



MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **CENTRAL VOICE** section on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Back to school

Students and teachers at campuses on the traditional school calendar are back in their classrooms this week after the October fall break. A few weeks ago, the Department of Education released public school enrollment figures for the school year, and we learned that Mililani High School has the second-largest student population among all high schools in the state with 2,571 students grades 9-12 on campus. And Mililani Middle School has the largest number of students on campus among intermediate and middle schools statewide with 1,873 youngsters enrolled.



As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, it is my responsibility to work in the best interests of all public schools across the state. But as a Senator representing my Mililani and Waipio neighbors it's important to advocate for our own schools as well. We are fortunate to be able to celebrate student success in all of our neighborhoods thanks to dedicated teachers and committed school leadership.

Congratulations are in order

At ceremonies this past weekend, **Brigadier General Keith Tamashiro** officially retired as Commanding Officer of the Hawaii Army National Guard after more than three decades of service to Hawaii and the nation. General Tamashiro compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in the Guard, including overseas deployment in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his civilian life, Keith is a longtime employee in the Hawaii State Department of Human Services, where he is supervisor of the First-to-Work Program that helps residents receiving state assistance to acquire educational skills and employment. And, of course, we know him as current Vice Chair of the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board where he has served since being elected in 2006.



Mahalo for your service!



Kudos also to **Bob Barrett, president of Coastal Windows**. Bob was named to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers, flying to Washington D.C., for his official installation. Bob has been recognized many times for his outstanding business practices and employee support programs, and the visit to his Waipio manufacturing plant has been a highlight of the Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Day tour. In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Bob is the current President of the Mililani Town Association. *Great work, Bob!*

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Mark your calendars

A few weeks ago, the animal aid/support organization Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) sponsored a Central Oahu pet walk event at the Mililani Mauka Dog Park. As a puppy parent, I'm a big fan of this organization that has been an active animal advocate island-wide – so much so that I happily serve on the Board of Directors. Mililani residents will be interested to know that PDP is sponsoring an information seminar next month to talk about ways to effectively reduce the feral cat population in our community. Join in the discussion on Thursday, November 16 at 7:30 at MTA Rec Center 2. More information is available on the PDP website: www.poidogsandpopoki.org or by calling 551-7915



OIA Red Champs!

A final note – congratulations to the Mililani Varsity Football Trojans who finished their regular season schedule undefeated to win the OIA Red Division I championship. This column is being submitted before the Trojans take on Na Menehune of Moanalua in the OIA playoffs, so we don't know how the team fared this past weekend. But this season's 7-0 win streak is another reason to celebrate student-athlete excellence at MHS.

Mahalo to players, coaches and family who all play a part in the team's winning efforts.