



# Senator Michelle Kidani

District 17- Mililani/ Mililani Mauka/ Waipi'o/ Waipi'o Gentry

Vice Chair - Ways and Means

Vice Chair- Education

Vice Chair - Public Safety, Military and Intergovernmental Affairs

Member – Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813



January 2011

Aloha and Happy New Year,

It has been an exciting start to 2011 as the Senate welcomes 7 new Senators to our body. It has also been a busy month for me as we draft bills, have new committee responsibilities and move into a new office. During the last few weeks I have been to several Ways and Means information briefings and had meetings with almost all of Governor Abercrombie's new Department appointees. I am spending the rest of this month in committee hearings and finishing CIP meetings with our Mililani School principals.

Although the State is still feeling the effects of Hawai'i's economic downturn, I am optimistic that Hawai'i is slowly on our way to recovery after some of the Ways and Means information briefings. Surprisingly, Tourism is leading the way to our recovery.

Thank you very much for all of the well wishes and visits on Opening day; it was a wonderful turn out of friends and constituents.

On page 2 I have provided you the final Senate Committee assignments. Please feel free to contact me if you need any other information.

***Lastly, my office has also moved from room 203 to room 228. Our phone number remains the same—586-7100.***

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Senator Kidani was sworn in as the Hawaii State Director for Women in Government at the Annual Women in Government Director's Conference in San Diego, CA earlier this month.

Women in Government is a national, non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators. WIG serves all of the approximately 1,700 female state legislators in the United States.

Senator Kidani was one of 100 members that were given a full scholarship to attend this annual meeting.



Helmi Merkhi is from the country of Tunisia as an exchange student, he currently attends Mililani High School as a junior.

## New Senate Committee Assignments as of 1/13/2011

### AGRICULTURE (AGL)

Nishihara, Clarence K. (Chair)  
Kahele, Gilbert (Vice Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Dela Cruz, Donovan  
Kouchi, Ronald D.  
Shimabukuro, Maile  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Wakai, Glenn  
Slom, Sam

### COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (CPN)

Baker, Rosalyn H. (Chair)  
Taniguchi, Brian T. (Vice Chair)  
Galuteria, Brickwood  
Green, Josh  
Nishihara, Clarence K.  
Solomon, Malama  
Slom, Sam

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY (EDT)

Fukunaga, Carol (Chair)  
Wakai, Glen (Vice Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H.  
Solomon, Malama  
Slom, Sam

### EDUCATION (EDN)

Tokuda, Jill N. (Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle (Vice Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Nishihara, Clarence K.  
Taniguchi, Brian T.  
Slom, Sam

### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (ENE)

Gabbard, Mike (Chair)  
English, J. Kalani (Vice Chair)  
Green, M.D., Josh  
Ihara, Jr., Les  
Slom, Sam

### HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (HWN)

Galuteria, Brickwood (Chair)  
Ryan, Pohai (Vice Chair)  
English, J. Kalani  
Hee, Clayton  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Kidani, Michelle N.  
Solomon, Malama  
Slom, Sam

### HEALTH (HTH)

Green, M.D., Josh (Chair)  
Nishihara, Clarence K. (Vice Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H.  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Shimabukuro, Maile  
Wakai, Glenn  
Slom, Sam

### HUMAN SERVICES (HMS)

Chun Oakland, Suzanne (Chair)  
Ihara, Jr., Les (Vice Chair)  
Green, M.D., Josh  
Slom, Sam

### JUDICIARY AND LABOR (JDL)

Hee, Clayton (Chair)  
Shimabukuro, Maile (Vice Chair)  
Gabbard, Mike  
Ihara, Jr., Les  
Slom, Sam

### PUBLIC SAFETY, MILITARY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (PMI)

Espero, Will (Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair)  
Baker, Rosalyn H.  
Ryan, Pohai  
Slom, Sam

### TOURISM (TSM)

Kim, Donna Mercado (Chair)  
Kouchi, Ronald D. (Vice Chair)  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Slom, Sam

### TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (TIA)

English, J. Kalani (Chair)  
Espero, Will (Vice Chair)  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M.  
Gabbard, Mike  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Kouchi, Ronald D.  
Slom, Sam

### WATER AND LAND (WTL)

Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (Chair)  
Solomon, Malama (Vice Chair)  
Fukunaga, Carol  
Ryan, Pohai  
Shimabukuro, Maile  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Slom, Sam

### WAYS AND MEANS (WAM)

Ige, David Y. (Chair)  
Kidani, Michelle N. (Vice Chair)  
Chun Oakland, Suzanne  
Dela Cruz, Donovan M.  
English, J. Kalani  
Espero, Will  
Fukunaga, Carol  
Kim, Donna Mercado  
Kahele, Gilbert  
Kouchi, Ronald D.  
Ryan, Pohai  
Tokuda, Jill N.  
Wakai, Glenn  
Slom, Sam

### Prayers in the Senate

As many of you may have heard regarding discontinuing prayer in the Senate. I am among several senators who disagree with the majority and want to see this longstanding practice continue.

Action to change Senate rules last week was prompted by a lawsuit claiming that prayer in the chamber is illegal. The ACLU has also threatened a lawsuit. Many senators believe that these threats are a distraction to our business and would be too costly to defend. As a result, these senators were successful in deleting the "mandate" that required prayers and the Senate rule on this issue is silent. Some of us senators who support daily prayers continue to dialogue with the Senate leadership with hopes that they will have a change of heart and allow us to bring back prayers.

**Pictured (clockwise):** Today many of the Senators chose to gather together to pray before session. Senators; Kidani, Wakai, Nishihara, Gabbard, Espero, Kouchi, Kahele, Ryan & Chun Oakland

