

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

As we have been preparing for Thanksgiving this week, most of us are fortunate to have family and friends and safe and secure homes for which we can give thanks. But that is certainly not true of everyone, and we must be mindful of those in need and consider ways in which we can help to lighten their burdens. All of us should keep in mind the humbling words that a friend passed along recently. He was at a craft fair where someone was selling signs and plaques with smart, funny and inspirational quotes - some by famous people, others whose origin is unknown. The sign said:

The things we take for granted, someone else is praying for.

Be thankful for vibrant communities where people truly care about the well-being of their neighbors; for those who serve in uniform who we honored in our Veteran's Day ceremonies earlier this month; for teachers, whose tireless investments of time and talent nurture our future leaders; for health care workers, whose strength and skills are priceless in times of crisis; and for everyone who puts service to others before self-interest. *Happy holidays!*

On the horizon

The 2014 session of the Legislature will convene in just seven weeks. Many briefings and hearings are already being scheduled, and as always I invite your suggestions about how state government can be more responsive to our district's needs. Information for contacting my office is at the bottom of this page.

Me ke Aloha,

Congratulations to the 2013 OIA Champion Mililani High School Trojan football team!



Runners up in the State High School ~ Championship game ~ We thank you for a wonderful and exciting 12-2 season that made us all so very proud.



Standing with the Senate majority following final passage of the marriage equality bill

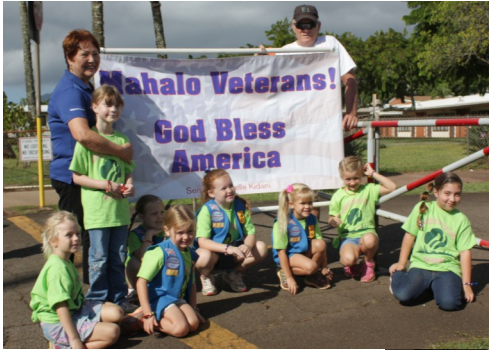
The marriage equality bill that was the subject of lengthy and impassioned debate during the Legislature's Special Session has been signed into law. Chair of the Judiciary Committee Clayton Hee, who guided the bill to overwhelming passage the Senate, spoke for the majority: "In Hawaii, we don't leave family behind. And we believe, above all else, that every member of our `ohana should be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity. This legislation underscores the spirit of Aloha and inclusion that defines who we are as the people of Hawaii. Today, the laws of Hawaii at long last reflect Hawaii's deepest values."



Signed into law November 13 ~ Hawaii's legacy of Aloha



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The annual *Taste of Waipahu* was a huge success, according to organizers who work on behalf of the **Waipahu Community Association**. *Above left and center*, the popular band **Island Storm** performs for an enthusiastic audience. Several thousand people enjoyed the food and entertainment, and to the **very wet State Senator** (*above right*) it seemed as though all of them had terrific arms at the Dunking Booth. All for a good cause, of course - to benefit the WCA Waipahu Festival Marketplace and Micro-Enterprise Training and Business Incubator.

Haiyan Relief -Typhoon victims in the Philippines need our help. Aside from the Red Cross, always prompt in its emergency response, much activity in the aftermath of the typhoon focused on our very own Waipahu Filipino Community Center.

I urge you to visit the Center – either in person or online – to see how donations to FilCom can be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Consuelo Foundation.



<http://filcom.org>
Red Cross - (808) 734-2101



Another annual event at this time of year is the **Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade**. Thousands of people lined the parade route (*left*) to salute our men and women in uniform - past and present. *At far left*, I was pleased to meet young lady girl scouts from our neighborhoods before the parade got under way. The people of our area are especially aware of the critical role the military plays in national security - with many residents of Wahiawa and Mililani serving in the Army at nearby Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield. We honor them with a heartfelt:

“Thank you for your service.”

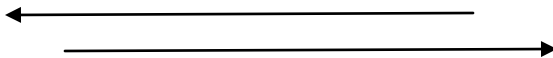
New Rules for Vehicle Safety Checks

Beginning this month, new regulations are in effect for vehicle safety checks to keep better records and help prevent past abuses of the system. Under the new rules, at least one photo of the inspected vehicle - including the license plate - must be taken to document that it was present at the time of the inspection. The inspection report and photos are transmitted to vehicle registration files on a secure server, eliminating backlogs in recording inspections. **A safety check for cars and trucks now costs \$19.19, and \$13.24 for motorcycles (plus tax).** Of the new fee, \$1.70 will go to the Department of Transportation for administration and enforcement, \$1.69 to the contractor, Parsons Environment and Infrastructure Group, for equipment and training, and the balance to the inspection station.



Honolulu Star Advertiser photo

Congratulations to **Dennis Francis**, publisher of the *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, for his selection as Publisher of the Year by the industry-leading *Editor & Publisher* magazine. Dennis was honored for his leadership and service to the community.



Hale Kula Elementary Special Education teacher **Teresa Cramer** is *Central District Teacher of the Year* - nominated by Principal Jan Iwase for her outstanding work with students and colleagues over the last decade. **Congratulations Teresa!**

