



Senator Michelle Kidani

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

Committees: Vice Chair- Education and Housing
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Aloha,

I have been working on several pieces of legislation for the 2010 legislative session:

- **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 was used in the commission of the excessive speeding offense and in at least two prior excessive speeding convictions.
- **Care home and daycare safety:** Require sprinkler system, fire and smoke alarms for care homes and daycares.
- **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 populated islands.

If you have any requests for proposed legislation, please submit them to my office by October. Interim is an ideal time to sit down with me or one of my staff to discuss your issue and begin to develop legislation for the 2010 session.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

MILILANI SCHOOL VISITS



Senator Kidani welcomed Mililani Mauka Elementary students to the State Capitol on September 1 and 3. The students played a fun game of Hawaii general and political trivia in the Senate Chambers.

MEET MY STAFF: LIGAYA VASQUEZ HARTMAN



Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion visited Senator Kidani's office on September 21 to pick up pillow and blanket sets graciously donated by Capitol employees. Welcome home and job well done to these soldiers!

Ligaya Vasquez Hartman joined my staff as my Legislative Aide in the 2009 legislative session after serving 6 years active duty in the Army. She is from Honolulu, Hawaii and currently resides in Waipio with her husband Justin and daughter Kiana.

Ligaya handles constituent correspondence, researches constituent inquiries, assists with research for future legislation and general administrative duties.

Ligaya is also an active member at her church, New Hope Kapolei, and volunteers as the Hawaii Meth Project's Central Oahu lead volunteer, spreading the message to teenagers and young adults—"Not even once".

She and her husband, Justin, met while serving in the military together and he is returning from his third tour in Iraq this October. In addition to her work as my legislative aide, Ligaya volunteers as a Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader, serving as a liaison between soldiers' families and her husband's command. One of her most recent activities as an FRG leader was to collect blanket and pillow donations for single soldiers returning from Iraq.

"This was done for me when I returned from Iraq. I went to my barracks room and a family had decorated my door, left toiletries and board games for me, and put some snacks in the fridge and pantry," says Ligaya. "It was much better than returning home from a deployment to an empty barrack's room, and I am so thankful to have an opportunity to go full circle and do this for a new round of Veterans as a FRG member."

ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK



Senator Kidani led her team's way as they walked to raise Alzheimer's disease awareness at the 2009 Alzheimer's Memory Walk from Fisherman's Wharf to Magic Island on September 12.

SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



Senator Kidani with Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman and Senator Brickwood Galuteria at the Remembrance ceremony at Tamarind Park on September 11.

"Let us never forget the death and destruction of September 11th. Let us never forget that there are those in our world without honor, and who live with such hate that they will go to extreme lengths to cause America great sorrow and despair. They succeeded on September 11, 2001."

"Today, eight years later, let us be emboldened by our pain, resilient in our refusal to give up or give in, and vigilant in our fight against terrorism in our homeland and throughout the world. By our actions, we ensure that the precious lives lost were not in vain." "Let us never forget."

The City and County of Honolulu hosted a Remembrance Ceremony on September 11 to honor the memory of those who lost their lives eight years ago in the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks. Senator Daniel K. Inouye's remarks on 9/11 were read aloud at the ceremony.

**KANOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ALOHA AINA RECYCLING DRIVE**



Kanoelani Elementary School is hosted its first community clean up and recycling fundraiser on September 19, 2009. **Above:** Senator Kidani and volunteers sorting beverage containers. **Below:** Waipio resident Shirley Lee transported magazines to the large recycling bins.



DID YOU KNOW?

- **Free or reduced-cost lunch:** In 2008, 38.6% of Hawai'i public school children received free or reduced-cost lunch, with the highest percentage among children in Hawai'i County (48.1%) and the lowest percentage among those in Maui County (33.1%).
- **On time graduation:** In 2008, the percentage of students who graduated within four years of the first time they entered the ninth grade was 80.1% for the state of Hawai'i, with the highest percentage occurring in Kauai County (85.1%) and the lowest percentage occurring in Hawai'i County (78.2%).
- **College going rate:** In 2008, the percentage of high school seniors who reported being accepted into higher education or training in May of the graduating year was 54.0% for the state of Hawai'i, with the highest percentage occurring in Hawai'i County (59.2%) and the lowest percentage occurring in Maui County (45.4%).

From <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=HI>

Kaho'olawe Legislative Access Tour

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) invited Senator Kidani and other Hawaiian Caucus legislators to a special access tour of Kaho'olawe on September 15-16.

KIRC arranged the tour to give legislators a better understanding of the KIRC's strategic plan, vision for the future, current programs, and to begin a dialogue on future funding opportunities through site inspections and interaction with both KIRC staff and on-island volunteers.

Senator Kidani and the other guests explored the reef system and at Honoko'a Bay and KIRC staff gave a cultural briefing and demonstrated several ways they are encouraging sustainability and restoration on Kaho'olawe.

Senator Kidani and the other guests then completed the day with a hike of the Ala Loa trail. Overnight accommodations were at the KIRC's Base Camp facilities—complete with potable water sources, showers, machine shop, generator, education center, and reverse osmosis facilities.

The next morning Senator Kidani explored the Navigator's Chair, Bell Stone and other cultural and archeological sites and planting restoration work along the way before returning to Maui.

E Ala E – Rise Up

Excerpt from Ko Hema Lamalama, KIRC Newsletter Fall 2009 (used by permission)

As the 'Öhua landing craft approached Honokanai'a Bay on a mid-September morning, Executive Director Mike Näho'opi'i began the chant *Mele Komo – Request to Enter* and, to a person, they stood. Respectfully. The purpose of this access was to enable members of the Hawaiian Caucus and other state legislators who have supported Kaho'olawe in the past to better understand the KIRC's new strategic plan, vision for the future, current programs, and to begin a dialogue on future funding opportunities through site inspections and interaction with both KIRC staff and on-island volunteers.



At Ordnance Board following safety briefing are (l-r) Sen. Kokubun, Mike Näho'opi'i, Sen. English, Rep. Carroll, and senators Galuteria and Kidani.

Included among the men and women of the Hawai'i State Legislature who'd taken time to update their acquaintance and relationship with Kanaloa Kaho'olawe were Senate Vice President Russell Kokubun of Hawai'i Island, Maui/Kaho'olawe Senator J. Kalani English, and Senators Brickwood Galuteria and Michelle Kidani of O'ahu and, from the House, Hawaiian Caucus Chair and Maui/Kaho'olawe Representative Mele Carroll. Earlier in the day, at a brief stop at Honoko'a Bay, members of the entourage explored the pristine reef system, noting that protection of Hawaii's resources can yield a near perfect habitat for reef fishes, honu (turtle) and 'Ilioholoikauaua (Monk seal). The "nursery effect" of the Reserve's protection – food fish populations spilling out into the waters of Maui Nui – was also discussed in terms of sustainability.

After settling into Honokanai'a Kauhale – including the inaugural overnight accommodations in recently retro-fitted Hut 10 – the group toured Base Camp facilities including potable water sources, showers, machine shop, generator, education center, and reverse osmosis facilities, and engaged in a comprehensive discussion of KIRC's alternative energy objectives, before traveling to Kealaikahiki for a cultural briefing at the Star Compass and a hike along the a recently completed section of the Ala Loa trail.

Following an after-dinner kanikapila led by Senator Galuteria, legislators headed for bed in preparation for a very early (4:30 a.m.) rising to call "E Ala E" and greet the sunrise at the Rain Ko'a. Traveling next to Moa'ulaiki, legislators explored the Navigator's Chair, Bell Stone and other cultural and archeological sites and planting restoration work along the way. In returning to Base Camp, their last stop was Sailor's Hat – a poignant reminder of the devastation once wreaked upon Kaho'olawe that stands in stark contrast to today's aloha 'āina with which we mālama this incomparable island.

As they departed the Reserve to the chanted strains of *Ke Noi 'A'ama – Request for Release* – the legislators, like so many earlier visitors, rose as one, quietly and reflectively, before the profoundly personal awareness gained within the Kanaloa Kaho'olawe experience.



A cultural briefing beside the Star Compass at Kealaikahiki preceded a vigorous hike along the Ala Loa trail.



Legislators tour potable water facilities at Honokanai'a Kauhale.



Legislators, volunteer carpenters and KIRC staff gather in front the recently completed retrofit of the Volunteer Hut - Hut 10.