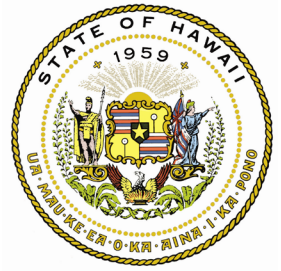


SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

MARCH 2021 – *Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia*



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

March is normally marked by important bill deadlines, and this year is no different. Our shortened session has heightened the urgency to pass important bills that will have a tremendous impact on the welfare of the community as we work to rebuild our economy in the wake of the pandemic. I have included progress on some of the bills I introduced this session to keep you up to date on these measures.

March also marks the celebration of our annual Education Week festivities, which normally invites honored guests to the State Capitol to recognize the achievements of our students, teachers and staff. We were deeply saddened when the 2020 session ended abruptly due to the pandemic last year as it canceled our Education Week plans. This year we anticipated the Capitol remaining closed to the public throughout the pandemic, so in lieu of our in-person presentations on the Senate floor, the House and Senate is recognizing our 2021 honorees with joint certificates and a small makana that were mailed to respective awardees. The challenges of the past year have demonstrated the incredible dedication, determination and resilience of our education community and we are proud to recognize them and their well-deserved honors!

As we enter the final month of session, we remain dedicated and hopeful for the positive changes we are seeing on the horizon. Thanks to the community's diligence in implementing safety precautions and the impact of the vaccine, Hawai'i's cases have remained at a minimum. Achieving this welcomed goal allowed us to reopen to Tier 3 with a significant ease on the difficult restrictions that have plagued us for months. Now officially a year into the pandemic, we are filled with gratitude for the health and safety of our loved ones and have a renewed sense of connection to community. We have realized the power of our collective efforts as we worked together in the past year and continue to make strides as one extended 'ohana. We have certainly gained more insight into the necessary changes required for the betterment of our community and know that change is on its way, with hope that we can move to Tier 4 soon.



SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Member:
Special Committee on
COVID-19

Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228
(808) 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov

COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE IN MILILANI



Mililani (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccinations + Times Pharmacy
MTA Recreation Center 5 (99-1101 'Āinamakua Drive, Mililani, HI 96789)

Thursday, March 25th	8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 1st	8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 8th	8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 15th	8:00am – 5:00pm

After the success of getting the DOH to vaccinate residents at the Olaloa Retirement Community Center, we were determined to bring greater opportunities for vaccinations to Central O'ahu residents. I am proud to announce another joint effort between myself, **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**, and Mililani Town Association to bring vaccinations to the general public starting this week at Mililani Recreation Center 5! Vaccinations will be available for 4 Thursdays starting March 25th (3/25, 4/1, 4/8 and 4/15) offering the single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine and administered by Times Pharmacy. Additional information regarding location, time and sign ups are posted on my [Senate Facebook Page](#) and the [MTA Recreation Center](#) so be sure to sign up if you are eligible for the Phase 1C category, which includes people over the age of 65, people over 16 with high risk of COVID-19 complications, and other essential workers.

EDUCATION WEEK 2021 HONOREES

Each year, the chairs of the Education Committees recognize the DOE leaders, teachers and students for their contributions to educational excellence in the State Capitol's annual Education Week program. In observance of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, we are unable to hold floor presentations or host Capitol events this year. Instead, the House and Senate are celebrating by mailing joint certificates and a small makana to each honoree. While we are missing our traditional Education Week festivities and the opportunity to congratulate students, teachers and administrators in person, we are thrilled to honor their extraordinary achievements. Here are a few of the inspiring honorees from my district who were honored in Education Week 2021.

Hollie Rader: 2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program Hawai'i State Delegate



Hollie Rader is a senior at Waipahu High School who serves as a member of the Hawai'i State Student Council, a member of the Leeward District Student Council, Key Club division lieutenant governor and co-treasurer of the Spanish National Honor Society. She helps to spread the aloha spirit through suicide prevention outreach, environmental clean-ups, positivity posters, making face masks, creating birthday cards for the homeless and supporting blood drive campaigns and mental health awareness initiatives.

Ashley Valois: 2021 U.S. Senate Youth Program Hawai'i State Delegate

Ashley Valois is a senior at Waipahu High School who serves as the secretary of the Student Council and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has helped to improve student life by initiating new clubs and chairing events. Ashley and her mother immigrated to Hawai'i when she was 5 yrs old to join her father, and through the challenges of the immigrant experience, she developed a passion for understanding immigration law and the economic disadvantages faced by minority groups. As a result, Ashley sought out ways to get involved, including bringing Model United Nations (UN) to her public high school—an activity predominantly reserved for private schools in Hawai'i. The opportunity has allowed her to further her passion for change, learn about international law and help her community.



Jacqueline Nuha-Tabernero:

Leeward District Pearl City-Waipahu District Teacher of the Year



Jacqueline Nuha-Tabernero is the enrichment teacher for grades 3-6, the Hawai'i Core Standards in social studies curriculum coach and the computer science coordinator for Waikele Elementary. Her innovative approach to applied learning is evident in the Enrichment program, the Waikele Broadcasting Warriors program and the Coding Lab program. Within the Waikele Elementary community, she demonstrates her commitment to education through various leadership positions, including media specialist, project-based learning lead, Technology Committee chair and National Elementary Honor Society faculty advisor.

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [State of Hawaii COVID-19 Portal](#)

The official COVID-19 state portal for all the latest updates and information on COVID-19.

2. [Senate Special Committee on COVID-19](#)

The Hawaii State Legislature's official site for updates by the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19. (Senator Kidani is a member of this committee)

3. [One Oahu](#)

The City & County of Honolulu's COVID-19 Response Team. This site shares frequently updated and relevant pandemic updates and resources for the community.

3. [Hawaii State Department of Health](#)

Stay updated with the most recent health updates on COVID-19 in Hawaii.

4. [Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation \(FPUC\)](#)

One of the newly extended federal benefits that will add \$300 a week to eligible claimants. FPUC will cover unemployment between Dec. 27, 2020 - March 13, 2021.

EDUCATION WEEK 2021 HONOREES



2020 LIFESMARTS AWARDS: WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL



The 16th Annual LifeSmarts Consumer Education Competition is a gameshow-style competition that tests students on their knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. The LifeSmarts program, run by the National Consumers League, is sponsored in Hawai'i by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Office of the Securities Commissioner, in partnership with the Hawai'i Credit Union League. Congratulations to Team 2 members **Vianne Acdal**, **Destiny Shishido**, **Marvin Arevalo**, **Harvey Picar** and **Ashley Valois**, as well as coach **Cindy Takara** on their 1st place victory the 16th Annual LifeSmarts Consumer Education Competition and best wishes in the National LifeSmarts competition!



Congratulations to the LifeSmarts 2nd place winners--Waipahu High School Team 1 members **Reyan Lee**, **Elizabeth Talioaga**, **Jan Carlo Apolto**, **Sagan Kurose**, **Grace Chinen** & coach **Cindy Takara**.



Congratulations to LifeSmarts 3rd place winners--Waipahu High School Team 17 members **Jane Pascual**, **Naomi Fu**, **Chantelle Nartatez**, **Neriz Galactic** & coach **Cindy Takara**.

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [Aloha United Way](#)

Call 211 for the only statewide hotline partnering with the Department of Health for help finding food, shelter, financial assistance, childcare, disability services, etc.

3. [MEDQUEST](#)

The Department of Human Services MEDQUEST division provides eligible low-income adults and children necessary access to health and medical coverage through managed care plans. Find out if you are eligible and file your application online for medical assistance coverage

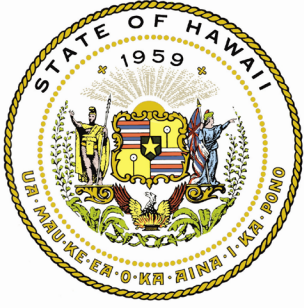
4. [SNAP](#)

The Supplemental Nutrition and Food Assistance Program is funded through the USDA to qualifying households. Find out if this program will support your family at the link above.

5. [Hawaii Foodbank](#)

This dedicated nonprofit has been at the forefront of this pandemic working tirelessly to provide and distribute food throughout the community. Learn more about their efforts as well as more information on their upcoming food drives or to donate or volunteer.

2021 LEGISLATIVE BILL STATUS UPDATES



The 2021 Legislative Session continues to move forward with another big deadline known as crossover. Crossover happens when bills move from the chamber they originated in to the next chamber for further discussion. Senate bills (SB) that have passed out of all of their referred committees will now crossover to the House where they will be heard by their relevant committees. The same will happen with House Bills (HB) coming over into the Senate for their hearings.

SB804: RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING

I introduced this bill because teachers consistently leave the State due to our high cost of living. Housing, or lack thereof, should not be a reason that our students lose the opportunity to learn from great teachers. Opening school lands for teacher housing will not only allow us to draw and retain exceptional educators for our students, but also builds a sense of community in the area they serve. Schools are becoming hubs for the community, whether as gathering places (when it is safe to do so) as well as providing access to health and wellness services.

SB806: RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS

I re-introduced this friendly condemnation bill due to the stalled ramp project outside of Mililani High School. Concerned constituents have contacted my office asking about the status of this project and we have explained the primary challenge being that although the land was given to the State, the title was never transferred and the state would not indemnify MTA until the title change was completed. I have been working with the DOE and Mililani Town Association (MTA), to transfer the title from MTA to the State in order to resume construction. MTA has been a willing partner in this transfer through the friendly condemnation process and we look forward to construction resuming quickly so that the project can be completed.

SB811: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Our communities have a right to be notified when COVID-19 are confirmed in schools to mitigate the risk of exposure for our kids and families. The DOE currently publishes COVID-19 positive cases by complex area, but as our own communities can attest, these are huge geographic areas. For Mililani, this could be a school in Waialua. For Waipahu, it could be a school in Pearl City. Without school level reporting, we cannot give our families the information they need to make informed decisions on whether or not it is safe for them to send their children back to school, affirming the importance of transparency relating to DOE confirmed COVID cases.

SB1159 SD2: RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

While outstanding issues remain regarding the way that unemployment insurance claims have been handled, another side has yet to be addressed. Unemployment Insurance is not funded by the State, but rather by contributions from employers. When huge surges are in demand for UI claims, the State can step in to ensure that funds are available to those accessing benefits. In order to meet the sudden surge in demand that happened in the past year, the State took out a loan from the Federal Government of \$700 million. Most claims were due to Government mandated shutdowns, and in an attempt to alleviate some of the burdens on Hawai'i's small businesses, the Senate amended SB1159 to potentially pay down the loan so that our the financial burden would not fall upon our local businesses to pay this bill.

For more information on Senator Kidani's bill proposals and status updates via the Capitol website!

1. [SB804: Relating to Teacher Rental Housing](#)

Authorizes the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to provide rental housing projects for teachers employed by the DOE and public charter schools.

3. [SB807: Relating to Education](#)

Requires the department of education to submit an annual report on the school academic and financial plans to the board of education and the legislature.

4. [SB808: Relating to the School Facilities Agency](#)

Transfers the total fund balance in the state educational improvement fund to the school facilities special fund by a certain date.

5. [SB811: Relating to DOE](#)

Requires the DOE to publish a weekly report on schools that have reported COVID-19 cases.

5. [SB830: Relating to Employment](#)

Requires each department to establish a telework and alternative work schedule policy.

5. [SB1387: Relating to Microchip Identification](#)

Requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed.

[Click the image](#) to download the Aloha Safe app to your smartphone to stay updated with contact tracing & how to keep your 'ohana safe from COVID-19!



DENOUNCING ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

We have witnessed a devastating rise in acts of racism, xenophobia and violence against the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in recent months that require a necessary call to action. These distressing acts of targeted violence are untenable, intolerable, and a painful reminder of the work that must be done to ensure safe, inclusive communities for all to thrive.

The passing of Senate Judiciary Committee resolutions SCR 66 & SR 48 affirms the protections of Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States as it condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiments and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech. But these protections also require accountability in the words and actions we choose. Last week I stood united with Senate President Ron Kouchi and Senate Majority Leader J. Kalani English in addressing these concerns and denouncing Anti-Asian violence and racism.

It is our kuleana to protect one another and to uphold the values that distinguish Hawai'i's rich cultural communities. It is not enough to simply share our expressions of sympathy for the racial biases and senseless tragedies that continue to plague our state and country. This moment requires a deeper reflection of the changes we must make to truly practice aloha in action and to demand justice, accountability, respect and equality for all.



KEIKI HEROES



The Hawaii STEM Community Care, recently launched [“Keiki Heroes”](#) to help guide children through the changes brought on by the pandemic. Through helpful activity books and videos, cousins Kai and Hoku help children navigate the challenges and confusion brought on by the coronavirus and encourage kids to become a keiki hero to keep themselves and their loved ones safe as well.

Head online to their website for more information, and to access their videos and activity books with your kids. Keiki Heroes offers resources for educators as well.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” -Helen Keller

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [Vaccine Registration](#)

Currently accepting vaccination registrations for kupuna ages 75 and older. Eligibility is required based upon Hawai'i's tiered program and must review the prevaccination checklist before receiving their vaccine.

2. [Hawaii Vaccination Plan](#)

For more information regarding Hawai'i's detailed vaccination plan, please refer to the CDC-approved executive summary noting the operational structure to reach high-risk groups as quickly and efficiently as possible.

3. [Statewide PODs](#)

A list of clinics or Points of Distribution (PODS) note locations throughout the state where you can receive your COVID-19 vaccination.

4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Expectations & FAQs](#)

One Oahu offers information regarding Hawai'i's distribution plan, vaccine safety, as well as what to expect when receiving the vaccine and a list of FAQs to address community vaccine concerns. It is important to note that people who have recovered from COVID-19 are still urged to receive the vaccine with new variants being introduced into the country and natural immunity varying between individuals. Mask-wearing and hyper hygiene is still urged after receiving a vaccination.



Helpful information from the Hawaii State Senate on post-vaccination changes in your daily interactions and travel:

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When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

New CDC Guidelines on how to protect yourself and others after being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



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Fully Vaccinated People Can:

- Gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks (unless one of those people or someone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness).
- Skip quarantine and testing if exposed or someone who has COVID-19 but are asymptomatic



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Fully Vaccinated People Must Still:

- Wear a mask, physically distance, and avoid crowds in public, while gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household, and visiting with an unvaccinated person who is has an increased risk for severe illness.
- Get tested if you experience symptoms of COVID-19.



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Travel Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated People

- CDC travel guidelines have not changed.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel.
- If you do travel, you must follow CDC requirements



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For More Information, Scan the QR Code Below!

