

# Senator Michelle Kidani

(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Aloha friends and neighbors,

If there is a word that can best characterize this year's legislative session, perhaps "orderly" may be most appropriate. Our major task - formulating the state's fiscal plan for the two years beginning July 1 - is nearly complete, ahead of our internal deadlines, and the session is moving rapidly to scheduled adjournment in just two weeks time.

The State Constitution requires us to pass a balanced budget based somewhat on tax revenue projections by the Council on Revenues. While this year we have not faced the kinds of revenue shortfalls that severely limited our flexibility in the past three or four years, we have funded necessary programs. We also realize we still need to be frugal to some degree to assure we can set aside dollars for unfunded liabilities and rainy day funds. As Hawaii's visitor industry reports record numbers of tourists travelling to the islands and as our locally-based construction and housing industries continue to improve, we are now able to restore important government services that had to be curtailed when our budget was restricted. These include such things as agriculture inspectors and public health workers that can now improve service the public and to businesses.

The Senate and House have agreed on funding for a major investment in technology infrastructure that will bring our data and computer-based services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The State's teachers and other public workers, whose salaries and benefits were reduced a few years ago as the recession took hold, will now see some cuts restored and benefits stabilized. We have also taken the first steps toward re-funding the public employee retirement system to assure we meet our obligations to employee health and pension funds.

The State took bold steps *last* year to support millions in repair and maintenance projects, and economists report that construction activity has increased measurably over the last six to nine months as much needed improvements and upgrades to our schools, libraries and other public facilities get underway. This year, our construction budget will add another \$1.3 billion in state-supported projects to the mix over the next two years. These include major investments in public education, including an Ewa Makai Middle School and a new high school in Kihei, Maui.

**For a list of projects in the budget for Senate District 18, please see page 3 of this newsletter. And some good news just announced - the State is this week releasing \$500,000 for major upgrades to the electrical system at Kaleiopuu Elementary.**

Thank you for your support as I complete my fifth Legislative session. I appreciate hearing your views on any concerns you may have.

Me ke Aloha,

## Inside . . .

- ◆ Recognizing outstanding educators ..... **page 2**
- ◆ Mililani High School award winners at the 2013 State Science and Engineering Fair ..... **page 2**
- ◆ 2013 budget allocations for District 18 ... **page 3**
- ◆ Capitol Photo Gallery..... **page 3**
- ◆ Town Hall Meeting ..... **page 4**



Senate-House Conference  
April 2013

## Honoring our distinguished educators

Among the outstanding educators in our district are two people honored within the last few weeks for their commitment to our schools and their students. **At right, congratulations to Waipahu High School Principal Keith Hayashi,** named recipient of the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award for 2013. Principal Hayashi has developed a number of innovative programs at WHS, including Career Pathways that partners with business and industry, and the College Readiness Academy program that aggressively seeks financial support for students pursuing post-high school studies.

**Below, the State House and Senate presented certificates to Mililani High School AP Psychology teacher Judy Tapparra.** As measured by test scores, the exceptional data show that since the year 2000, fully 90 percent of the more than 1,100 students in Judy Tapparra's classes taking the Advanced Placement Psychology exam have earned a "3" or higher on the scale in which "5" is the top score. Moreover, about a third – some 360 students – have scored a perfect "5" on the exam.

*Congratulations to these exceptional educators who focus on student success!*



We were pleased to welcome **Judy Tapparra**, Mililani High School AP Psychology teacher and guests to the Capitol.

Photo at left, **Rep. Ryan Yamane**, Mililani High School Principal **Fred Murphy**, parents **Mervin and Shirley Wong**, spouse **Anthony**, and our guest of honor to my right.

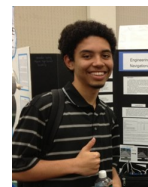
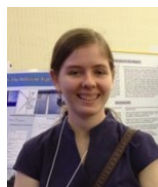
## Mililani Students do well at Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair

The team from Mililani High School came way with more than \$50,000 in awards, prizes and scholarships at the State Science and Engineering Fair this month.

Top honors went to junior Viola Mocz, who won recognition in several categories. Others in the Class of 2014 who won awards include Shelby Franklin, April Joy McCann, and Joseph Tagorda.

Freshman Zoey Simmons won an award, and classmate Cody Ching won a tuition scholarship to HPU, as did 10th grader Brandon Kinard.

And the mighty seniors from this year's Class of 2013 saw prizes awarded to Danielle Terukina, Marc Siler, Christopher Easterling, Lachlan Parlee and Victoria Roybal. *Keep up the good work!*



From left, MHS science students **Viola Mocz**, **Brandon Kinard**, **Marc Siler** and **Danielle Terukina** will represent the State at next month's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Arizona.



## New Budget Recommendation Last Night Allocates Funds for District 18

The proposed budget for the two years beginning July 1 includes \$21.8 million in funding for these projects:

- **\$6.3 million** for a new, state-of-the-art athletic field surface and all weather 8-lane track and other improvements at **Waipahu High School**
- **\$4 million** for resurfacing and installation of lighting along **Kamehameha Highway from Lumiauau Street to Lanikuhana Avenue**
- **\$3.85 million** for a new **Central Oahu ambulance facility in Waipio**
- **\$2.5 million** for construction of the **Kunia Agricultural Park**
- **\$2.28 million** for repaving on and off ramps along **H-1 in Waikele** and improvements to the **Kunia Interchange**
- **\$1 million** for rehabilitation and replacement of **Kipapa Stream Bridge**
- Funding totaling **\$1.9 million** for construction and improvements at **Kanoelani Elementary, Waikele Elementary, Mililani Waena Elementary and Mililani Middle Schools**

**Grants in Aid** support private agencies that provide valuable services to Hawaii residents. The Legislature determined that about \$30 million in grants could be supported through the sale of general obligation bonds, including the following:

- **\$100,000** for expansion of the preschool facility at **Mililani Presbyterian Church**
- **\$250,000** for construction at the **Filipino Community Center** in Waipahu
- **\$2 million each** for construction at the **Oahu Veterans Center**, the proposed new building for **PBS Hawaii**, and for energy improvements at **Bishop Museum**
- Funds for a variety of projects at **Lanakila Pacific, East-West Center, Damien Memorial High School, National Kidney Foundation Hawaii, Iolani Palace, Girl Scouts, Hale Kipa, Japanese Cultural Center, Moanalua Gardens Foundation, and the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business and Leadership at YWCA of Oahu**



Student groups frequently come to visit at the State Capitol during our legislative session. I always try to make time to chat with them about what my job as a Senator is, and the kinds of things they see while here. **At left above**, students from **Kaleiopuu Elementary** in the Senate Chamber gallery, and at right above, I had a chance to welcome a larger group from **Mililani High School**. **Below left**, the Women's Legislative Caucus again organized an Easter Basket campaign in which helpful household items such as kitchen, bath and cleaning supplies are collected as donations to the Institute for Human Services (IHS) homeless shelter. **Senator Roz Baker** and I were joined by **IHS Executive Director Connie Mitchell** as baskets were gathered for delivery. **Below right**, three students from **Holomua School** in Ewa Beach were named winners of a public contest to design the mission patch to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Challenger Center for space studies in Kapolei. The students and their winning designs from left are **Jaden Custard** (2nd place), **Maya Woo** (1st place) and **Suzy Chung** (3rd place). I joined them in the Governor's office for the announcement of winners, with Maya's teacher, **Will Kane**, who also works in my Senate office.



### Capitol Photo Gallery



# Our streets and roadways . . . Everyone's concern

*Area legislators hosted a public Town Hall Meeting to hear about transportation issues earlier this month.*

A very good turnout of more than 100 residents came to Mililani High School cafeteria where both State and City transportation departments outlined plans for the future, discussed their programs for keeping up with pothole and road maintenance issues, and answered questions about transportation matters important to all of us. *In the photos below*, left, Mililani residents listen and learn; center and right photos, a large screen PowerPoint presentation covered a variety of topics; Representative Ryan Yamane and I still had lots of time to meet individually and in small groups with our neighbors.



It doesn't matter to most people whether road repairs are done by the State or the City, but the reality is that there are two jurisdictions responsible for streets and highways. Here's an update on projects we heard about at this month's Town Hall session:

## State Projects:

- ◆ A number of smaller road repairs will be carried out along H-2 between the Waiawa Interchange and the Wahiawa Interchange this year, with bids to be solicited starting next month.
- ◆ A major study of the Mililani Interchange will begin in June to see if alternate traffic patterns might improve traffic flow.
- ◆ A \$13 million contract for resurfacing of Kamehameha Highway from Waihau Street to Ka Uka Boulevard will be put out to bid in September.
- ◆ Planning and environmental permitting are underway for the proposed widening of Kamehameha Highway from Lanikuhana Avenue to Ka Uka Boulevard – expanding the roadway to four lanes and possibly replacing the Roosevelt (Kipapa Stream) Bridge. Rehabilitation work will be carried out on the bridge as planning and permitting continues.

## City Projects:

- ◆ The Department of Design and Construction reported that Meheula Parkway is to be resurfaced in two phases—from Lanikuhana to H-2, and then from H-2 to the end—with work to be completed in 2014.
- ◆ Lanikuhana and Kuahelani Avenues are to be resurfaced “within a year.”
- ◆ Evaluations of requests for traffic signals are ongoing with design for new signals at Meheula Parkway at Kuaoa—near the self storage building—expected to be complete next month and the signals to be in place in about a year.
- ◆ A shoulder/parking lane is to be implemented when resurfacing is done along Anania Drive beginning in 2014
- ◆ Approximately \$9 million in localized street paving projects was completed in February, with another \$11 million in projects underway in East Mililani/Mililani Tech; another \$8 million in projects (Meheula and Anania) are currently pending, and about \$10 million in paving and resurfacing work is pending in Waipio Gentry.
- ◆ **For City projects, please contact Councilman Ron Menor for updates and current status—telephone 768-5009.**

## Family of CWO 2 Don C. Viray of Waikele receives Hawaii Medal of Honor



Several years ago, the state Legislature authorized the award of a Hawaii Medal of Honor to memorialize the sacrifices of military service men and women from Hawaii, or personnel who were stationed at bases in Hawaii, who died in Iraq or Afghanistan. The

Medal was awarded to the families of 19 service members in solemn ceremonies at the State Capitol last month.

Among those recognized was **U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Don C. Viray of Waikele**. CWO 2 Viray served in the 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Wheeler Army Airfield. He and three other Schofield soldiers died in the crash of their Black Hawk helicopter on a nighttime flight in bad weather almost exactly a year ago in southern Afghanistan. It was a pleasure to meet and host the Viray family, even under these sad circumstances, and to learn about Don's love for his job as an active-duty helicopter pilot.



*Above, from left*, Governor Neil Abercrombie, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, CWO 2 Don Viray's girlfriend Joy Pacba, sister Sherry Anne Viray, parents Luz and Leodindo Viray, House Speaker Joe Souki and Hawaii Adjutant General Daryl D.M. Wong.