



*Member, Committee on  
Agriculture*

*Member, Committee on Lower &  
Higher Education*

*Member, Committee on  
Tourism & International Affairs*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your voice and advocate in the state House of Representatives. Earlier this month, the House sent nearly 500 bills to the Senate for consideration (First Crossover). I voted against bills which would allow solar on important agricultural land, increase certain fees, and vehemently opposed a bill that would have decriminalized recreational marijuana.

I would like to hear your thoughts on bills and resolutions still pending before the Legislature. On **Wednesday, April 3, 2019**, I will be co-hosting a legislative town hall meeting with Representative Lauren Matsumoto, and Honolulu City Councilmembers Ron Menor and Heidi Tsuneyoshi. The town hall is scheduled for **6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the **Mililani Uka Elementary School Cafeteria**. This will be a great opportunity to talk story about current issues at both the Legislature and the City Council. Look for a post-card reminder in the mail!

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*

## HONORING VETERANS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



*Top* - Each year, the Legislature honors the service of a handful of veterans of the Vietnam War. Most veterans of this conflict were not welcomed back or treated with the respect they earned when they returned to the United States. On March 8, 2019, the House of Representatives honored **Staff Sergeant Leonard "Lenny" Ho, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel L. O'Leary III, Lieutenant Colonel Johnnie E. Webb, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Vernay, Admiral Richard Macke and General David Bramlett** for their extraordinary service to our country and continuing service to our State. Mahalo to all veterans who have served or continue to serve in our nation's armed forces.

*Right* - Congratulations to **Chelsea Masaki** of Mililani. Chelsea is a 2019 recipient of the **Prudential Spirit of Community Award** and was honored by the House of Representatives on March 18, 2019. This award is the largest youth recognition program in the United States based exclusively upon volunteer community service. Through outstanding community service efforts, middle and high school students realize the importance of philanthropy at the local, state, and national levels in making a difference in their community.



## SAVE LIVES THIS APRIL

**Blood Bank of Hawaii**

Every day, 200 blood donations are needed in Hawaii. By giving one hour of your time, you can save up to three lives by donating blood.

Listed below are the upcoming blood drives in Mililani this April. To schedule an appointment or check on drive information, call 848-4770 or visit BBH.org.

04/03/19 - Mililani Marketplace - Bloodmobile - 3:00-7:00 pm

04/06/19 - Mililani Marketplace - Bloodmobile - 7 am-12:00 pm

04/17/19 - Mililani Marketplace - Bloodmobile - 3:00-7:00 pm

04/21/19 - Mililani Marketplace - Bloodmobile - 7 am-12:00 pm

04/27/19 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
Mililani Hawaii Stake - Cultural Hall - 2:00-6:00 pm

Follow Blood Bank of Hawaii on social media for updates and info on blood drives near you:

- Facebook.com/BloodBankHawaii/
- Instagram.com/BloodBankHawaii/

Drives subject to change.

## NO VOTES AT THE CAPITOL

**RANKED CHOICE VOTING** - HB 210, HD1 - This bill would allow ranked choice voting in primary elections, which would likely eliminate Republican contenders from the ballot.

**APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS** - HB 556, HD1 - This bill would create state appliance efficiency standards on computers and monitors, faucets, certain fluorescent lamps, showerheads, and sprinklers. This bill is duplicative of federal law, and would restrict the number of products available to the consumer in Hawai'i.

**SOLAR ON AG LANDS** - HB 593, HD1 - This bill would permit the construction of large utility-scale solar projects on our already limited agricultural lands. Agricultural lands should be used for agricultural purposes.

**FEE INCREASES** - HB 1048 - This bill would increase fees related to the collection of the fuel tax, liquor tax, and cigarette and tobacco tax. The language in the bill was vague and left the authority to increase the increase via rulemaking, to the state Director of Taxation.

**DECriminalIZATION OF MARIJUANA** - HB 1383, HD2 - The current draft of this controversial bill decriminalizes the possession of 3 grams or less of marijuana, making the new penalty similar to obtaining a traffic infraction with a fine of \$200.

## EVENTS IN MILILANI &amp; AT THE STATE CAPITOL



Left - On March 1, 2019, Rep. Okimoto participated in Read Across America Day and read *Horton Hatches the Egg* to Mrs. Castro's Kindergarten class at Mililani 'Ike Elementary School.



Right - Rep. Okimoto presented a congratulatory certificate on behalf of the House of Representatives to **Kellan Chan** of Mililani for attaining the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Kellan's service project improved parts of Mililani 'Ike Elementary School. Congratulations Kellan!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Mililani Town Hall Meeting - April 3, 2019

6:30 p.m. - Mililani Uka Elementary School