

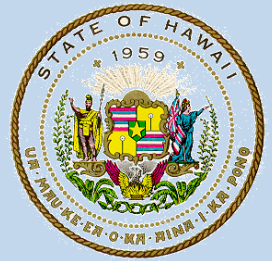


# SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI

District 17 Mililani ~ Mililani Mauka ~ Waipi'o ~ Waipi'o Gentry

Vice Chair of Ways and Means; Vice Chair of Education

Vice Chair of Public Safety, Military and Intergovernmental Affairs



March 2011

Report

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## Aloha from Senator Kidani

Aloha,

The Senate received the State Budget from the House on Wednesday, March 16th. In my role as the Vice-Chair of Ways and Means Committee, I have been meeting with various State Departments and various organizations regarding CIP (capital improvement projects). I have also completed CIP visits on Oahu, including Mililani as well as Maui. I am hoping to find the time to visit the Big Island and Kauai to review other CIP requests. These meetings are necessary to learn about CIP needs throughout our state.

The Hawaii State Senate began our current session in January with more than 1,500 pieces of legislation to consider. We passed out more than 325 bills on March 8, 2011 in preparation for First Crossover, the initial major deadline of the legislative session. All of the bills went over to the State House of Representatives for their review and determination.

The bills passed covered a wide variety of areas, to include the economy, human services, medical care, education and the infrastructure on all islands.

The Senate will also received bills crossed over from the House of Representatives for consideration. All legislation must be finalized and forwarded to the Governor for his consideration by the last day of our 2011 session, Thursday, May 5, 2011.

We have much more to deliberate as we try to balance our very fragile state budget to take care of critical needs while being cognizant of impact on residents and businesses any tax increases will bring.

This month I was also proud to honor our very own Mililani High School Teacher, Mr. John Topolinski during Hawaiian Caucus day on Monday, March 14, 2011.

As always your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please feel free to visit me at my office or contact me by phone, fax, or email. Thank you for your continued support.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Senator Kidani with John Topolinski in her office



## Contact Us

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## Balancing the Budget



With the projection on March 10, 2011 by the Council on Revenues, Hawaii faces a budget deficit of nearly \$1 billion over the next two years. The Legislature's priority and greatest challenge will be to preserve essential services for the public while balancing the state budget. The two options are to make cuts to personnel and existing state programs, and/or to increase the state revenue through fees,

taxes, and adjustments to credits and exemptions.

Many have urged the state to cut deeper into the budget before raising fees and taxes. The legislature made significant cuts over the past two years. In 2009, the legislature closed a \$2.1 billion deficit, half of which was through budget cuts. In 2010, the state faced an additional \$1.2 billion deficit and again about half of the deficit was closed by cutting programs.

Given that the annual state

general fund budget is normally about \$5 billion, cumulative cuts (\$2.1 billion + 1.2 billion) were significant to the state budget and its citizens.

The impacts were furloughs, loss of agriculture inspectors which jeopardized food safety, and elimination of many critical programs such as vector control, dam inspections, etc.

As we continue to deliberate the budget, we must be mindful of economic, health and safety impacts to our citizens.



## Topolinski Honored as Hawaiian Community Leader

The Hawai'i State Senate on March 14, 2011 celebrated the 5th annual Hawaiian Caucus Day. The day-long event was to honor, preserve and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture through various activities with the theme of "Holomua Me Ka Lōkahi" (Moving forward in unity).

The highlight of the day was the recognition of outstanding Native Hawaiian leaders across the state.

John Renken Kaha'i Topolinski was named by Senator Michelle Kidani who is one of seven part Hawaiian members in the Hawaii State Senate. Caucus members

selected individuals from within their respective districts to join them as honorees in the Senate chamber. Senator Kidani was pleased to select "Kaha'i," a long time resident of District 17, for his mana'o, leadership and many-contributions to Na Mea Hawai'i (all things Hawaiian).

Kaha'i is a renown Kumu Hula, composer, historian and master feather worker. He graduated in a traditional uniki from noted Kumu Hula Maiki Aiu Lake in 1973 and founded his own hula halau, Ka Pa Hula Hawai'i, whose students are held to the highest standards of traditional Hawaiian dance and chant. He has shared

his knowledge and life experiences with two generations of students of hula, as well as the hundreds of students at Mililani High School where he teaches Hawaiian history and culture.

He is a graduate of BYU Provo Utah,; obtained his Masters at UH Manoa and is currently working on his PhD at UH Manoa.

At the request of the British Commission, he honored Princess Diana at St. Andrews cathedral with a Lei Loke Akea chant (White Rose).

Kumu, mahalo nui for perpetuating Hawaiian culture and traditions for future generations



Being Honored in the Senate Floor



Royal order of Kamehameha



Hawaii  
Medal of  
Honor  
Ceremony

to take place at the  
Hawaii State Capitol

March 29, 2011  
2:00 p.m.



Kumu Topolinski and Wife, Anne (center) with his family, friends and Hula Students.



Senator Kidani, Kumu Topolinski and Kidani staffer Joan Manke, his former student and alaka'i.

## Student Shadow from UH

As part of Education Week at the Capitol, Senator Kidani hosted a student from the University of Hawaii. Matthew Inouye, a junior Computer science major,



was her shadow for the day. He was able to follow Senator Kidani to all of her meetings and committee hearings. He had a busier day than expected as he attended meetings with the State Department of Transportation Deputy to discuss CIP projects around the State; Committee on Education; Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs hearings with eight separate agendas.

Senator also visited the UH West Oahu to review CIP needs and helped distribute athletic shoes for Kalihi Waena elementary students.



STATE EDUCATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION  
AT THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

You're invited to an evening of  
**Art at the Capitol**  
Friday, April 1st  
from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Our office, room 228, will be providing light refreshments, please join us.

### *Kidani Bill Updates*

**SB641:** Fireworks; Requires labeling of display fireworks; requires notification to the county by shipping companies and freight forwarders of incoming fireworks; requires licensee to provide certain info to the county fire department- **This language was incorporated into SB172SD1HD1; passed and being heard in House Committee Judiciary on 3/24 (JUD)**

**SB934 SD2 HD1:** Cyberbullying; Establishes a bullying and cyberbullying policy for all public schools. Establishes reporting requirements - **passed and referred to House Finance Committee (FIN)**

**SB1375 SD1 HD1:** Instructional Days; Multi Track Public Schools requires multi track public schools to meet at least 171 days or 90% of the minimum number of days required of other public schools- **passed, referred to House Finance Committee (FIN)**

**SB1503 SD2:** Department of Education; Education of Students with Disabilities; Accreditation. Requires certain private special education schools and programs that provide services to students with disabilities who receive state funding to comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations. - **passes as is and referred to House Finance Committee (FIN)**

**SCR153:** Requesting the installation of automatic sprinklers or application of certified fire-retardant coatings in newly constructed one and two-family residential dwellings to be required under the state building code. - **Referred to Senate Public safety/Water, Land and Housing (PGM/WLH)**

**SCR157:** Requesting a pilot project to study and reduce the morning traffic congestion on the Meheula Parkway going onto the H2 freeway from Mililani Mauka. - **Referred to Transportation and International Affairs and Public Safety Committee (TIA/PGM)**



### MHS to Receive CIP \$

Mililani High School will finally get their field turf!!! Senator Kidani was happy

to receive a personal note from the Governor to notify her that the \$2.5 million CIP she requested for the MHS artificial turf had been approved and the fund were released to the Department of Education.



All taxpayers making less than \$57,000 can visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) and use the industry's top tax preparation software for free. Users get the step-by-step help they need to prepare, complete and file federal tax returns online – at no cost.

The program is made possible through a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance – a group of industry-leading tax software providers. Since 2003, the Free File program has delivered free tax services to more than 25 million people. Not only is the program completely free and secure, but taxpayers who use Free File with direct deposit may receive refunds in as little 10 days.

To use this free service you may go to: [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov)

Or to learn more, please get in touch or visit [www.freefilealliance.org](http://www.freefilealliance.org).



- 24th **Second Lateral: Bills Must be In the last committee**
- 25th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 30th Recess day #5



- 1st **First Lateral for Resolutions**
- 8th **Second Decking: Last day To file bills for Third Reading**
- 14th **Second Crossover—Last day To disagree**
- 15th **First Crossover for Resos**
- 21st **Constitutional Amendments Deadline for final Form**
- 22nd Holiday: Good Friday
- 25th **Second Crossover Resos**

## ALOHA

REQUESTING:  
BLANKETS AND JACKETS  
FOR VICTIMS OF THE TSU-  
NAMI AND EARTHQUAKES  
IN JAPAN.

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR  
DONATIONS TO STATE  
CAPITOL RM. 228.

A BIG MAHALO TO  
Rep. Tokioka's office for  
coordinating.

## Meet My Staff: *Shane Strong*

Shane Strong is the Legislative Intern during the 2011 Legislative Session. Shane grew up on different parts of Oahu, but spent most of his time with his Ohana in Kalihi. He is a proud graduate of McKinley High School Class of 2002. Shane is a Senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he plans on graduating next fall with a degree in Political Science and Sociology. He is a pre-law student who will attend Law School at NYU in 2012.

Shane tracks bills, helps with constituent responses via email or telephone, and is in charge to report and record all information from the Public Safety, Government and Military Affairs Committee.

Much of Shane's free time is spent with his newborn son, Xavier. Aside from being a father, Shane is part of Golden Key Honor Society, Mortar Board Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, and the Manoa Pre-Law Association. Shane likes to travel at least once a year. He volunteers in the Oahu community by doing beach clean ups, helping the homeless, donating blood, Kaiser Hospital, and etc. Shane is also a former Chef who makes staff lunches from time to time.(ONO)

In 2008, Shane won the Freeman Scholarship from Kapiolani Community College to learn Korean in Korea for seven months. Shane also participated in the 2011 Great Aloha Run.



Shane Strong and his son,  
Xavier

## *Kudos Mililani*

### We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

Mililani High School A.P. Government and Politics students won the state "We the People: The citizen and the Constitution" competition at the Hawaii Convention Center in February 2011. They will represent the state of Hawaii in Washington, D.C. at the end of April. Congratulations!

### Senator Kidani's Staff

Park Kaleiwahea  
Legislative Office Manager

Joan Manke  
Legislative Aide ~ Hawaiian Committee

Kelly Oku  
Legislative Aide ~ Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Shane Strong  
UH Intern ~ Education Committee;  
Ways and Means

Trevor Nagamine  
Community liaison; photographer; research  
Daniel Chang  
volunteer

### **Central District History Day Winners!**

#### Individual Research Essay:

**Jessica Kawana** for "The 1936 Olympics: A Debate on the Olympic Boycott" & **Kainoa Eastlack** for "The Scientific Debate Over Social Darwinism"

#### Group & Individual Video Documentary:

**Marissa Okazaki** for "The ICC: A Step Towards Universal Human Rights", **Lisa Grandinetti** for "Taking Down a Beast: Using Diplomatic Strategies to End Apartheid"; **Megan Madeira**, **Victoria Roybal**, & **Alohilani Nonies** for "Successes, Failures and Consequences in Diplomacy between Nazi Germany and the French Revolution"

#### Group & Individual Performance:

**James Denzer** for "Death Penalty"; **Kara Nitta** and **Layne Kishi** for "What is to be Done?": The debate on the Welfare of Russia's People"

**Princess De Dios**, **Roanne Domingo**, & **Aina Iglesias** for "Pilitin Makapagsalita: Provoking a

Debate About Equality and Fairness for the Filipinos in Hawaii"

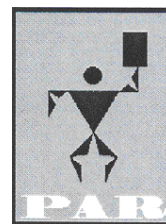
#### Group & Individual Website:

**Anna Sikkink** for "Pledge of Allegiance: Religious Controversy in Public Schools" **Marc Siler** and **Danielle Terukina** for "Bad Blood Between Soviets and U.S. Leads to a Diplomatic Turning Point: The Cuban Missile" Crisis" and **Reece Ishihara** for "H-3: Destruction of Culture or Public Traffic Reliever"

#### Group Exhibit:

**Reid Imamura & Brandon Quon** for "The Diplomacy of the SALT Treaties" and **Caitlyn Yoshioka & Viola Mocz** for "Public Debate and Citizen Diplomacy: The PKO's Feud with the U.S. Navy Over Kaho'olawe"

*These winners compete at the State History Day Contest on April 9th at Windward Community College.*



The Public Access Room provides a valuable service to our constituents. Please visit them when you are in the Capitol. They provide information and training to the public regarding the legislative process, how to submit bills and research resources.

### **Public Access Room (PAR)**

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