

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

It's taken nearly a year, but work is finally underway to replace the malfunctioning State Civil Defense warning siren in Crestview. Commercial Electric work crews moved in this week to un-install the old siren and replace it with a new one. A resident from Waikele - across Kamehameha Highway from Crestview - brought this concern to my attention last summer when he couldn't hear the siren during the monthly test on the first working day of July. Mahalo to State Civil Defense and the City Parks Department for pushing this replacement project through as quickly as they could. Next, Civil Defense plans to install a new siren in Waikele Community Park and is working to move that project to a higher priority for next year.

I'm pleased to report that Governor Ige has released funds that I included in the legislature's budget for the following projects:

- ◆ **\$28.8 million** for design and construction of a new Administration and Allied Health Facility at UH West Oahu.
- ◆ **\$5.5 million** to construct and install a new synthetic track and field surface at **Waipahu High School**.
- ◆ **\$800,000** for construction of a retaining wall behind buildings on the **Waipahu High School** campus to stabilize ground movement affecting those buildings.
- ◆ **\$99,200** in additional funding for the \$2.1 million design phase for rehabilitation of the **Kipapa Gulch (Roosevelt) Bridge**. This project is 80 percent financed by the Federal government and 20 percent by State funds.

In the several weeks following the end of our Legislative session, the administration's thorough review of bills we passed and sent to the Governor has been underway. The State Constitution sets out deadlines for decision-making; more information about this is on page 2 of this newsletter, along with notes about some recent bill approvals of interest. As chair of the Senate Education Committee, I am especially pleased that we passed a number of important measures affecting our schools for enactment into law, and I'll be discussing those bills and their effects on district residents in coming issues of the newsletter and in my MidWeek columns. As always, I encourage your participation in our law-making process and welcome your comments and ideas.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



A sea of white filled hundreds of seats at the Blaisdell Center in late May – class valedictorians up front (*photo at right*) with thousands of family members, friends and teachers on hand to cheer the graduates.



Graduation Day! Last month's Neighborhood Board meetings were scheduled just a few days before the Waipahu High School graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2015, so let me share these photos this month. The 560 seniors reached a number of milestones – 13 valedictorians, 9 graduates selected for Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, and more than a third of the class earned college credits through Early College programs. Graduates also earned \$15 million in merit based scholarship grants.

Congratulations!

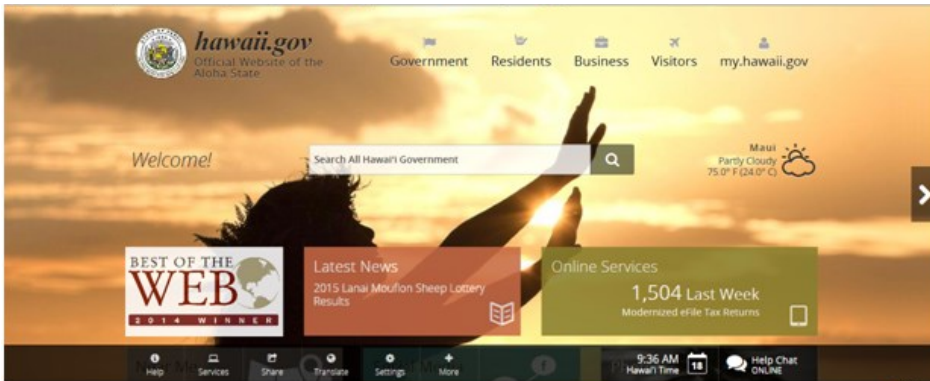


Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228, phone (808) 586-7100; email: SenKidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
Visit Senator Kidani's Legislative Web site: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> – click on Senate, then Members

Notes from the Capitol



For the second year in a row, the State's *Hawaii.gov* official website of the Aloha State has won top honors as the best Government website in the country in the Interactive Media Awards (IMA) program. In praising the site, IMA said *Hawaii.gov*, first launched in 2013, set a new standard



for state websites in its design for mobile devices, built for touch, speech and accessibility to government information and services for all users. **State Chief Information Officer Todd Nacapuy** said, "When it comes to our state's website presence, Hawaii is maintaining a level of excellence shared by few other states. This latest recognition for *Hawaii.gov* demonstrates how the State can succeed when we combine innovation and responsiveness to the public's needs." **Best of all, Hawaii.gov has been designed and continually updates at no cost to Hawaii taxpayers through a public-private partnership with the Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC. Try it; you'll like it!**

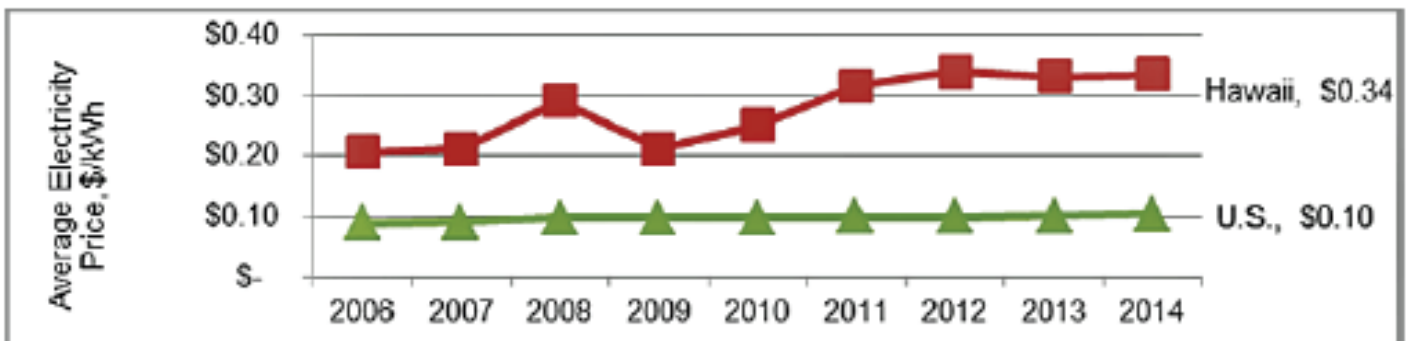
Governor Ige has until next Monday, June 29, to inform the Legislature of any bills being considered for a veto. He must veto or sign all bills sent to him by July 14, or they become law without his signature.

Governor Ige last week signed a bill that makes Hawaii the first state to prohibit the sale, purchase, possession or consumption of cigarettes, other tobacco products and electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) by anyone under 21 years of age. Hawaii continues to be a leader among states in tobacco use prevention and control. Statistics show the state has the third lowest adult smoking rate in the nation at 13 percent. Only about ten percent of young people in Hawaii are smokers, down from 28 percent in 1999. The new restrictions on sale, possession and use will go into effect on January 1, 2016.



The Governor earlier in the month signed several energy-related bills, including one that directs the state's utility companies to generate 100 percent of their electricity sales from renewable energy resources by 2045. In his remarks at the bill signing, the Governor thanked the Legislature for championing the renewable bill to ensure that Hawaii remains a national leader in clean energy. "As the most oil dependent state in the country, Hawaii spends roughly \$5 billion a year on imported oil to meet energy needs," the Governor said. "Making the transition to renewables allows us to keep that money at home to improve our economy."

Hawaii is the only state that depends so heavily on oil for its energy needs. Across the U.S., less than 1 percent of electricity is generated using oil, but in Hawaii we relied on oil for 70 percent and on coal for 14 percent of electricity generation. This contributes to Hawaii's high electricity prices – 34 cents per kilowatt hour – three times higher than the U.S. average. (Chart from the Hawaii State Energy Office)



End-of-school-year honors

Kaleiopuu



Grace Chinen & Lionel Roxas

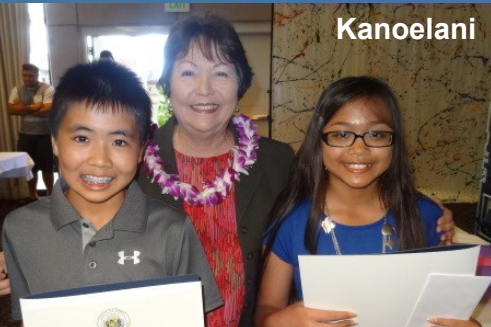
Each year, teachers in elementary schools in my district help me recognize outstanding 5th or 6th grade students who are moving on to middle or intermediate schools.

Mililani Waena



Gabriel Ramos & Destiny Sumile

Kanoelani



Noah Ogasawara & Jewel Rivera



Gabriel Ferido & Cody Chun

Congratulations to all of these young men and women who have done well in school – and to their teachers for their time and talent in developing our knowledgeable and caring leaders for our communities in the years ahead.

I give the students a Certificate of Congratulations from the Senate, along with a gift card – and a suggestion that summer reading is a wise use of their leisure time.

Mililani Uka



Mackenzie Kila & Joenes Adviento



The Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) provides students the opportunity for travel to the Asia-Pacific region on Spring Break Study Tour Scholarships funded by the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation. This year, two Waipahu High School students received travel grants. **Angela Acosta** travelled to Japan with ten other Hawaii students where she lived with a host family and took the bullet train from Kyoto to Osaka (for a Grand Sumo Tournament!) and Hiroshima. **Maelyn Bermudes** was in a group of six students who went to South Korea, spending time with local college students including a visit to the DMZ that divides North and South Korea. The PAAC also recognized **Aubrey Ibera** with the Eddie Tangen Academic Scholarship to support her continued schooling.

Congratulations for your good work that qualified you for these awards!



We are so proud of these Waipahu High School students who were recognized by the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council this year. From left, Angela Acosta, Maelyn Bermudes, and Aubrey Ibera, Aubrey is joined by PAAC Board of Governors Vice President, Jean Rolles and Board member Ray Tsuchiyama.

In Our Communities



For an exemplary record of leadership, service and activities that serve to improve the school and our community, the **Associated Students of Mililani High School (ASMHS)** have been awarded a 2015 National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils. My colleague **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz** and I were excited to present a Senate Certificate of Congratulations to several of the Council members at the school. *With us in the photo above from left, Lindsey-Reece Gano, Jamie Cambra, ASMHS President Austin Ajimura, Natalie Koch and Alysse Nakasato. Congratulations!*

The OIA (Oahu Interscholastic Association) honored Waipahu High School girls basketball coach **Nadine Villarmia** (with WHS Principal **Keith Hayashi**) for her 20 years as a coach. Nadine has also been a Special Education teacher at Waipahu for 20 years – a job that itself requires singular dedication and effort. *Mahalo and congratulations, Nadine!*



Waipahu High School's **Sabrina Collins**, a proud member of the Class of 2015, excelled in judo, wrestling and the discus and shot put in OIA track and field. She was inducted into the 2015 Hawaii High School Athletic Association Hall of Honor. At left, Sabrina with **Dan Gatewood** from Hall of Honor sponsor Enterprise

Rent-a-Car. *Well done Sabrina!* [HHSAA photo / Andrew Lee]



Mililani Boy Scout Troop 664 welcomed a new Eagle Scout last month. Congratulations to **Tyler Villegas** (at left with Scoutmaster **Mark Matsuo**). For the required Community Service Project, Tyler planned and coordinated the construction and installation of a 10-foot square gazebo, two *koi* ponds and two refurbished picnic benches at Cloudbreak Communities, a temporary housing community for homeless military veterans in Kalaeloa. He selected this project because it helps a group of citizens who served our country and who are now in need.



Opportunity of a lifetime . . .

At left at the White House, student activity coordinator **Joy Takara** and students **Sally Millon, Mc Erl David Andres, Ashley Mae Macadangdang, Clarissa Gomez** and **Sherrie Mae Gracie**. Below, visiting Arlington Memorial Cemetery with cherry blossoms in full bloom.

Thank you, Joy, for sharing photos!



Five students from Waipahu High School were selected for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., earlier this year to participate in a music industry GRAMMY Museum sponsored workshop. As part of the program, the 130 students from across the U.S. heard from First Lady Michelle Obama, toured the White House, the U.S. Capitol and other historic sites around the city. WHS Student Activities Coordinator **Joy Takara** called the trip “an awesome opportunity and experience for all of us.” Student **Mc Erl David Andres**, born in the Philippines and looking forward to becoming a U.S. citizen, called the experience “a real eye-opener!”

Mahalo to WHS Principal Keith Hayashi and VP Alvan Fukuhara for expediting arrangements for these lucky students.