

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors:

The Legislative session officially ended just three weeks ago, with the approval of a budget for the two years beginning July 1, 2013 about a week ahead of internal deadlines. This allowed for additional projects funded by separate bills to be carefully considered without undue pressures. We took a very reasoned approach to our allocation of funds, with a heavy investment in our public schools, much needed improvements to our transportation infrastructure, and to vital upgrades in technology that will allow State government to better serve the public.

Legislators took the first steps in supporting a school readiness program for our keiki by establishing the Preschool Open Doors Program, as well as appropriating funds for Kupuna Care and a Healthy Aging Partnership Program. We also made investments in the financial stability of the state with major contributions to the Hurricane Relief Fund and the Rainy Day Fund, and a first installment on reducing our unfunded liability for retirement benefits. Also with an eye toward the future, we invested in sustainability by creating a Green Infrastructure Loan Program that provides a pathway for individuals to more easily invest in energy saving devices such as photovoltaic panels.

This is just a brief overview of our work this year, and on the reverse side of this report you will find information about specific items we approved that will have a positive impact on our own geographic area. In the next two weeks, I will be providing additional details about the legislative session via a newsletter to be mailed to all households in Senate District 18. I think you will find it to be informative and useful as you consider issues of interest to you, your families and our neighborhoods.

As I conclude my fifth session as your Senator, please know that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and humbled by your continued support. As always, I am ready to hear your ideas about how State government can better serve the needs of our communities.

Me ke Aloha,

Waikele student leaders reach out to Legislature and DOE on school transportation issues

The Student Leadership Team at Waikele Elementary School received a first-hand response to their concerns about this year's cuts to school bus service. The Student Team had written to me about results of several surveys they conducted at Waikele that showed many students and their families were negatively affected by the cutbacks, and urging legislators to do what they could to restore services.

The Student Team's surveys pointed out that several students had missed days at school because bus service wasn't available, that others had to bike or walk to Waikele and felt "uncomfortable" doing so, that some youngsters were skipping breakfast to get to school on time, and some were staying late on campus waiting for parents to pick them up. There was also concern among Waikele students moving on to Waipahu Intermediate next year about whether there would be adequate bus service to that campus.

I wrote back to the students, but we also went one step further. I arranged for a personal meeting with the Student Team at their regular weekly meeting, and invited the Department of Education to send a representative as well. Mr. Ray L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent for School Facilities & Support Services, joined me at the session. We had a good meeting with the students and were able to explain that the DOE is working on a pilot project for next school year to create new efficiencies and cost savings in the student transportation system, planning to implement better routes and procedures in the 2014 school year. The information they gather for the pilot will include data from Waikele Elementary.

The solution to the problem won't be immediate, but I hope our meeting with the students helped them understand that the situation is complex and that any new and better system will benefit future Waikele students.

The DOE and I are committed to make sure this happens.

>>> **Thank you Waikele Elementary School Student Leadership Team! Back row left, Principal Sheldon Oshio, Senator Kidani and DOE's Ray L'Heureux. At right, Team Advisor Cathy Oyama.**



Investing in Hawaii's Future: Senate District 18 Projects

\$7.9 million for school construction

- ◆ **Waipahu High School:** \$5,500,000 design and construction funding for athletic field turf, an all-weather 8-lane track and related improvements; \$800,000 to build a retaining wall behind the school
- ◆ **Waikele Elementary School:** \$500,000 for design and construction to expand the cafeteria to add a performing arts stage; \$300,000 (in FY 2015) for planning and design for digital media and library expansion
- ◆ **Kanoelani Elementary School:** \$475,000 to build and equip a portable classroom building
- ◆ **Mililani Waena Elementary School:** \$325,000 to install or replace air conditioning equipment
- ◆ **Mililani Middle School:** \$300,000 for resurfacing the parking lot



I joined with students and their families for May Day celebrations at **Kanoelani Elementary** (above left) and **Kaleiopuu Elementary** earlier this month. Investing in our public education system pays big dividends for Hawaii's future generations. The two year budget we approved in late April includes **\$7.9 million in construction funds for schools in our district** out of a total investment of \$3.7 billion in funding for the education system statewide.

\$7.28 million for our roads and highways

- ◆ **Kamehameha Highway:** \$4,000,000 for resurfacing and installation of lighting, Lumiauw Street to Lanikuhana Avenue
- ◆ **H-1 Waikele:** \$1,500,000 for repaving of on and off ramps
- ◆ **Kipapa Stream (Roosevelt) Bridge:** \$1,000,000 for rehabilitation or replacement
- ◆ **H-1 Kunia Interchange:** \$780,000 for improvements to the interchange and approaches



My office hears from you about the conditions of our streets and highways more than just about any issue during the year. While most residential streets are under the jurisdiction of the City County of Honolulu, the major highways accessing our communities are the state's responsibility.

This year, we are funding significant improvements at two freeway interchanges, a major repaving project along an extended portion of Kamehameha Highway, and some initial steps to upgrade Kipapa Bridge, with the goal of eventually widening that span from two to four lanes. Statewide, \$1.7 billion has been allocated for highway, airport and harbor projects to improve transportation infrastructure on all islands.

\$6.7 million for economic development and community well-being

- ◆ **Central Oahu (Waipio) Ambulance Facility:** \$3,850,000 for planning, design and construction
- ◆ **Kunia Agricultural Park:** \$2,500,000 for design and construction
- ◆ **Filipino Community Center:** \$250,000 for a retractable roof to cover the courtyard, creating more useable space at the Center
- ◆ **Mililani Presbyterian Church Pre-School:** \$100,000 for classroom construction and expansion

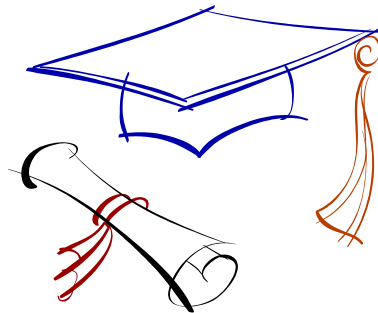
The abrupt closure of the HMC-West hospital and emergency room 18 months ago left a serious gap in health care coverage for communities in West Oahu. We welcome the announcement that Queen's Health System has begun renovation work at the facility and is on track to reopen the building next year.

As Central and West Oahu communities continue to grow, health care services remain a priority. The legislature this year approved nearly \$4 million for a new **Central Oahu Ambulance Facility in Waipio** that will help meet that critical need.



Celebrating Hawaii's Future Leaders

A packed Blaisdell Center Arena was the site for Waipahu High School's commencement ceremonies this week. The **582 graduates of the Class of 2013**, were joined by thousands of family members, friends, teachers and school administrators, all there to celebrate their students' successes and wish them well. **Waipahu High School marked its 75th anniversary this year** as one of Hawaii's legacy schools that serves as a true gathering place and a singular point of pride for the entire community. **This year's graduates qualified for more than \$11 million in scholarship grants.**



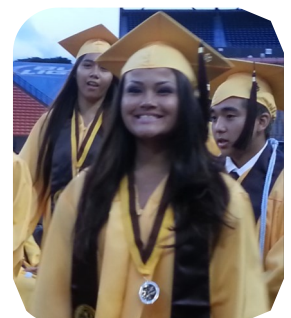
Congratulations to the 583 graduates in the Mililani High School Class of 2013! The Class qualified for a record \$12.4 million in scholarship grants, a true indicator that MHS builds great foundations and provides the tools to create opportunities for success in the years ahead.

We all share your pride in what you have accomplished and are grateful for the support of dedicated teachers, families and schoolmates who were at Aloha Stadium to wish you well at the ceremony that made for an extra special **Mother's Day** this year.

This was also a special day for new **MHS Principal Fred Murphy** (*speaking to graduates, above right*) who returned this year to assume the top job at his alma mater. He is a proud graduate of the Mililani Trojan Class of 1988.



Special thanks to ASMHS and student photographer *Joshua Lopez* for pictures ~ and to *Teijah Armbruster* (at right) who worked with me as a volunteer last year.



More recognition for Waipahu High School

DuPont Pioneer, the largest U.S. producer of hybrid seeds for agriculture, with substantial operations in Hawaii, presented \$15,000 to Waipahu High School for the WHS agriculture education program. The school also received a \$1,000 donation from the South Oahu County Farm Bureau.

DuPont Pioneer praised **WHS agriculture teacher Jeff Garvey** for doing an excellent job, inspiring his students to continue their interest in careers in agriculture.

The contributions were accepted by **WHS Principal Keith Hayashi**, and I was pleased to use this opportunity to present an official Senate Certificate to Principal Hayashi to recognize his selection earlier this year to receive the **2013 Masayuki Tokioka Foundation Award for Excellence in School Leadership**.



WHS Principal Keith Hayashi, agriculture teacher Jeff Garvey, Bridget Napier of DuPont Pioneer and Senators Michelle Kidani and Clarence Nishihara.

Mililani and Waipahu students shine in science competitions



Congratulations to MHS junior **Viola Mocz** for winning 3rd place in the Physical Sciences category at the 51st National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium in Dayton, Ohio.

Viola presented her research, "*New Ideas in Physics: The Mass Ratio of Elementary Particles From Torus Geometry.*"

In the photo at left, adult chaperone **MHS science teacher Nel Venzon**, Hawaii/Pacific Regional JSHS Director **Amanda Lowrey**, Charu Joserose (Tafuna High School, American Samoa), **Leo Carney** (South Pacific Academy, American Samoa), **MHS juniors Viola Mocz and Glenn Galvizo**, **Nathan Lee** (Kamehameha Schools), and adult chaperone **Dr. Jyothibhavan**.

Congratulations to all the math, science and tech teachers and students who participated in the annual State of Hawaii Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) week. **Mililani High School** received the first place overall award as the State Champion High School. **Waipahu High School** tied with **Leilehua High School** for top honors for the island of Oahu.



Waipahu High School students Fely Magaoay and Charlyn Manuyag have just returned from Phoenix, Arizona, where they represented the Leeward District at the **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**, the world's largest international pre-college science competition.

They were among the WHS students who won prizes at the 56th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair this spring.

Here are other WHS winners:

Kriztel Mae Agpoon, Maria Andrea M. Jurado, Jastinne May M. Orenia, Wisdom Inigo, Ezra Micah Gay-ya, Jennica Ramones, Karen B. Calaro, Connie Y. Kim, Chris A. Negrillo, Adrienne C. Macadamia, Dolly Ann B. Ricapor, Nikki C. Gasmen, Heather B. Ribac, and Walter R. Mamuad.

Congratulations to WHS Science teacher and Leeward District Science Fair director **Michael Sana** and other WHS teachers and mentors for creating an encouraging and nurturing environment for excellence in science and math education.



Preschoolers get to graduate, too!

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We're so proud of Kamalani as she moves on from Central Seventh Day Adventist preschool and continues to grow as a beautiful and loving granddaughter.