Member, Committee on Agriculture

Member, Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Member, Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Lunar New Year! Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your voice and advocate in the state House of Representatives. On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, my family and I celebrated the Opening Day of the 30th Legislature. This was a great opportunity for me to meet members of our community, issue stakeholders, and government officials. Mahalo to everyone who stopped by my office.

This session, I introduced a handful of bills to address our cost of living, providing incentives to teachers, and to address state transportation issues in Mililani. I further requested nearly $32 million to maintain our outstanding public schools and to make necessary improvements to the H-2 freeway Mililani Mauka interchange. I will continue to work closely with the Department of Education and Department of Transportation to ensure projects begin on time and stay within budget.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-9460 or via e-mail at repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Val

OPENING DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Top Left - Representative Okimoto was joined by her husband Ryan, daughters Rebekah and Emma, and parents Dennis and Anita Aquino on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 16, 2019.

Top Right - Mililani constituents **Debbie and Robert Chun** visited the Capitol on Opening Day to meet with Representative Okimoto.

Bottom Right - **Rita Kama-Kimura**, a Mililani constituent and community advocate, stopped by the Capitol on Opening Day to congratulate Rep. Okimoto.

LIST OF BILLS INTRODUCED BY REP. OKIMOTO

PM ZIPPER LANE - HB 890 - This bill would require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study that reevaluates the cost and feasibility of constructing a Zipper Lane along the H-1 freeway in the westbound direction for use during the afternoon hours.

MILILANI MAUKA INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS - HB 1387 - Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to plan, design, and construct an additional lane and double loop on-ramp southbound from Mililani Mauka with a pedestrian overpass ($23,000,000).

TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHERS - HB 891- Would establish a non-refundable state income tax credit up to $500 for certain expenses incurred by Pre-K through Grade 12 teachers, librarians, counselors, etc. who purchase items for their classrooms and/or students.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM - HB 892 - This bill would create a five year pilot program in the Department of Education to encourage students to study career technical education.

ONLINE EARLY EDUCATION - HB 1386 - Establishes an online early learning education program within the Department of Education.

SCIENTIST-TO-TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM - HB 1385 - Would create a pilot program within the Department of Education to recruit, train, support, and retain qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals as Kindergarten through Grade 12 teachers of those subjects.
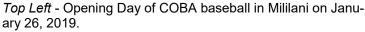
MAINTAINING OUR SCHOOLS - HB 1387 - Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to maintain schools in Mililani ($9,000,000).

REFUNDABLE FOOD EXCISE TAX CREDIT - HB 1226 - This bill adjusts existing income brackets so more working families can qualify for the tax credit.

JURY DUTY - HB 1388 - Allows people 70 years of age or order to claim exemption from service as a juror.

EVENTS IN MILILANI & AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Top Left - Opening Day of COBA baseball in Mililani on January 26, 2019.

Top Right - Student government leaders from **Mililani High School** visited the State Capitol on January 25, 2019 to participate in the 2019 Secondary Student Conference.

Bottom Right - On January 31, 2019, Rep. Okimoto had the honor to emcee **Mililani Middle School's 2019 Spelling Bee**. **Michael Hemlinger**, son of Staci and Matthew Hemlinger of Mililani, was crowned the 2019 Spelling Bee champion.