



2009 Legislative Newsletter from...

Senator Michelle Kidani

Education and Housing Committee – Vice Chair,
Public Safety & Military Affairs, Tourism and Ways & Means Committee Member

District 17 — Mililani, Mililani Mauka, Waipi'o, Gentry Waipi'o

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Celebrating 50 Years of Statehood
with Gov. George Ariyoshi and Rep. Marcus Oshiro.



Opening Day congratulations from fellow Mililani Town
Association Board members Will Kane, Eric Matsumoto,
Lester Ogawa and Glenn Yoshimori.



Joy Kobashigawa-Lewis of Hawaii
Women's Political
Caucus presenting
a certificate to
Senator Kidani for
her leadership and
dedication to the
empowerment of
women and
families.



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

First, let me thank you for the privilege of serving you. My very first session ended on May 6, 2009. It was a session I shall not soon forget. The economic difficulties facing the state worsened as we moved further into session and even more so after session ended. The impact of furlough Fridays on our State appears to be the topic of many households.

The furlough Friday situation was the outcome of negotiations between HSTA, DOE and Governor Lingle to reduce teacher salaries using furlough days which specifically cut instructional days, rather than non-instructional days or holidays. It is our children who are the losers in this situation and we must work quickly to find a solution.

While the legislature has agreed to a

Special Session to cut furlough days, the proposed solution must also include willingness from all parties to reopen contract negotiations and agree to the proposal being discussed. There is a current proposal to use rainy day funds to add instructional hours to each current school day, which seems viable. If there is agreement to do this, the legislature would then need to pass a bill transferring at least \$25 million from the rainy day fund to fund the additional instructional hours.

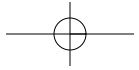
What remains to be done: The right to collective bargaining is ensured in our State Constitution, and because the legislature is not a party in contract negotiations, we must be careful not to interfere in the collective bargaining process in our efforts to support cutting

furlough days. The parties to the contract would have to agree to the proposed solution. The time to act is limited since the regular session of the legislature convenes on January 20, 2010, just weeks away. Total cost for a five-day special session would be about \$24,500.

As the year ends, I am thankful for my many blessings — my children, grandchildren, wonderful friends, as well as this opportunity to serve my community. May I wish you a Happy Holiday season and much success in the New Year.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Senator Michelle Kidani



2009 Opening Day with Family and Friends



The 2010 Legislative Session begins Wednesday, **January 20, 2010**. Due to the State's current financial situation, the Senate will forego the normal Opening Day ceremonies. It will be business as usual and while the public is still invited, there will not be the usual refreshments and entertainment.

2009 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

CIP — Waipio Gentry Ambulance Facility

With the help of my Senate colleagues, I secured much needed funding for a long awaited ambulance facility in Central Oahu. The \$3,875,000 for planning and construction has been appropriated for FY2010 and awaits release by the Governor.

SB1338 — Clothesline Bill

In collaboration with the Mililani Town Association, I introduced Senate Bill 1338, allowing single-family dwellings and townhouse residents to use clotheslines which minimizes electricity use. The bill also allows homeowner associations to set reasonable rules, provided that the associations do not prohibit the use of clotheslines altogether. Similar bills were previously vetoed by the Governor and the legislature was unable to override the veto.

HB989 — Children's HealthCare

Legislators revived Keiki Care, a program aimed at providing health insurance coverage to all Hawaii's keiki under 18 years old. Governor Lingle eliminated the funding for the program in October 2008, and this past session the legislature amended Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, to extend the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program through June 30, 2012. This included appropriations of \$200,000 each year for fiscal years 2009-2011. Approximately 600 keiki will be covered annually.

HB1536 — Pay Cut and Salary Freeze

Over the next few years, salary increases for top state officials set by the Hawaii Salary Commission would have cost the state an estimated \$4.1 million for the fiscal years 2009-2011. HB1536 mandates a salary freeze and a five percent pay cut of the salaries of the governor, lieutenant governor, department directors, judges and state lawmakers, for a two year period beginning July 1, 2009. This ultimately will save the state \$2.1 million.

LEGISLATION PENDING FOR 2010 SESSION

Legislation from the 2009 Legislative session which is still pending:

SB608: Extends the maximum age for EUTF health benefits coverage for dependent-beneficiaries who are unmarried full-time students and are called to active duty in federal service with the National Guard or military reserves.

SB609: Provides for a statewide ban of consumer fireworks (firecrackers).

SB610: Bans all fireworks in counties with a population of more than 500,000 persons.

SB1216: Prevents any court from commencing a proceeding to enforce a lien or foreclosure action against real property owned by a reservist of the United States Armed Forces or member of the Hawaii National Guard until that reservist or member is redeployed from active duty for a period of one year.

SB1339: Establishes motor vehicle noise standards for noise emanating from a radio, tape player, or other mechanical soundmaking device or instrument within a motor vehicle and from mufflers.

Other legislation I am considering proposing:

Income tax check off box: Creates a fill-in amount for the "school-level minor repairs and maintenance special fund" and the "libraries special fund" income tax check-off boxes.

Solar and Photovoltaic (PV) Use: Use stimulus or general funds to encourage more consumers to purchase solar/PV technology. Vendors would get tax credit directly from state and tax credit would be assignable.

Excessive Speeding: Authorizes the court to order forfeiture of a defendant's vehicle if it is used in the commission of the excessive speeding offense and in at least two prior excessive speeding convictions.

Alternative Energy: Allows eligible customer-generators to carry over unused credits for excess electricity from previous months until exhausted.

Tour de Hawaii: Resolution requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to study the feasibility of establishing a "Tour de Hawaii" bike race, in the spirit of the Tour de France with the possibility of staging race segments on all the major islands.



2008 Gentry Waipio Christmas Parade with Sheryl Kaseli.

Senators Kidani and Galuteria discussing Otter Creek Prison during Committee of Public Safety and Military Affairs.



Senator Kidani was recently appointed Hawaii State Director for Women in Government, a national, non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators. WIG provides leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues.



As Hawaii State Director, she will serve a two year term through 2011, providing a link between Hawaii legislators and the national WIG headquarters in Washington, D.C. Senator Kidani will be able to attend all conferences with scholarships from WIG, covering the costs of airfare, ground transportation, accommodations and meals.

WIG serves 1,700 female state legislators in the United States and hosts meetings, summits, and task forces on an annual basis. Scholarships are provided for State Directors to attend all conferences. Senator Kidani has bid to host the 2011 annual WIG conference in Honolulu.



Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion receives pillows and blankets donated by State Capitol employees.



Senator Kidani at 2008 Mililani Christmas Parade with Rep. Ryan Yamane, Councilmember Nestor Garcia, and Rep. Marilyn Lee.

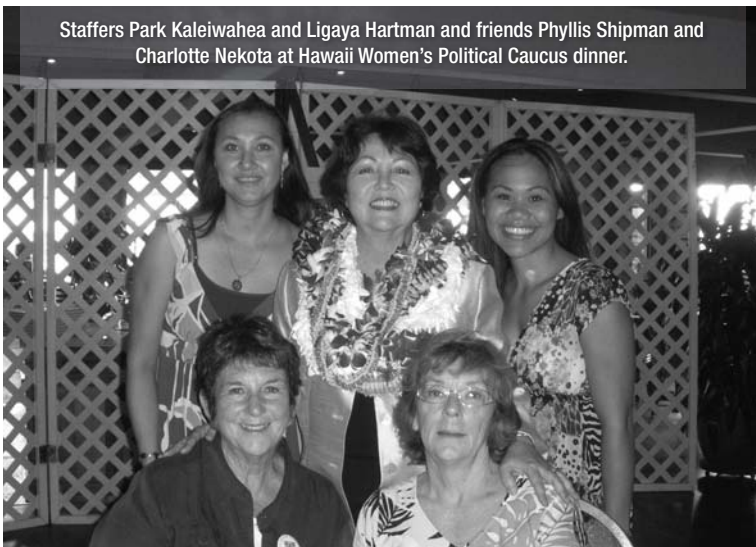
We have been keeping busy in preparation for the 2010 session: researching future legislation, improving office efficiency, volunteering for our community and employing more environmentally friendly office practices. Below are other projects undertaken during the interim.



Pictured with Hawaii Meth Project volunteers at Children and Youth Day event.



Senator Kidani and her staff at the inaugural Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk raised over \$2,800 on October 4, 2009.



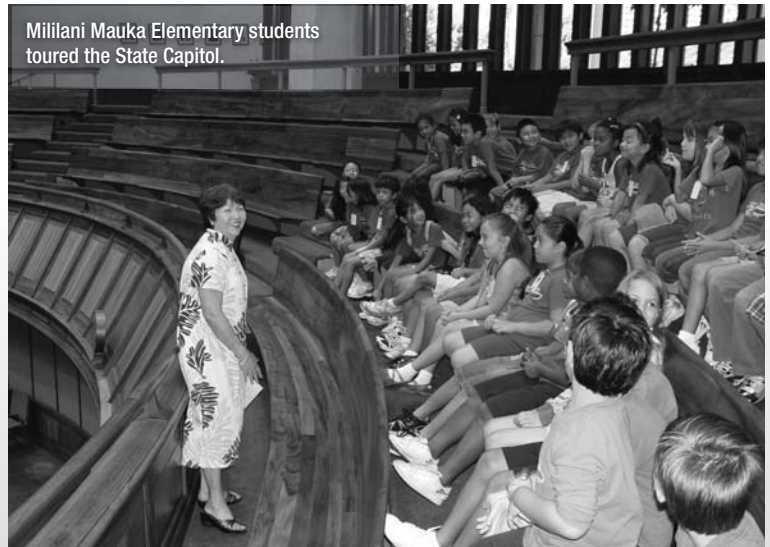
Staffers Park Kaleiwahea and Ligaya Hartman and friends Phyllis Shipman and Charlotte Nekota at Hawaii Women's Political Caucus dinner.



The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission invited Senator Kidani and other Hawaiian Caucus Legislators to tour Kaho'olawe to give legislators a better understanding of KIRC's strategic plan. Pictured above are: Senator Galuteria, Rep. Carroll, Senator Kidani, Senator Kokubun and Senator English.



Senator Kidani led her staff and volunteers in raising over \$14,000 for the Hawaii Foodbank. Senator Kidani, Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and LRB Director, Ken Takayama presenting Senate check to the Hawaii Foodbank.



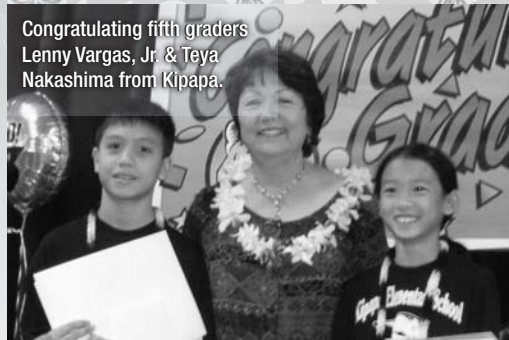
Mililani Mauka Elementary students toured the State Capitol.

I am proud to announce that Senate's paperless initiative has saved 7,705,303 pages of paper from its implementation in 2007, saving not only trees but money. To support the paperless initiative please visit my web site, www.SenatorMichelleKidani.com, for future Legislative Updates and ongoing community information.

This will minimize mail outs and reduce the Legislature's expenses for paper and postage.

You may also request emails of my monthly Neighborhood Board Updates and Legislative Newsletters by e-mailing your request to SenKidani@capitol.hawaii.gov

Kudos from Senator Kidani



Congratulating fifth graders Lenny Vargas, Jr & Teya Nakashima from Kipapa.



Congratulations to Erika Ryckman from Mililani Ike Elementary.

12 Outstanding Elementary Students

One of my very favorite things to do as a Senator is visiting with students. This year I was privileged to visit all the elementary schools in my district to present special awards and \$50 savings bonds to 12 outstanding elementary students. Two super students from each graduating class were selected by their teachers to receive this award. Congratulations!!

Kanoelani Elementary

Joshua "Pono" Akau
Cassidy Kusumoto

Mililani Ike Elementary

Erika Kawasaki Ryckman
Ty Yamasaki

Mililani Mauka Elementary

Tehani Mossman
Kiani Coleman-Saloricman

Kipapa Elementary

Teya Nakashima
Leonard "Lenny" Vargas

Mililani Uka Elementary

Arielle P. Wilson
Alika Schumacher

Mililani Waena Elementary

Kailey Kurashige
Matthew Teruo Kikuyama

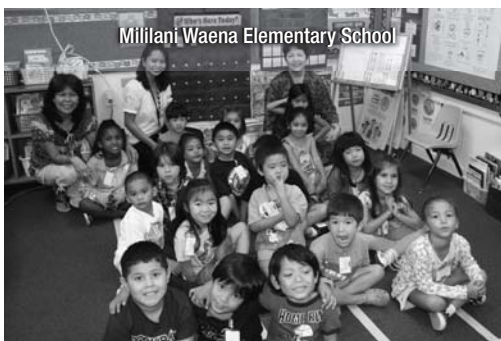
50th Statehood Anniversary Time Capsule

The Hawaii State Senate filled one of 50 time capsules commemorating our 50th anniversary. My contribution was a picture of each of the 36 Kindergarten classes in my Senate District. These pictures, with letters I wrote, were put into the capsule to be opened in 2034.

Hawaii's 75th statehood anniversary. When opened, the letters and pictures will be mailed to each school principal. Our kindergartners will be 35-year-old leaders of our community — maybe one of these children will be a principal receiving the letter. The Mililani High School class of 2009 picture was included as well as a picture of my grandson, Mililani Middle School student Keaolana Cook.



Kanoelani Elementary School



Mililani Waena Elementary School



Grandson Keaolani Cook and 5th Grade Teacher Ms. Tsurumaki at Mililani Uka Graduation.

Capital Improvement Projects for Senate District 17

Although we had a very tough year across the state for funding, we were fortunate enough to have much needed Capital Improvement Project appropriations which benefit Mililani and Waipio Gentry. These projects will improve our community as well as simulate our economy.

Schools

- Mililani High — Resurface school parking lot — \$312,000
- Pearl City High — Electrical upgrade — \$150,000
- Highlands Intermediate — Asbestos removal — \$480,000
- Kipapa Elementary — Parking lot drop off area — \$500,000
- Mililani Uka Elementary — Resurface playground/stabilize eroding slope — \$675,000
- Mililani Waena Elementary — Ventilation of classrooms and Parking lot expansion — \$250,000

Roads & Services

- Waipio Ambulance Facility — Design & Construction — \$3.8 million
- H-1 Kunia Interchange improvements — \$780,000
- Afternoon Contraflow — Radford to Waikale — \$55 million
- Mililani Kamehameha Hwy — Sidewalk Development — \$2.5 million

