

Senator Michelle Kidani
Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 - Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We continue to see the word “innovation” associated with modern-day education, and the current climate of our school system represents just that. In the first quarter of the new school year we are already witnessing the profound impact of innovative new programs and opportunities for Hawai‘i’s educators and students alike that are revolutionizing the way one can teach and learn. Education continues to be a primary focus within our state and I am proud to be leading remarkable changes prioritizing the health and wellness for students, teachers, administrators and families to thrive.

From the “Grow Our Own Teachers” initiative to Kanoelani Elementary’s new “Lokahi Lounge,” advancements at Leeward Community College and many others, there is much to celebrate by way of education. We are proud to stand for the students and educators who shape the future of Hawai‘i and know that with each new innovation we are planting seeds of hope for the generations to come.



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AYSO OPENING DAY



I love the annual AYSO Opening Day event at Mililani’s 16 Acre Park. Seeing the community come together to celebrate our AYSO soccer teams kicking off the start to their season always brings a smile to my face. Mahalo to my colleague, **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**, for providing shave ice and popcorn to our hard-working keiki and their families on a hot Saturday morning--they sure enjoyed it! Mahalo to our coaches who volunteer their time, we appreciate your commitment!



Photos L-R: **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**, **Rep Ryan Yamane**, Senator Kidani, **Steven McGehee**, AYSO commissioner **Sharon Mujtabaa**, **Rep Val Okimoto** & **Councilmember Ron Menor** celebrating the start of AYSO; “Have a great season, Lucas!” Senator wishes her grand nephew; the next generation of soccer players practicing with their coach.

NCSL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM IN MILAN, ITALY



Earlier in September I traveled to Milan, Italy to attend the NCSL International Leadership Symposium hosted and funded by the National Conference of State Legislatures. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to represent Hawai'i amongst 60 leaders from all across the U.S. at this exciting leadership conference!

HIDOE TEAM OF THE YEAR: NĀ HOPENA A'O KANOELANI

Congratulations to the Nā Hopena A'o Kanoelani Team, our Hawaii State Department of Education's 2019 Team of the Year! This dynamic team of volunteers hosted Kanoelani Elementary School's 2nd annual Choose Love conference in February, an event dedicated to ending school violence through social and emotional learning opportunities and creating a safe, nurturing environment for students to thrive.

We are so proud of the extraordinary leadership of team members **Elaine Shibuya, Cy Ohira, Iris Oshiro, Lily Miyamoto, Gerald Cabral, Anthony Cabiara** and **Lynne Suefuji**. We are thrilled to have them represent HIDOE at the Governor's Awards for Distinguished State Service later this year!



Photo provided by HIDOE

HAWAII BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE: EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING



The Hawaii Business Roundtable gathers industry leaders from all facets of business and education whose goal is to promote the overall economic vitality and social well-being of Hawai'i, specifically in building a strong public education system for keiki to thrive. This month I had the opportunity to present some of my legislative work in education to HBR's Education Committee. The business community has really come together in realizing that their future workforce is dependent upon the workers that our public education system can produce, and their partnership is critical in ensuring that our students have access to valuable internships, scholarships, and opportunities to compete in a global economy.

LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEPTION



Aloha to our new **LCC Chancellor Carlos Peneloza**. I look forward to working with him to continue to serve the students of the Leeward and Central O'ahu area. (Photos L-R: Former UHWO Chancellor **Doris Ching, Senator Nishihara, Senator Dela Cruz, LCC Chancellor Carlos Peneloza, Senator Kidani** and **Mike Unebasami; Senator Nishihara, Senator Kidani, Chancellor Peneloza** and **Councilmember Brandon Elefante**).

SPECIAL SESSION FOR JUDGES



One of the important duties of the Senate is to confirm nominees to various boards and commissions as well as judicial nominees selected by the Hawaii Judicial Selection Committee. As part of our checks and balances system all judicial nominees must be confirmed by the Senate. This month we confirmed: **Kevin Souza, Lisa Cataldo, Ronald Johnson, John Tonaki, and Trish Morikawa** to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. We also confirmed **Clyde Wadsworth** to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Congratulations to all!

KICKSTART PROGRAM



Kickstart has been working with youth across O‘ahu in their after school programs. Their annual fundraiser supports karate programs helping children build character, physical fitness and values. In addition to karate classes, Kickstart engages in community service projects with participating youth. Mahalo to former police chief **Lee Donohue** for continuing to give back to the community even during his retirement! Pictured L-R: **Linda Wong, Sanj Sappal, Senator Donna Kim, Senator Kidani, former police chief Lee Donohue and Danny Kaleikini.**

KANOELANI COMMUNITY PARTNER BREAKFAST

“This redesigned classroom will encourage families and students to visit before, during, and after school, will help increase comfort and aid transitioning into school while giving parents a place to go for support, advice and translation services and will be ‘home’...Imagine a place with comfortable furniture, access to computers, and a program that encourages parent and student focus on academics and community integration.”

-Principal Stacie Kunihiisa



Kanoelani Elementary School held their 2nd annual Community Partner Breakfast this month. While I wasn't able to make it to the breakfast due to a scheduling conflict, I was able to take a short tour of the brand new “Lokahi Lounge” with Tokioka Award winning **Principal Stacie Kunihiisa** and **Vice Principal Neil Blomberg**. Principal Kunihiisa used the funding awarded to her from winning the 2019 Masayuki Tokioka Principal of the Year award, a grant from the Mark Takai Foundation, and support from the Kanoelani PTSO to create a place for her student's families to come and feel welcome on the campus. She acknowledged that many of her families have English Learner backgrounds and believes that if her students are to fulfill their learning potential then efforts have to be made to make families feel supported as well. The Lokahi Lounge will offer activities such as use of technology equipment before and after school, social gatherings to connect with other families, language or job search support, board game Tuesdays, Lunch Bunch Thursdays for ESL students during school hours, monthly parent coffee hours featuring cultural activities, as well as afterschool Tuesday and Thursdays ESL tutoring for students.

Mahalo nui Principal Kunihiisa for this innovative idea and to her amazing staff for realizing this dream space. We hope that the families attending Kanoelani Elementary school take full advantage of the Lokahi Lounge for many years to come!

MILILANI UKA THIRD GRADERS VISIT CAPITOL



I was pleased to welcome the third grade class from Mililani Uka Elementary School during their visit this month! I'm so glad they were able to join us at the Hawai'i State Capitol for the first day of our special session! It is always exciting and encouraging to see the next generation of young leaders at the Capitol and I hope it was an inspiring opportunity for them to learn about our local government--they are our future!

SENATOR KIDANI SECURES CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE "GROW OUR OWN TEACHERS" INITIATIVE

Change the lives of Hawai'i's youth and invest in education! The "Grow Our Own Teachers Initiative" is officially accepting applications from now until October 1st to become a teacher.

With the ease of online and evening courses you can earn your teaching license for grades 6-12 by completing a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Teacher Education: Secondary Education and qualify for tuition stipends.

This initiative is open to Hawai'i residents with a bachelor's degree. Inquire with the contacts listed for more information and submit your application for Spring 2020.

GROW OUR OWN TEACHERS INITIATIVE BECOME A LICENSED TEACHER TODAY!

ONLINE AND EVENING COURSES NO CAREER INTERRUPTION

- Qualify for tuition stipends
- Complete a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Teacher Education: Secondary Education
- Earn an initial teaching license for grades 6-12

**Open to Hawai'i residents who hold a bachelor's degree*



Beginning Spring 2020 | Application Deadline: October 1, 2019



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
College of Education

CONTACT US TODAY!

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HAWAI'I BLOOD BANK DONATIONS

MILILANI DONATION DATES/LOCATIONS:

10/2	3:00pm-7:00pm	Mililani Marketplace
10/12	8:00am-12:00pm	Mililani Marketplace
10/16	3:00pm-7:00pm	Mililani Marketplace
10/26	2:00pm-6:00pm	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Mililani
10/27	1:00pm-4:30pm	Cornerstone Fellowship (Mililani Mauka)

WAIPAHU DONATION DATES/LOCATIONS:

10/13	8:00am-12:00pm	Waikele Center
10/14	3:00pm-7:00pm	Waikele Center
10/19	8:00am-1:00pm	HPD Training Academy
10/28	3:00pm-7:00pm	Waikele Center
10/29	8:30am-2:00pm	Tony Group Autoplex