

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

As this newsletter is being printed and distributed to our neighborhood boards this week, many decisions on the state budget have yet to be finalized. I can report that the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the House Finance Committee both worked hard to establish budget priorities and act with caution in the face of new evidence that what the administration



Committee on Ways & Means ~ approving the Senate budget

had earlier announced as a "surplus" was simply a bit of a cushion and not a windfall.

Our process calls for deliberations on a final budget agreement, and officially filing - or "decking" - the bill with the Senate Clerk no later than Friday, April 25. That meets our established internal deadlines so that we can adjourn on schedule - on our 60th session day - on Thursday, May 1. I am confident that we will meet the deadline for wrapping up our work.

Overall guidance in formulating the state spending plan has come from **Senator David Ige**, our Ways and Means Chair. Here are his remarks to open our conference committee meetings:

"Last session we made the decisive, thoughtful, and fiscally responsible decisions needed to cut \$254 million from the administration's requested expenditures. At the beginning of this session, my counterpart in the House and I predicted the downgrade in revenue projections, which were confirmed by the Council on Revenues, and proactively prepared for this forecast by taking a conservative and responsible approach toward this supplemental budget."

My focus as Ways and Means Vice Chair has been on the state's construction budget. While we must consider *all* of the state's needs as a "big picture," I am always mindful of priorities for our Senate District 18. This includes allocating money needed to upgrade and expand our public schools to assure our students are educated in a safe and secure learning environment and that they are able to take full advantage of state-of-the-art technology. I am also firm in my support for the two University of Hawaii campuses that we consider "ours" - Leeward Community College and UH West Oahu - both vital to serving central and leeward Oahu students.

A show of unity among Senate conferees



I will be reporting on the Legislature's final budget decisions in my coming MidWeek columns and in future issues of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued input on how we can best meet the needs of our communities.

Me ke Aloha pumehana,



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

*Celebrate our Trojan Seniors on Sunday,
May 25, at Aloha Stadium*

*Salute our Marauder Graduates on Tuesday,
May 27 at Blaisdell Center*



At the Capitol . . .



Capitol Photo Gallery



We are always happy to see young people at the Capitol, especially those who express an interest in the Legislative process and the work we do to represent our districts.

In the photo above, Senator Jill Tokuda and I talked with **Justin Leong** following our meeting of the Committee on Education. Justin lives in **Waipio Gentry**. He was interviewing us for his work on a Boy Scout merit badge.



Mililani Middle School Student Body President Travis Afuso (*left and above*) visited my office and then joined me and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz in the Senate Chamber. Travis was a “shadow” for Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui for the day. Travis tells us he may apply for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.



Above, pinwheels set out on the Capitol lawn captured the wind for much of April. They drew public attention to programs to prevent child abuse. (Grandson Kahiau checked out the display on a sunny afternoon.)

At left, leaders of the **Japanese Women’s Society Foundation** were recognized as the Foundation celebrates its 60th anniversary. With me on the Senate floor are President-elect **Irene Nakamoto** (*left*) and current President **Ann Kobayashi**.



An Easter Tradition . . .

For several years, members of the Legislature and their staffs have collected household goods, toiletries and other useful items as donations to families at the Honolulu homeless shelter at the Institute for Human Services (IHS). *At right*, some of the dozens of baskets await pickup for Easter weekend distribution.



Visitors to my office know the large and very expressive digital artwork by photographer **Sally French** that greets them when they enter. It’s part of the State’s great collection of the work of Hawaii artists. *Above*, the artist visited us at the annual Art at the Capitol open house earlier this month. (And that’s my grandson Kahiau with us.)

We Salute Our Students and Teachers . . .

Students from three schools in Mililani and Waipahu were winners at the State History Day Fair sponsored by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities.

◆ **Youth Division – Grades 4-5 – Mililani Ike Elementary**

Riana Abeshima and Aaron Otsu were recognized for their exhibits, and Allison Yamakawa and Emily Tom both produced exceptional Web sites. Congratulations to their teacher, Alison Tanaka.

◆ **Junior Division – Grades 6-8 – Waipahu Intermediate**

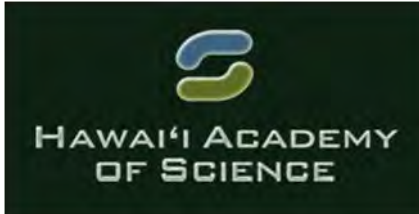
The team of Alyssa Cortez, Leila Fernandez and Mikaella Liban won for their exhibit. Another team – Recagrace Arellano, Michelle Kate Baon and Cherisse Anne Guererro – took home honors for their Web site. Congratulations to Waipahu Intermediate teachers Cynthia Tong, Lorena Kusakabe and Robert Tabije.

◆ **Senior Division – Grades 9-12 – Mililani High School**

Tim Leoncio won the Web site division. Congratulations, Tim, and teacher Amy Perruso.



E mālama i ka mo'olelo
Let us Care for History



Above, Mililani's Science Fair team; *left*, poster contest winner Sharon Sakuma. *Below*, the Waipahu High School contingent. **Great job!**



Students from Waipahu and Mililani High Schools won cash prizes and ribbons at the three-day State Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by the Hawaii Academy of Science at the Hawaii Convention Center.

◆ **From Waipahu High School:**

- * Ten members of the Senior Class of 2014 – Charlyn Manuyag, Fely Magaoay, Justin Pascual, Maria Jurado and Mark Apuy, the team of Jasmin Valera and Irene Kuikahi, and the team of Kayla Obrero, Reina Tasan and Nicholas Ucol. Maria won an Academy ribbon for the best Senior Research project in Chemistry.
- * Four juniors also won – Jethro Macareg, Neil Garcia and the team of Karole Martin and Arvin Agacid.
- * The sophomore team of Sydney Millerd and Therenz Andres won an Academy ribbon for best Senior Research in mathematics.

Waipahu science teachers Lucille Imamura, Teri Horiuchi, Michael Sana and Edmar Ramos sent these winners to this year's Fair.

◆ **From Mililani High School:**

- * MHS Senior Tess Cramer
- * Juniors Rhys Ragasa, Mason Lautzenheiser and Brandon Kinnard. Mason received the Academy's Best Senior Research Award for his research project in Behavioral/Social Sciences. Brandon was recognized with an Award of Excellence in the Engineering category.
- * Sophomore Sharon Sakuma

Mililani science teachers Nel Venzon, Christopher Johnson, Matthew Capps and Sandra Webb mentored these winning students.



Again this year, I was pleased to donate prize baskets at the big **Waikele Easter Egg Hunt**. The youngsters who found my special "Golden Tickets" were able to trade them in for their goodies that included games, puzzle books and toys (and a *FEW* candies).



The Native Hawaiian Education Association honored Waipahu High School's Hawaiian language teacher **Rebecca Kahealani Sanborn** as a 2014 Educator of the Year.

We paid a call on Kumu Sanborn's class earlier this month to present congratulatory certificates from both the Senate and House of Representatives.

From left in the photo, Representative Henry Aquino, language students, and with me in the center of the group are Kumu Sanborn and Representative Ty Cullen. →

Congratulations for excellent work to perpetuate our islands' Native Hawaiian culture!



In Our Communities . . .



Our Town Hall meeting at Kanoelani Elementary brought out interested residents to hear about the new ambulance station to be built in Waipio Gentry. *Center photo*. Emergency Services Director Mark Rigg reviews plans for the new facility. I also had a chance to talk with Scouts about their *Citizenship in the Community* merit badge. *From left*, Kurt Hoffman, Colin Ferguson, Kirabel Hoffman and Gavin Dunstan.



I was invited to speak at the opening of a great new addition to the Waialeale community - **UFC Gym BJ Penn** - the 100th facility in the parent company's lineup. With me and Hawaii's UFC Champion **BJ Penn** in the octagon is Representative Sharon Har. The company is actively looking for a third site.



UH West Oahu Chancellor **Rockne Freitas** was selected to receive the most prestigious alumni award from Oregon State University—his alma mater. I recognized the honor by presenting congratulations from the Senate to Rockne at a recent meeting of the UH Board of Regents.



Seussical the Musical is on stage at Mililani High School, April 25-26, and for several days in May.

Enjoy a great show and support our student actors!

ROBO FEST 2014



The Hawaii Chapter of **ROBOFEST** International is the largest regional group in the international program, first brought to Hawaii in 2007. As you can see (*lower left*) this year's event at UH West Oahu involved dozens of students in a variety of projects.

Keep up the good work!



We are so proud of students from our neighborhood schools that took home awards from **ROBOFEST** this year. Mahalo to the *Friends of Hawaii Robotics* and the many corporate sponsors!



High praise for Waipahu High School . . .

U.S. Secretary of Education **Arnie Duncan** made a stop in Hawaii on his return from Asia. During an official visit to Waipahu High School, the Secretary had a delicious three-course lunch at the student-run *Café Marauder* and (*photo at right*) met with WHS culinary arts students in the kitchen afterwards.

Waipahu is the second-largest high school in the state with 2,450 students. Waipahu Principal **Keith Hayashi** has led a tremendous academic turnaround at the school. Reading proficiency among 10th graders rose to 69 percent in 2013, increasing from 53 percent in 2011, while math proficiency jumped to 47 percent from 26 percent. The college going rate increased from 49 percent to 58 percent during the same time.

