



SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I am thrilled to be writing to you all after the steady strides we have made in the past month. While the mandates we have faced here on O‘ahu have been difficult, we are finally seeing the positive impacts they have had as our COVID case numbers continue to diminish as well as its devastating fatalities. What this has shown us is that our diligence is working. The Safe Access O‘ahu and SMART Health programs were implemented to keep us safe, and their efficacies have been proven significant.

This month I met with my colleague Representative Ty Cullen and Assistant Superintendent Randall Tanaka of the DOE to discuss the timeline moving forward for Royal Kunia Elementary School. Representative Cullen and I were able to secure \$200,000 in plan and design monies to produce a proof of concept for the new school as we await the Phase 2 buildout of Royal Kunia. There are a number of factors that are not within the control of the State that play into the timeline for Royal Kunia Elementary. However, Representative Cullen and I are committed to ensuring that the State has plans in hand, ready to build when the time is right.

The Senate Special Committee on Procurement, of which I am a member, also met this month to go over possible areas of reform for the State Procurement Code. It is important that State agencies follow best practices to ensure that services are procured in an efficient and appropriate manner. We had an important discussion with the State Procurement Officer regarding issues such as delays due to bid protests, performance reviews, and change orders. Addressing such concerns to make improvements in agency processes remains one of our top priorities as we have seen the impact they have had throughout the pandemic.

We are heading into what is sure to be a busy holiday season, and I hope you feel as encouraged as I am knowing that we are making tremendous progress as a community. We are poised to be able to celebrate a brighter, more hopeful end to 2021. As we celebrate the last few months of this year I urge you to stay safe and healthy and to consider receiving both your COVID booster shot (if you are eligible), as well as your annual flu shot. I wish you all a wonderful Halloween with your keiki as we enjoy the fall season!



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

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OCTOBER PHONE UPDATES

Starting Oct. 24th, local calls dialed in Hawai‘i will require the 808 area code in order for calls to go through. The change is due to a new FCC order adopting “988” as the code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NPSL.) If you dial a 988 number without dialing 808, you will reach the NSPL, so be sure to dial 808 + phone number from now on when making local calls!

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES FOR YOUR OHANA

Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treating!

Saturday
October 30

10:30am –
1:00pm

Unsure of what how to enjoy Halloween festivities with your ‘ohana this year? [Star Advertiser](#) offered recommendations on how to celebrate safely. And thanks to KHON, you can browse their helpful list of Halloween events and local activities happening on O‘ahu, including the Town Center of Mililani’s Drive-thru Trick-or-Treating extravaganza on Oct. 30th! Click the flyer on the right for more information.

Head to [My Official Capitol Web Page](#) for a complete archive of my monthly newsletters

HSFCU 2021 TEACHER GRANTS

Mahalo nui to the Hawaii State Federal Credit Union for supporting our dedicated educators! Their annual teacher grants offer well-deserved support to Hawai'i's teachers and I am thrilled to congratulate those within our district. Congratulations to the 2021 teacher recipients from District 18: **Lola Ito** (Mililani Waena Elementary), **Kapuakuliaepilimaole A.M. Lehano** (Waikele Elementary), **Alison Yogi** (Waikele Elementary), **Maya Nagata** (Waipahu Elementary) and **Jolene Saquilon** (Waipahu High).



MUSIC WITH MELVEEN LEED



I recently reconnected with my dear friend, legendary Hawai'i music icon Melveen Leed, whom I hadn't seen since the pandemic began. An event planned in July to celebrate her accomplishments as well as her 78th birthday had been postponed this summer, so I went to her home to present her with a Senate certificate and enjoyed her live Facebook performance—which she has been doing each Sunday at 11 a.m. for the past year, even through her very trying health challenges. It was such a joy to see her come to life behind her piano, her voice just as powerful and moving as ever! She is truly one of the greatest voices of our time and I am so grateful to call her my beloved friend!

DISTRICT 18 COVID TESTING SITES

WALK-INS AVAILABLE

Mililani YMCA

Oct. 24th & Nov. 14th
10:00am-12:00pm

<https://www.facebook.com/YMCAofHonolulu/>

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

FREE Mililani Rec 6 Drive-Thru Covid Testing

preventcovidhi.com

SAFEWAY WAIPAHU

<https://www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>

HAWAII LITERACY DONATION FROM NAREIT HAWAII



Mahalo nui to Nareit Hawaii for their generous support of Hawaii Literacy's efforts! Their donation will help support underserved families by providing Kalihi and Waipahu families with digital tablets and internet access, and encouraging our keiki and adults to read and thrive! L-R: Stacey Aldrich (Hawaii State Librarian), myself, Jill Takasaki Canfield (Hawaii Literacy Inc. Executive Director), Gladys Marrone (Nareit Hawaii Executive Director) Representative Woodson and Brandon Kurisu (President of the Board of Directors of Hawaii Literacy Inc.)

EXTRA YARD FOR TEACHERS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Hawaii Bowl Foundation, College Football Playoff Foundation and Teach For America Hawaii are sponsoring the third annual Extra Yard for Teachers Grants program! Current HDOE teachers can apply online to receive \$500 - \$1,500 to support innovative classroom projects. Priority will be given to teachers in Title 1 schools. Applications will be accepted from now until Nov. 14th, and awardees will be notified during the week of Dec. 13th, 2021. Click [HERE](#) to apply online today!



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS ESTIMATOR

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations updated their online UI Benefits Estimator through 2020-2021. Click [HERE](#) to head to their website, enter your approximate gross quarterly earnings to determine your approximate potential benefit amounts and see if you may qualify for a new unemployment claim.

