

Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature

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



Senate Vice President

Chair: Committee on Education

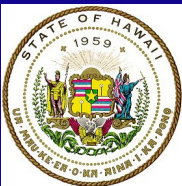
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Aloha friends and neighbors,

The words on the big screen (below) are a little hard to make out, but they are the key message that came out of our Town Hall Meeting on preparing for disaster last night.

Know where to go Know what to do Know when to do it

That message was repeated in different ways by senior representatives from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), the State Department of Education (DOE), and the City & County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management.

More than a hundred involved residents turned out for the meeting at Mililani Middle School. They brought questions, concerns and some good ideas to the forum. It was encouraging to hear how these agencies and many others in state and city government as well private sector organizations are communicating with each other and coordinating disaster response and recovery planning.

At left, Bg. Gen. Moses Kaiwi, Interim Administrator of HI-EMA, summarized the agency's basic message for all-hazard disaster response.



Note: Monthly tests of the state's warning sirens will continue on the 1st working day of each month. However, the ATTACK warning that has been sounded for the last three months will NOT be sounded until further notice as disaster response and recovery plans are being refined and updated.



Emergency Preparedness Resources

Mahalo to Mel Kaku, Director of the City & County Department of Emergency Management who reminded everyone at our Town Hall Meeting: **"We want you to be a survivor!"**

Here are some online sites that provide useful information about preparing for emergencies:

- ♦ Hawaii Emergency Management Agency <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>
- ♦ Receive alerts on your smartphone: Register at <http://hnl.info>
- ♦ UH Sea Grant College "Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards" <http://seagrantsoest.hawaii.edu/homeowners-handbook-prepare-natural-hazards>
- ♦ Forming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) <http://www.honolulu.gov/dem>

Being prepared is the key to survival. Are you ready?

At the Legislature . . .

We are about a third of the way through our 60-working-day Legislative session, with bills about to move from Senate to House and vice versa. Here are some measures that may be of interest to Mililani area residents:

◆ **SB 2387 – HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM:**

Mililani High School, along with Mililani Uka and Mililani Waena, now benefit from fresher, healthier menus created from locally-produced fruits, vegetables and meats from Hawaii farms. It's good for our students, and good for the agriculture industry in Central Oahu, the Ewa Plains and along the North Shore.

◆ **SB 3070 – STIPENDS FOR “GROWING OUR OWN” LICENSED TEACHERS:** The first class of students in this program began classes in January. Five of them are educators from the Mililani area who are working toward earning their teacher licenses. The program must continue if we are to address the chronic shortage of qualified classroom teachers.

◆ **SB 2922 – FUNDING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** This bill would let voters – not politicians – across the state decide whether they want to create a tax on vacation rentals and residential investment properties to fully fund our public education system. It is important that we find ways to increase financial resources for our public schools.

Follow the progress of bills, check hearing schedules, and even submit testimony at the Legislature's website: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

I enjoyed some time with 4th & 5th graders from Mililani Uka Elementary when they came to the Capitol this week. We talked about bills becoming laws, what a Senator does in her job, and our great schools in Mililani.



Later I gave up my seat for some fun photo taking. Mahalo for coming to visit and learn about Hawaii's government and experience our beautiful State Capitol! Good luck as you finish up the school year.

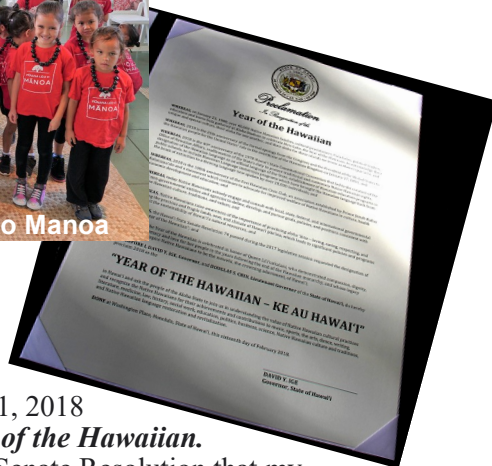


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Punana Leo o Manoa

2018 Year of the Hawaiian



Kupuna and keiki joined elected officials and invited guests for a program of traditional and contemporary *mele* and *hula* as the one-year period beginning June 1, 2018 was officially proclaimed *The Year of the Hawaiian*. The designation was requested in a Senate Resolution that my colleagues Senators Kahele, English, Galuteria, Shimabukuro and I introduced last year.

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of 'Olelo Hawaii immersion schools and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as the 25th anniversary of the formal apology from Congress and the U.S. President for America's role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893. It is also the 100th anniversary of the first Hawaiian Civic Club established by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

A program of events to mark the *Year of the Hawaiian* will be announced prior to the beginning of the commemorative period in June.



My Senate colleagues and I said a fond aloha to Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui, former Senate President and our colleague for many years. He has decided to leave elected office to pursue opportunities in the private sector, returning to his home island of Maui. Shan left the Senate to become Lt. Governor at the end of 2012. We wish him all the best for many more years to come. *Mahalo, Shan, for your service to the people of Hawaii!*





Fresh & Fabulous school lunches come to Mililani

The Farm to School initiative owes much to **Chef Greg Christian** (at right), of Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners. MHS continues to unveil new variations on its fresh food menus – even attracting singer-songwriter **Jack Johnson** (below) of Kokua Hawaii Foundation and his wife who stopped by to sample the fare and entertain MHS students.



I can personally attest to the wonderful menus that will be available to **Mililani High School, Mililani Waena and Mililani Uka** students as they are introduced to the `Aina Pono Farm to School program.

Lt. Governor Doug Chin and I were among guests invited to join Mililani students to sample locally-produced fruit and vegetable dishes and a delicious local-beef hamburger patty at a preview event.

The new menus provide healthier options for our students, and they benefit local farmers who can market their crops to the Department of Education.



Among our guests at the Senate this month were members of the **Hawaii Adaptive Surf Team (HAST)** who represented the 50th State in the International Adaptive World Surfing Championships in California. The team placed fifth in the world among 26 countries. HAST assists individuals with disabilities so they can enjoy the ocean with a variety of access programs. *I was so pleased to welcome surfer Ann Yoshida, a graduate of Mililani High School (left and above) during the Senate ceremony recognizing the team's accomplishments.*



Thank you, Ken Kang, for all you do for `Aiea High School students! Everyone was so excited when you were introduced as this year's **Hawaii Milken Educator** at a surprise school assembly.

Ken is a proud graduate of `Aiea High who returned to his alma mater as Technology Coordinator. He received a \$25,000 check from the **Milken Foundation** that for more than 30 years has supported public school teachers. In Hawaii, 76 teachers have received \$1.9 million in Milken grants.

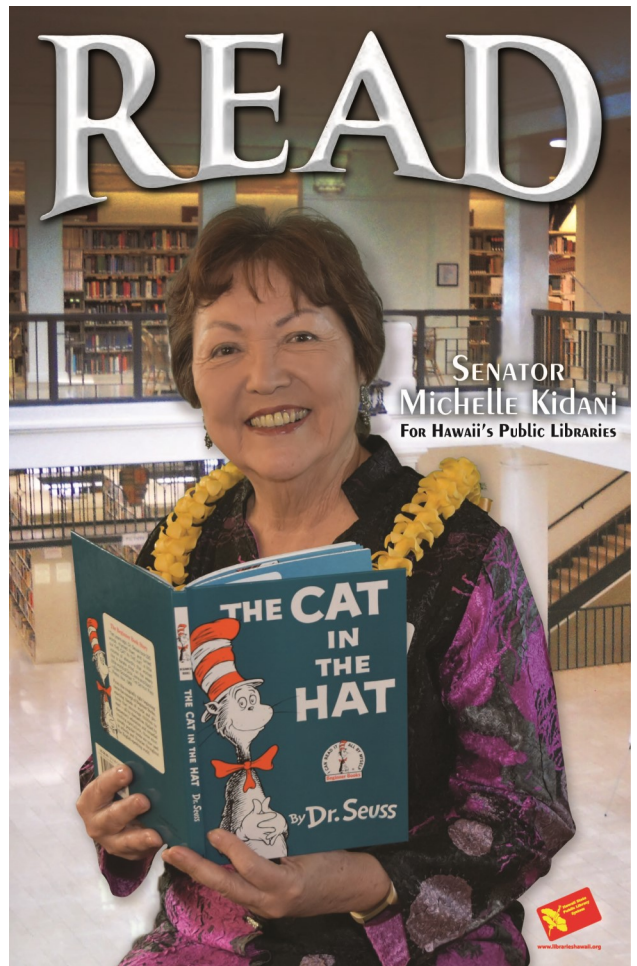
Ken was an engineer who was persuaded to get his teacher credentials. "I totally realized that this warm feeling of working with students, being able to help them focus on their futures, was so much more rewarding than just finishing up *my* project or *my* design," said Kang. "I felt much more joy in giving back to our students, who will become our future."



Mahalo to the Friends of the Library of Hawaii for honoring me as LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR.

Guests at our reception posed for poster photos to promote reading and literacy. Over the years, I have been invited to several elementary schools in my district to read to youngsters who LOVE the favorite book I always take along – The Cat in the Hat, by Dr. Seuss.

The Friends do a terrific job to support our public libraries across the state. Mahalo!



This session I introduced bills to strengthen the State's library system:

- ◆ The State has jurisdiction over numerous assets such as inactive bank accounts that are unclaimed by their owners – sometimes for many years. My **Senate Bill 2921** would specify that such accounts valued at \$10 or less that remain unclaimed for ten years be transferred into a libraries special fund.
- ◆ To enhance assistance to the public, my **Senate Bill 3002** would allow specified library employees to provide notary public services. Fees from this service would be deposited into a special fund for library use, and this valuable service to the public would be more widely available.
- ◆ **Senate Bills 2389 and 2919** would amend Hawaii law to allow underutilized lands where libraries are located to be leased, with revenues going to support the libraries. This could mean potential public-private partnerships to the benefit of the library system.

You can follow the progress of these bills through the legislative session at: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> by entering the bill number in the appropriate box.



Character Counts – all the time!

That was the common theme at displays (like the one at left by Kipapa Elementary students) at this year's Character Counts Fair. The Mililani High cafeteria – and the rest of the campus – was packed with several hundreds fair-goers who recognize the great successes of the program in all Mililani public schools.

Entertainment included the singers from Mililani 'Ike Elementary. ***Great job, everyone!***



Librarian of the Year!

Curt Fukumoto of Waikele has been named Librarian of the Year by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii. With him above right is **Nainoa Mau**, Friends' Executive Director. Curt's two dozen years of service have been at the Main Branch, Waianae, Salt Lake, Hawaii Kai and at Kaneohe where he is currently Children's Librarian. The Friends note that he enjoys creating programs to get the community into the library. Nearly 5,000 patrons enjoyed "Uncle Curt's" story times last year— complete with guitar and finger puppets. ***Congratulations, Curt!***



The fair was an opportunity to recognize **Gregg Iha** (at left), DOE Central District Teacher of the Year, who is the driving force behind the Character Counts program. He's a resource teacher for all Central District public schools. ***Mahalo, Gregg!***