



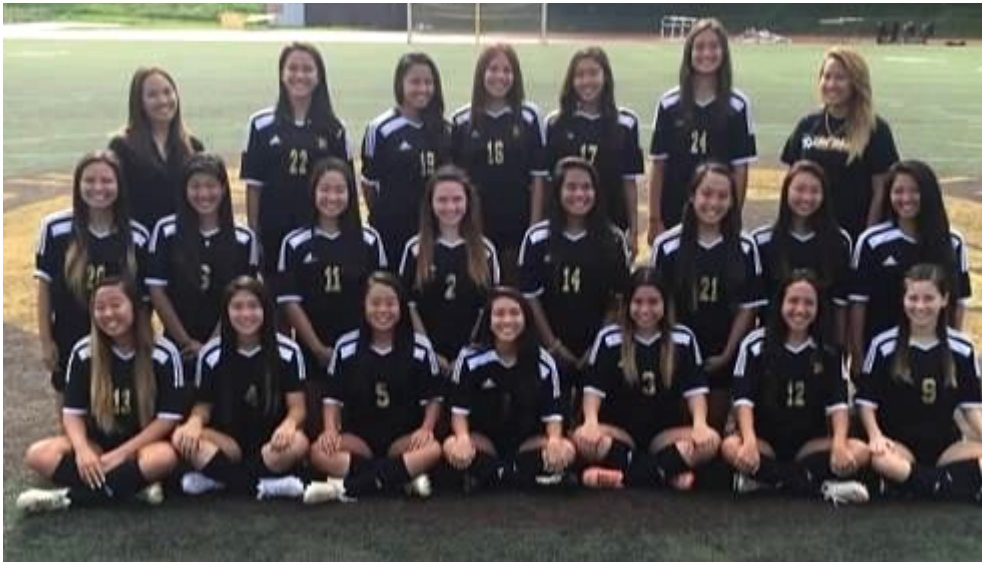
MidWeek

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Remembering Patsy Mink – Women’s History Month

If you are like me, you spend a lot of time in traffic heading to and from town for work or school and back again. Rather than stress, I like to use the time to put the week’s occurrences in perspective, and to “connect the dots” of the many things going on in a busy life. Since March is Women’s History Month, my commute-time thoughts turned to our Lady Trojans as well as our late Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

I was invited to the end-of-season banquet for the Mililani High School girls varsity soccer team several days ago. We are so proud of this team that won the OIA Championship, and was just one game away from the opportunity to repeat last year’s State Championship. A number of very deserving individual players made the OIA West All-Star roster, some were named to the all-tournament team after the state and the media from among players all islands.



***Hail to the 2016
OIA West Division
Champs!***

I have been thinking about these girls and what they accomplished, and how they represented Mililani High School with dignity and pride during the playoffs. I thought about how their experiences as a team will serve them well throughout their lifetimes. I also thought about how these big moments in their lives might never have happened if it were not for Patsy Mink. These Lady Trojans were born more than a quarter century after Representative Mink co-authored the 1972 Title IX amendments to the Higher Education Act that said:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

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Mink's simple and to-the-point language was aimed at establishing equal opportunities for women to have access to education to improve their lives just as men did. In subsequent years, interpretations of the law led to entitlements for women who wanted to participate in organized collegiate athletics on an equal basis with men – and how the world has changed in succeeding generations!

Opportunities for athletics in college led to high school leagues that gave girls training and playing time – and many young women have won athletic scholarships to support their post-secondary studies. Hawaii State Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna comes to mind. College excellence among women athletes led to formation of professional leagues, and who does not remember the exciting USA victory in the Women's World Cup soccer playoffs just last summer. And just last week, the University of Hawaii women's basketball program sent its excellent team to the NCAA Women's tournament among the nation's elite women's college teams.

***Hawaii's Congresswoman
Patsy T. Mink***



I often drive past the Patsy Mink Central Oahu Regional Park where some of the Lady Trojan's soccer victories were won this season and where Coach Rose Antonio and our Mililani Softball team can also be found. It's one of the wonderful tributes to Representative Mink that will endure through the years.

Earlier this month, the Senate passed my bill to name the new high school being built on Maui for Mink. If the bill makes it through the House and is signed by the Governor, the school – located on Mink's home island – will be called the Patsy Takemoto Mink Kihei High School. And then just a few days later, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts announced the selection of Hawaii Island artist Holly Young as the sculptor who will create a statue of Mink – to be located on the grounds of the Hawaii State Library.

Women's History Month reminds me that the many opportunities now available for our daughters and granddaughters to become the leaders of tomorrow are the direct result of dedicated and caring teachers, coaches and families determined to build on the legacy of Patsy Mink.