

Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-eighth Hawaii State Legislature

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



Chair, Committee on Education

Vice Chair, Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health

Committee Member
Higher Education and the Arts
Transportation and Energy

Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228

Phone 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aloha friends and neighbors,

MidWeek reported earlier this month that an online financial literacy program - called *MyMoney* - is now available to students at Waipahu, Waianae and Farrington High School students - thanks to resources and support from First Hawaiian Bank. **Waipahu High** already does well in the annual *LifeSmarts* competition that teaches real-life skills in this and other areas, and the new program will be a welcome supplement to *LifeSmarts* and the school's already well-established Business Services career pathway. WHS students also help to staff a mini-branch of the Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union on campus.

Mahalo to FHB and to **Waipahu Principal Keith Hayashi** for his participation in the several important Financial Literacy Task Force sessions that have been underway at the State Capitol. The Task Force was formed as a result of a resolution I introduced to come up with recommendations for curriculum development. The group is planning to wrap up their meetings this week and will soon have a report for the Board of Education to review.

We also send our best wishes to WHS students **Tiannah Marie Ohta** and **Sydney Millerd**. They are two of only 25 students selected from schools statewide to recognize their academic excellence, leadership, and service to their schools and communities. The State DOE has submitted their names to the US Department of Education as possible recipients of the **US Presidential Scholars Medallion**. They're at the beginning of the selection process that could lead to this national recognition and an invitation to Washington, D.C. We've got our fingers crossed for Tiannah and Sydney. *Good luck and congratulations!*

This month we pause for Thanksgiving. My fondest hope is that you all have much for which to be thankful, and that you are able to enjoy the day and the season in the company of family and friends. I wish everyone a warm and peaceful remainder of 2015 as the holidays approach.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Honoring our Veterans ~ Aboard the USS Missouri Memorial



With me from left, Michael Carr, USS Missouri Memorial Association President & CEO, and Senators Clarence Nishihara and Mike Gabbard

I was honored to be invited to a late afternoon ceremony at Pearl Harbor aboard the *USS Missouri* Memorial where the Veterans Day program focused on the 40th anniversary of the end of US combat in Vietnam.

My colleagues and I presented a Senate certificate to the Memorial Association, noting the important role Hawaii played during the war years.

November 11 has been set aside each year for more than a century to honor the military service of men and women in uniform – for which we are so grateful.



Notes from the Capitol



Left to right, newly-confirmed judges Melvin Fujino, Shirley Kawamura and James McWhinnie.

Senate Special Session approves judicial nominees

The Senate convened a two-day special session earlier this month to consider approval of three nominees for vacant judgeships that are subject to the confirmation process. The Judiciary Committee heard testimony from the three nominees, the public and from professional organizations, and upon the committee's recommendation, we voted to approve the appointments. District Court Judge **Shirley Kawamura** will now move up to a Circuit Court judgeship on Oahu. Hawaii Island Family Court Judge **Melvin Fujino** will fill a Circuit Court vacancy on that island. And **James McWhinnie** – an Oahu attorney in private practice – takes a District Court position.

An opportunity for public service

Governor Ige has issued an appeal to qualified and dedicated Hawaii resident volunteers to consider applying for positions on State boards and commissions. These positions offer a great opportunity for citizens to have a voice in government and to influence decisions that shape the quality of life we all enjoy.

The 185 boards and commissions cover a wide variety of expertise, including the Board of Health; State Board of Nursing; Board of Veterinary Examiners; Board of Taxation Review; Real Estate Commission; Board of Electricians and Plumbers; Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants; Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

To learn more about the responsibilities of the various boards and to see what positions are available, go online to boards.hawaii.gov. You can even start the application process at that site.



The **Hawaii Afterschool Alliance** organized a late October State Capitol rally of more than 400 youngsters who participate in various enrichment programs after classroom hours through the year. I joined several of my colleagues from the Legislature, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and numerous parents and leaders for a wonderful program that showcased the initiative, creativity, enthusiasm and bright talents of Oahu's students – all of whom benefit from such programs from A+ to the YMCA. The Hawaii rally for **Lights On Afterschool** was part of the annual National Afterschool Alliance to raise awareness of the importance of these programs. Sign wavers along Beretania Street attracted lots of attention during the afternoon!



There are many, many ways to celebrate the holiday season. I can especially recommend a very special event on the first weekend of December. Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, along with the Washington Place Foundation, will host **Christmas at Washington Place** on Sunday, December 6, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The home will be decorated for the holidays, and live Hawaiian musical entertainment is on the program. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 586-0249 by December 1 to save a seat!