

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

The two tropical storms that have passed near Oahu this year are vivid reminders of how important it is to be prepared for emergencies - and also how important our emergency warning systems are. I've reported previously about the malfunctioning civil defense siren in Crestview that also serves as a warning device for the neighboring communities of Waikele and Waipio Gentry. *State Civil Defense informed me this month that a replacement for the Crestview siren should be in place in early December - a few weeks ahead of schedule - restoring service to those three communities.* Also, warning coverage will greatly improve with a new siren to be installed in Waikele Community Park - also ahead of schedule—sometime in 2015. We are grateful to State Civil Defense for moving ahead on these two projects.

I am pleased to report that a contract has been awarded to Haron Construction of Pearl City for \$253,600 for construction of a second ramp to provide additional disability access to the **Kaleiopuu Elementary School campus in Village Park** as well as quicker evacuation from the campus in the event of an emergency. The award notice indicates that work on the new ramp should begin soon. Also, I was notified that a contract for \$221,386 has been approved for Henry's Equipment Rental and Sales of Waianae for a variety of repair and maintenance projects at **Kipapa Elementary School in Mililani.** *Both of these awards are important for upgrades and improvements at our campuses, and also for providing jobs for our Hawaii workers.*

Funds in the Legislative budget are now available to address needs of Central Oahu farmers:

- ◆ **\$300,000 - Kunia Agricultural Park** - Supplemental design funds to create a 150-acre agriculture park located on prime agricultural land in Central Oahu. The plans include provisions to subdivide the land parcel into 24 agricultural lots with 24 corresponding residential lots.
- ◆ **\$250,000 - Waiahole Water System Improvements** - Planning and design funds for Improvements to install a pipe in deteriorated sections of the Waiahole Ditch that brings water from Windward Oahu to Central Oahu farmers.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Mail-in absentee ballots have been sent to voters who asked for them.

You may still request an absentee ballot until Tuesday, October 28.

Early walk-in voting sites at Kapolei Hale and Honolulu Hale will be open through Saturday, November 1.

Questions? Call 453-VOTE (453-8683)

OIA Division Champions Moving On . . .



Congratulations to the undefeated **Mililani High School Varsity Football Trojans** – already winners of the **OIA Blue Division 1 title** – and now moving on to Thursday night's semi-finals against the Campbell Sabers in the OIA Championship Tournament.



Congratulations to the **Mililani High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Trojans** – winners of the **OIA West Division 1 title** – and advancing to this week's semifinals.

~~ GO TROJANS! ~~

Notes from the Capitol

Senate meeting in two day Special Session

As this newsletter is being prepared, the State Senate is meeting in special session to consider nominations for judicial positions. Margaret Masunaga has been appointed as a District Court judge for Hawaii Island. Attorney Jeffery P. Crabtree and current District Court Judge Christine E. Kuriyama would fill Circuit Court vacancies on Oahu. The Hawaii State Constitution provides that these appointments must be approved by the Senate.

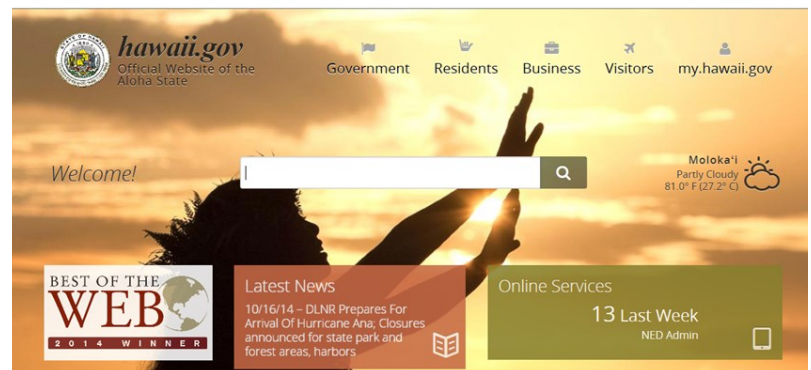


Senate Judiciary Chair Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro presided at Monday's hearing for nominees Margaret K. Masunaga (above left), Jeffrey P. Crabtree and Judge Christine E. Kuriyama.



Hawaii.gov judged 'Best of the Web' for 2014

Hawaii's online Web portal – **Hawaii.gov** – was judged best in the nation by the Center for Digital Government that recognizes the best of all government Web sites across the US. **Hawaii.gov** is a one-stop Internet site that facilitates access to State government agencies for services to the public, businesses and consumers, even for visitors who are planning travel to the islands. State Chief Information Officer Keone Kali said his team from the Office of Information Management and Technology is dedicated to improving "citizen-facing" services to make it as easy as possible to carry out transactions with the State government. Web sites for all State departments and agencies have been upgraded in the last year and new online capabilities are being added on a regular basis.



The **Best of the Web** honor is the latest in a string of awards for the State's innovative online presence. The national award will be formally presented at a program in San Francisco this week.

Take a few minutes to explore – you'll be surprised at what you find! <http://hawaii.gov>.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is recognized as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. As part of the effort to heighten awareness of the seriousness of this issue, I joined my fellow women legislators and other women's organizations at an event hosted by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. **Commission Chair Catherine Betts** is at the podium in the photo above. **U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono** also participated in the program.

Statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 35.7 percent of women in Hawaii and 21.8 percent of men have experienced physical violence committed by an intimate partner. The figures nationwide are 35.6 percent and 28.5 percent respectively according to the CDC.

The event at the State Capitol also marked the 20th anniversary of the passage of the federal Violence Against Women Act that has provided resources for agencies working to educate family members about the devastating effects of domestic violence and to improve services to those suffering from abuse.

As pointed out in my previous newsletter, I am a champion for **Coaching Boys into Men** adopted by **Mililani High School** – the anti-violence program that teaches boys on athletic teams about respecting women and modeling respectful behavior for their peers.

Constitutional amendments on the ballot



The Legislature approved five amendments to the State Constitution that will be on the November General Election ballot for voters to consider.

Please review these important issues carefully as you prepare to vote.

- The wording for each question is exactly as it will appear on the ballot.
- The bill numbers are references to the actual bills we approved and which can be reviewed in their entirety on the Legislature's Web site: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov>. Enter the bill number in the appropriate box to link to text and committee reports that explain the intent of the amendments.

Question 1 – HB 420

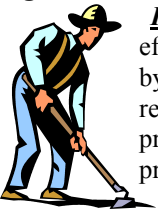
"Shall the judicial selection commission, when presenting a list of nominees to the governor or the chief justice to fill a vacancy in the office of the chief justice, supreme court, intermediate appellate court, circuit courts or district courts, be required, at the same time, to disclose that list to the public?"

From the Legislature's committee report: On November 15, 2011, the Judicial Selection Commission amended its rules to disclose the list of judicial nominees to the public at the same time the names are transmitted to the Governor or Chief Justice, as applicable, to appoint a justice or judge to fill a vacancy on the state bench. This measure adopts this rule change by amending the Hawaii State Constitution to explicitly require the disclosure of the names of the judicial candidates, thereby increasing the transparency of the judicial selection process.

Question 2 – HB 748

"Shall the State be authorized to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds to assist agricultural enterprises on any type of land, rather than only important agricultural lands?"

From the Legislature's committee report: This measure seeks to aid Hawaii's agricultural community by supporting efforts to achieve food security and sustainability throughout the State. The special purpose revenue bonds authorized by this measure will alleviate the burden on producers and processors by offsetting the costs of transportation and replacement of aged and obsolete infrastructure, as well as address regulatory compliance issues. This measure will provide a lower cost financing mechanism to Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to carry out many critical agricultural projects that will help improve Hawaii's economy while enhancing the State's ability to be agriculturally self-sustaining.



Question 3 – SB 886

"Shall the mandatory retirement age for all state court justices and judges be increased from seventy to eighty years of age?" **From the Legislature's committee report:** There are a number of judges and justices who are willing and able to serve on the bench past the current mandatory retirement age of seventy. While your Committee recognizes that a mandatory retirement age ensures continued opportunities to serve on the bench, it believes that judges and justices who are willing and able to serve should be allowed to do so until the age of eighty.



Question 4 – SB 1084

"Shall the appropriation of public funds be permitted for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs that shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex or ancestry, as provided by law?"

From the Legislature's committee report: Your Committee finds that high quality early learning programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are critically important for ensuring the success of Hawaii's keiki. In addition, significant, long-term benefits realized through investments in high-quality, early learning systems have been proven through decades of research. Hawaii is one of only eleven states that do not publicly fund early education. Your Committee recognizes the need to form public-private partnerships to provide Hawaii's keiki with high-quality early childhood education. This measure will authorize the implementation of S.B. No. 1095 (2013), to allow the Office on Early Learning to contract with private early learning education programs, which have been the primary providers for early education in Hawaii.



Question 5 – SB 2876

"Shall the State be authorized to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds to offer loans to qualifying dam and reservoir owners to improve their facilities to protect public safety and provide significant benefits to the general public as important water sources?"

From the Legislature's committee report: Your Committees find that the implementation of the Dam and Reservoir Safety Act of 2007 mandates dam and reservoir owners to bring their dams and reservoirs into compliance. Over eighty percent of the dams in Hawaii were constructed before 1940 to support the sugarcane plantations. Due to the age of these facilities and deferred maintenance due to demise of the sugar industry, without needed safety improvements, many dams could pose risks to life and property when they fail. Depending on the extent of the required improvements, some dam and reservoirs owners may not have the resources to fund these improvements.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4 ~ Please vote!

In our Communities

Good news for Mililani residents from the Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Ant Lab.

Two rounds of pesticide applications have worked well to significantly reduce an infestation of Little Fire Ants at a handful of residential properties in Mililani Mauka. An update on the control program was the topic of a second town hall meeting that my colleague Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and I scheduled last week. A third round of treatments is scheduled, with a total of eight treatments that will continue through May 2015. Officials reinforced the importance of residents continuing to watch for the ants to help prevent their spread to other areas. Mililani Town Association is assisting in these efforts by designating Rec Center 6 as a central point where residents can drop off ant samples to be checked and identified. MTA has purchased a freezer where ants are held pending agriculture inspector pickup. *For the latest update, check online at <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/>*



Participate! Some public events that you may wish to attend . . .

Wednesday, October 29 – A forum will discuss **Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Workplace** – part of the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, sponsored by the Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women and the Hawaii State Bar Association Committee on Diversity, Equality and Access to Law. Suite 1000, 1100 Alakea Street, beginning at 12 noon. RSVP Catherine.A.Betts@hawaii.gov.

Thursday and Friday, November 6 & 7 – **6th Annual Schools of the Future Conference** at the Hawaii Convention Center. Open to the public, including students and parents, as well as educators and business & community members. Sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Education, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and the Hawaii Community Foundation. Information and registration at <http://sotfconf.org/>

Saturday, November 8 – **The first-ever Health & Wellness Fair sponsored by Mililani High School Athletics.** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free and open to the public at the Mililani Gym. Blood Bank of Hawaii, Hawaii Bone Marrow Registry, American Cancer Society and many others will have booths at the event. UH med school students will be doing blood pressure checks, HPD will offer Keiki ID information, and a variety of games and other activities will be available. **GO TROJANS!**

Saturday, November 15 – **9th Annual Taste of Waipahu!** Showcasing the best of Waipahu – food, entertainment, community organizations – that make Waipahu a great place to live and work. Waipahu Festival Marketplace on Waipahu Depot Street. Sponsored by the Waipahu Community Association, all day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Information at 677-6939.

Kamehameha Highway work underway!

Many of you are aware that I have worked long and hard with the State Department of Transportation to make major upgrades and safety improvements to Kamehameha Highway that still serves as a vital vehicle corridor between the two distinct areas of my Senate District - Mililani Town and the communities to the south – Village Park, Royal Kunia, Waikele and Gentry Waipio.

Anyone who drives this route knows very well that re-surfacing and other improvements are now underway. As this work proceeds, funds have been appropriated to begin expanding the Kipapa Gulch Bridge from a two-lane to a four-lane right-of-way as a final major part of the overall Kamehameha Highway work. A total of \$7.3 million has been allocated so far; the project is in the design phase with an estimated long-range completion date of the year 2020 at a total cost of about \$200 million.

Did you know . . . ?

Although commonly known as the Kipapa Gulch Bridge, this sturdy structure was originally named the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Bridge after it was originally built in 1933 to honor FDR, just elected 32nd President of the United States. Roosevelt led the country out of a deep recession, creating thousands and thousands of “work relief” jobs to upgrade the nation’s infrastructure, including construction of the Kipapa span.

The bridge was designed by W.R. Bartels, Chief Engineer for the Territorial Highway Department, using advanced design concepts of the day. Bartels designed all major territory of Hawaii bridge projects from 1932 until he retired in 1956. The Kipapa Bridge was constructed by the Hawaiian Contracting Company, owned by prolific Honolulu builder Walter F. Dillingham.

Drivers welcomed the new structure with joy because it saved them the tedious drive on the long and winding surface road through the gulch. It will be even better in a few years when it’s expanded from two to four lanes!



Kipapa Gulch (Roosevelt) Bridge