

Senator Michelle Kidani

Thirtieth Hawaii State Legislature

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



Senate Vice President

Chair: Committee on Education

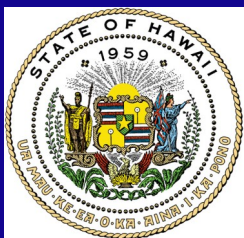
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Aloha friends and neighbors:

The U.S. Department has designated three Hawaii public elementary schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2018. We are so proud that our **Mililani Uka Elementary** is one of the three. Uka is one of six public elementary schools in my Senate District 18. It's the campus home to nearly 700 youngsters who have benefitted from excellent teachers who are committed to their students and led by **Principal Heather Wilhelm** and a wonderful staff.

For the record, the recognition honors schools that have demonstrated progress in achieving academic goals and improving performance as measured by state or national assessments. Mililani Uka students outpaced other public schools in Hawaii by scoring 28 percent higher in English language arts, 26 percent higher in math and 25 percent higher in science for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition, over the last four years, teachers at Mililani Uka have benefitted from ongoing professional development opportunities that focus on core academic subjects and effective instructional strategies.

All four of my children, my grandson Keaolana and grandson Akoni (who is in the 3rd grade currently) attended Mililani Uka, so I know from personal experience that the school lives up to its proud declaration that everyone on campus works to ensure that each child reaches her or his potential as a lifelong learner and strives to be a responsible citizen in our global society.

Principal Wilhelm, accompanied by two staff, traveled to Washington, D.C., earlier this month to accept a plaque at the national recognition program.

Left to right in this photo from the D.C. ceremony: school Student Services Coordinator Lorene Park, Principal Wilhelm and Jo-Ann Chang, the school's hard working School Administrative Services Assistant. Congratulations and mahalo to everyone who has contributed to Mililani Uka's excellence!



We are about to begin year-end holiday celebrations with Christmas and New Years just a month away. My fondest hope is that you can enjoy the sentiments and special events of the season among family and friends. At the same time, please keep in mind the needs of those who for one reason or another have little to celebrate, and for whom we can do something through the gift of time as volunteers or by our donations to service organizations that offer shelter and solace.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve families in our wonderful Mililani community and pledge my best efforts on your behalf in the next four years.

Mahalo . . . Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

The Trojan Nation turned out in force at Aloha Stadium for last weekend's football Open Division championship game against St. Louis. Alas, the Crusaders would not be denied. We won't dwell on the loss, but instead congratulate the players, Head Coach Rod York and his staff for giving their all for the school and our community. Mahalo to everyone who gave us a lot to cheer about in the 2018 season! (Thanks also to Kiman Wong from SPECTRUM for sharing some photos from game night on the next page.)

Notes from the Capitol

The State Senate met in special session last month to fulfill its constitutional authority to advise and consent to nominees to fill judicial positions.

After hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate confirmed **Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo**, an attorney in private practice – appointed by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald – to fill a Circuit Court vacancy.



In addition, the Senate approved the Governor's appointment of **Keith K. Hiraoka** – a Circuit Court judge – to serve on the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals.

In the absence of Senate President Ronald Kouchi, I presided over the special session in my position as Senate Vice President. Since the Senate Chamber was being used by the Office of Elections for election logistics and ballot printout distribution, our sessions convened in the State Capitol Auditorium.

On Friday, November 30, the Department of Transportation has scheduled a dedication and blessing ceremony to mark the completion of their project to rehabilitate the **Kipapa (Roosevelt) Bridge**. The bridge – built in 1933 – now meets current standards for load capacity, bridge railings and transitions to roadway approaches. In addition, the curb-to-curb width of the bridge has increased from 30 to 36 feet.

While the final score wasn't the result we all hoped for, game-day excitement brought the Trojan Nation together in support of our varsity football players. The team played their hearts out for the community – with dignity, respect for themselves and the fans until the final second ticked away. They made us all proud.

Congratulations to the 2018 Champion St. Louis Crusaders.



I was on the sidelines at Aloha Stadium with MHS Athletic Director Glenn Nitta and his wife Gail in the photo at left.

Head Coach Rod York (lower right photo) had high praise for his team all season.



The *Mililani YMCA* staged its annual Halloween Trunk & Treat fair the weekend before October 31 so that youngsters had the opportunity to collect some goodies ahead of time. I had ghosts and goblins, fairies and princesses and assorted other creatures stop by my booth. Thanks to the Y's Director, **Keola Taniguchi**, his staff and volunteers for setting up this safe and festive program for Mililani's keiki.

