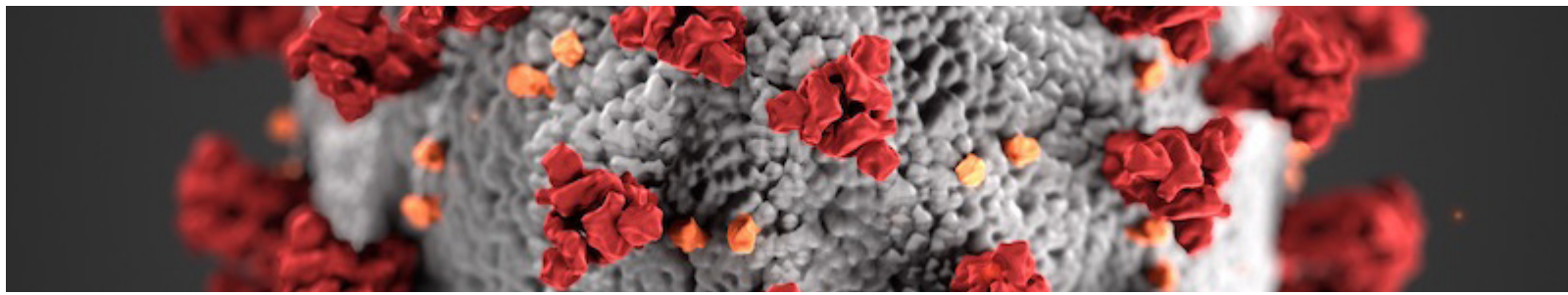


Fred Murphy has been principal of Mililani High School, his alma mater, for seven years and has been an administrator for 13 years. Under his leadership, Mililani High School’s curriculum offerings grew significantly with over 23 Advanced Placement courses, the most of any public or private school in Hawai‘i, as well as 27 Career and Technical Education programs, 52 student extracurricular clubs, and 47 athletic teams.



NĀ HOPENA A’O KANOELANI TEAM
2019 Team of the Year
(Kanoelani Elementary School)

Thanks to the efforts of the Nā Hopena A’o Kanoelani Team, volunteers Elaine Shibuya, Cy Ohira, Iris Oshiro, Lily Miyamoto, Gerald Cabral, Anthony Cabiara and Lynne Suefuji produced an impressive 400-person Choose Love Conference in coordination with local businesses and private donors to secure over \$30,000 in funding. The event received critical acclaim for the impact it has had on the local community.



It has been a whirlwind since we began preparing for the outbreak of COVID-19 here in Hawai'i, and as we continue to protect ourselves and our community during this statewide lockdown, it is important that we also stay update to date on new information as it comes. Best practices of course include to abide by the rules of our statewide “stay-at-home, work-from-home” lockdown by not gathering with others, not leaving the house for reasons other than isolated exercise, medical visits, trips to the grocery store or essential work duties, as well as to wash your hands well throughout the day and refrain from touching your face. State mandated orders are shared via social media on my Facebook page as well as the Hawai'i State Senate page, with frequent livestreamed news conferences and meetings of our Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 available on Facebook and/or YouTube. For more information visit coronavirushawaii.com and for any questions or concerns please email: covidkokua@hawaii.gov. Please see the information below provided online by Civil Beat & the Coronavirus Hawaii websites.

COVID-19 TRACKING, By County Last Update: 4/2/2020 12:53pm HST

Honolulu	Maui	Kauai	Hawaii	Mainland	Pending
Confirmed Cases 206	Confirmed Cases 27	Confirmed Cases 12	Confirmed Cases 18	Confirmed Cases 2	Pending Cases 20
New Cases 24	New Cases 1	New Cases 0	New Cases 3	New Cases 0	New Cases 2
Released From Isolation 49	Released From Isolation 11	Released From Isolation 3	Released From Isolation 6	Total Cases 285	
				New Cases 27	
				Released From Isolation 69	
				Deaths 2	

What You Can Do

These are some of the most important steps you can take to slow the spread of coronavirus.



Stay home

This is the most important step you can take to help contain the spread and protect the vulnerable members of your community.



Wash your hands

If you do have to go out for groceries or something else essential, make sure to thoroughly wash your hands after.



Stay healthy

A healthy immune system can make the difference between a visit to the hospital and the ability to heal at home.



Clean & disinfect

Door handles, packages, mail.. it may sound like overkill but we must take extreme measures to prevent the virus spreading.



Stay 6ft apart

If you must go out for essentials, try to stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone you meet so you don't spread the virus.



Don't touch your face

If You haven't just washed your hands, don't touch your face. We don't know yet how long the virus can live on surfaces.

What You Can Do

Everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat:

- On March 16, the White House announced a program called [15 Days to Slow the Spread](#) which is a nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of social distancing at all levels of society.
- Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
- If you are a healthcare provider, use your judgement to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Factors to consider, in addition to clinical symptoms, may include:
 - Does the patient have recent travel from an [affected area](#)?
 - Has the patient been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or patients with pneumonia of unknown cause?
 - Does the patient reside in an area where there has been community spread of COVID-19?
- If you are a healthcare provider or a public health responder caring for a COVID-19 patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended [infection control procedures](#).
- If you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure. They will decide whether you need to be tested. Keep in mind that there is no treatment for COVID-19 and people who are mildly ill are able to isolate at home.
- For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#). People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness.
- If you have been in China or another affected area or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face [some limitations on your movement and activity](#). Please follow [instructions during this time](#). Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

For more information please visit CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak page at www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Be **KIND** to support loved ones during #coronavirus



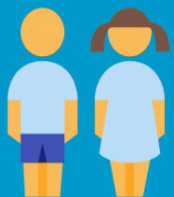
Check in regularly especially with those affected



Encourage them to keep doing what they enjoy



Share WHO information to manage anxieties



Provide calm and correct advice for your children

Learn more to Be **READY** for #COVID19:
www.who.int/COVID-19



UNITED NATIONS



World Health
Organization

1 COVID-19 PARENTING One-on-One Time

Can't go to work? Schools closed? Worried about money? It is normal to feel stressed and overwhelmed.

School shutdown is also a chance to make better relationships with our children and teenagers.
One-on-One time is free and fun. It makes children feel loved and secure, and shows them that they are important.

Set aside time to spend with each child

It can be for just 20 minutes, or longer – it's up to us. It can be at the same time each day so children or teenagers can look forward to it.



Ask your child what they would like to do

Choosing builds their self confidence. If they want to do something that isn't OK with physical distancing, then this is a chance to talk with them about this. (see next leaflet)

Ideas with your baby/toddler

- Copy their facial expression and sounds
- Sing songs, make music with pots and spoons
- Stack cups or blocks
- Tell a story, read a book, or share pictures



Switch off the TV and phone. This is virus-free time

Ideas with your teenager

- Talk about something they like: sports, music, celebrities, friends
- Cook a favorite meal together
- Exercise together to their favorite music

Ideas with your young child

- Read a book or look at pictures
- Make drawings with crayons or pencils
- Dance to music or sing songs
- Do a chore together – make cleaning and cooking a game
- Help with school work

**Listen to them, look at them.
Give them your full attention.
Have fun!**

For more information click below links:

Parenting tips from WHO

Parenting tips from UNICEF

In worldwide languages

EVIDENCE-BASE



Mahalo to HIPA for their public forum for stakeholders to come and talk about SB3103, the bill that would create a school facilities agency.

It is critical that this new and innovative piece of legislation moves forward in order to have opportunities to receive additional input from community stakeholders to ensure that we are being responsive to their feedback and questions.

PEARL CONVENTION

Mahalo to the inspiring non-profit organization Adult Friends for Youth for inviting me to be a guest speaker at their Annual PEARL convention. PEARL stands for “Promoting Peace, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect and Love,” a message that is especially important to share with the youth. I love that AFY is promoting these values to our elementary and middle school students. When we encourage our students to have respect and love for themselves they can in turn show the same respect and love to others.



2020 CENSUS



The 2020 Census has begun and you all should have received your Census packet in the mail. In a time like today, it is even more critical that every person in Hawaii fills out their form. The Census is a confidential population count which happens every 10 years and determines how billions of dollars in public funding are spent each year. I completed my Census form in about 20 minutes for a family of 6, it's quick and easy!



Make your voice heard and help ensure that Hawai'i receives it's fair share of Federal funding in areas such as healthcare, hospitals, and first responders. Please fill out and turn in your 2020 Census form as soon as possible by mail or online. For more information or to complete your Census form online please visit: https://census.hawaii.gov/census_2020/

COST OF LIVING PACKAGE UPDATE

While the Legislature is currently in recess I wanted to provide you with an update on where the Legislature's cost of living package bills currently stand. As our economy takes a downturn due to COVID-19 the Legislature remains committed to ensuring that we offer real economic relief to our working and middle class families.

- HB2541: Was passed out of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts.
- SB3103: Is currently referred to the House Committees on Lower and Higher Education and Finance.
- HB2543: Was heard by my Senate Committee on Education and we are awaiting the resumption of Session to hold a decision-making hearing.
- SB3104: Is currently referred to the House Committees on Housing and Finance.