

Senator Michelle Kidani

Senatorial District 17 – Mililani Town, Mililani Mauka, Waipio Acres, Waipio Gentry
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228 Phone: (808) 586-7100 E-mail: senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aloha, friends and neighbors:

As you can imagine, I receive literally hundreds of calls and emails every week during the legislative session. One of the most common issues brought to my attention has to do with the deteriorating condition of our streets and highways, and the related issue of when highway lighting will be restored to the H-2 freeway.

Some of these roadways are under the jurisdiction of the city, and some are state highways. But it does not matter who is responsible for maintenance - we just want repairs done to ensure that we can travel safely wherever we want to go.

Last month, I provided our neighborhood boards a copy of the city's schedule for **resurfacing the streets and roads within Mililani and Mililani Mauka** over the next 12 to 18 months.

Last week, I was informed by the State Department of Transportation that progress is being made on two major projects:

*--With the final permits issued, Paul's Electrical Contracting has begun work to **restore highway lighting along H-2 from Waiawa Interchange to Leilehua Interchange**. Transportation officials say that even if there are unforeseen delays, the project should be completed on or about June 1.*

*--Also, as a result of a \$14 million dollar appropriation in the 2011 session of the legislature, the project to **resurface Kamehameha Highway from Waikalani Drive to Ka Uka Boulevard** is currently in the design phase, and will be out to bid early next year.*

Looking ahead, I included an appropriation of \$25 million dollars in a transportation bill I co-introduced this session to **reconstruct and expand the Kipapa Gulch Bridge from two to four lanes** - a major public works project that will vastly improve traffic flow to and from Mililani.

Funds have been released this week for projects at five Mililani schools. Please see the special insert in this newsletter for details on these and proposed projects in next year's budget.

Me ke aloha,

Honoring Hawaii's Fallen Heroes

For a seventh year, the State Legislature memorialized military service members who were residents of Hawaii, or who were stationed at bases here who died in Iraq or Afghanistan. I hosted the family of the late Navy Chief Petty Officer Kraig Vickers of Maui, including his widow, Nani, holding the medal in this photo and her three children.

Two dozen service members were remembered at this year's ceremony. Colleagues or family members of 18 of the fallen servicemen were present to receive the medal that was first presented in 2006. All of these families know that the freedom we treasure is not free.



Land Claims Bill Signed

I joined my fellow senators and leaders of several Native Hawaiian organizations for ceremonies at Washington Place as Governor Abercrombie signed Senate Bill 2783 into law.

The new law conveys to the **Office of Hawaiian Affairs** about 25 acres of land in Kakaako, *makai* of Ala Moana Boulevard, valued at \$200 million dollars. That amount was agreed upon as a settlement of disputed Native Hawaiian land claims from 1978 through June 30, 2012. The action comes as a result of the Hawaii Supreme Court ruling in 1987 that OHA was due a

share of revenues from former crown lands, and that the Legislature was responsible for formulating a settlement. OHA will now have the right to master plan and develop the property, subject to zoning and permitting conditions of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.



More Affordable Senior Housing for Downtown Honolulu



One of the most satisfying things about being the Senator who works on the State construction budget is seeing the results of our work that translates numbers on a spreadsheet to shovels in the ground. I was honored to join City, private sector and other State leaders as we broke ground last week for the **888 Iwilei Road Affordable Senior Housing** project. The 15-story building will be built on the site of the former OR&L baseyard and terminal on the edge of Chinatown in downtown Honolulu. When completed, the project will include 160 apartments for eligible seniors who meet income criteria. The complex will also include an adult day care facility.

The Senate was pleased to have included in last year's construction budget the authorization for bond funding for \$26 million dollars – more than a third of the total cost of \$69 million dollars – to get this long-awaited project underway. Not only will future residents of this property benefit, but beginning this month, construction will put a substantial number of workers on contractor and sub-contractor payrolls for most of the next two years. And that's good for all of us.

Congratulations and *mahalo* to everyone who worked so hard to bring this project to this point. I look forward to being back on this site in a couple of years when the building welcomes its first residents.



What A Difference A Year Makes!



The “plain old” **Mililani High School Athletic Field** has been transformed into a much more attractive venue for Trojan sports competition. An appropriation of \$2.5 million was released last year for much needed improvements – well-deserved to reflect more appropriately on the stadium’s namesake, former MHS athletic director “Big John” Kauinana. I got a tour of the facilities during a recent visit to the high school – that’s me with current athletic director Glenn Nitta at mid-field on the fifty yard line. Go Trojans!

UH West Oahu – Open for Business August 20!



The State’s investment in higher education is coming to fruition on the plains *makai* of the H-1 freeway, where the new, permanent campus for **UH West Oahu** is nearing completion. UHWO will be a second 4-year campus for the University of Hawaii system on Oahu, and is expected to provide more educational opportunities for area residents, and traffic relief on the freeway for Leeward coast students who may opt for the new campus rather than commute to Manoa. The new campus is aiming for energy self-sufficiency with the installation of a \$2.5 million dollar photovoltaic system.

Enhancing Teacher Education at LCC

Ground breaking ceremonies this week mark the beginning of significant expansion at Leeward Community College. Here’s an artist’s view from the parking lot side of the new **Education Building and Innovation Center** at LCC that will allow expansion of the Associate of Arts in Teaching program. A \$19 million appropriation for this new building will better serve LCC’s student population, a quarter of which comes from the Mililani-Waipio Gentry-Waipahu area.



At the Capitol...

Honoring Senator Akaka

Hawaii's distinguished U.S. Senator, Daniel K. Akaka, and his wife Millie were guests of the State Senate this month.

The Senator, who is leaving Washington, D.C., after 36 years on Capitol Hill, was recognized for having been awarded the Harry S Truman Award for public service to the country – the highest such award given to an individual by the National Guard Association of the United States. It recognizes “sustained contributions of exceptional and far-reaching magnitude to the defense and security of the United States in a manner worthy of recognition at the national level.” Senator Akaka is a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee.



Gracing the Senate Chamber

Senator Mike Gabbard, Miss Hawaii 2011 Lauren Cheape of Mililani, Senator Kidani, and 2011 Mrs. Hawaii US Christie Oclaray, both Mililani High alums.

The Senate welcomed these vibrant and energetic current title holders as they prepare to crown their successors in a few weeks. **Miss Hawaii Lauren Cheape** continues her active support of the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals – including Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Mrs. Hawaii US Christie Oclaray is a human resources professional and lectures on professional development at Leeward CC. She has also joined with

the current Mrs. United States and two other fellow pageant title holders to promote a gluten-free healthy lifestyle. ***Congratulations to both for representing our State with distinction over the last several months!***

An Egg’stra Special Cause

Members of the **Women’s Legislative Caucus** organized the 7th annual Easter basket drive at the Capitol this month. Our offices gathered household goods, personal hygiene items and some food products which literally filled well over 100 baskets. The collected baskets were then delivered to the **Institute for Human Services** women and family shelter and distributed to residents about to make the transition out of the temporary shelter to more stable housing. *From left, Representatives Dee Morikawa and Marilyn Lee, Senators Kidani and Rosalyn Baker, and Representatives Barbara Marumoto and Corinne Ching. (Our **Easter Bunny** “pal” in the costume is good-natured Representative Mark Takai.)*

