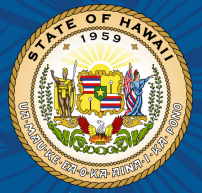


COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | OCTOBER 2025

Serving Mililani Town, Waipʻo Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Michelle
KIDANI

Senate Vice President

Chair

Committee on Education

Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Member

Committee on Ways and Means

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy October and Happy Halloween! As we welcome the fall season, I'm excited to share updates from across our district and state. This month's newsletter features community highlights and initiatives which reflect our shared commitment to opportunity, collaboration, and progress.

To start, a warm congratulations to Mililani High School and Waipahu High School on their spirited and joyful Homecoming celebrations. I am proud of all your accomplishments and hope these events were memorable for our students, staff, and families alike.

Beyond our district, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means recently visited Lānaʻi and Maui to meet with government agencies and community leaders. These discussions provided important updates on education, housing, wildfire management, and workforce development. Partnerships, such as Pūlama Lānaʻi's housing initiatives and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' collaboration with the State Fire Marshal, continue to strengthen efforts toward a more resilient and sustainable Hawaiʻi.

In our schools, the Hawaiʻi Department of Education's Farm-to-School initiative brought a special meal to students on Oʻahu, Kauaʻi, and Hawaiʻi Island this September: chicken papaya soup (Tinola), made with locally grown bok choy and green papaya. Through this effort, more than 2,000 pounds of Hawaiʻi-grown bok choy were distributed to 75 schools. I share more about this in my newsletter, highlighting how these programs support local farmers and promote healthy, sustainable meals for our keiki. Mahalo to Superintendent Hayashi and the DOE for continuing to nourish our students while advancing food sustainability across the islands.

Continuing with the theme of expanding opportunities for students, the University of Hawaiʻi and the Hawaiʻi State Department of Education recently launched Direct2UH, a new program designed to make the college admissions process simpler and more accessible for Hawaiʻi's public high school seniors. Through this initiative, students can receive free, direct admission to nine UH campuses based on their GPA. No separate college application is required. You can read more about this exciting program on page 4.

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to represent you in the Hawaiʻi State Senate. As we move forward, I will continue working to strengthen our schools, support local families, and invest in a sustainable future for our islands. Mahalo for your continued trust and partnership as we work together to build a thriving Hawaiʻi for all.

Mahalo,

Michelle



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Senate Ways and Means Committee Visits Lānaʻi & Maui

Our Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) visited Lānaʻi and Maui to gain valuable insight into how local agencies and community partners are driving progress across education, housing, agriculture, healthcare, workforce development, and wildfire management. From the Pūlama Lānaʻi housing initiatives to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) wildfire response efforts and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) outreach to underserved communities, these collaborations are building the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable Hawaiʻi. Their continued efforts will help shape the policies and resources that strengthen communities across our islands.



WAM Committee members receiving updates on economic development and sustainability efforts.

Celebrating 40 Years of Sisterhood Through Shared Stories

On October 10th, I visited Okinawa with other legislators to commemorate 40 years of sister-state relations between Hawaiʻi and Okinawa. Our delegation met with Governor Tamaki, where we reaffirmed a shared commitment to deepening exchanges and strengthening the bond between our communities. The Hawaiʻi State Library and the Okinawa Prefectural Library collaborated to screen *Mood by Force Forced Eviction*, a powerful 2023 documentary exploring the Japanese American experience in Hawaiʻi during World War II. The screening also marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, adding deeper significance to this meaningful cultural exchange.



Soup-er Local, Soup-er Delicious!

As part of the Hawaiʻi Department of Education's farm-to-school initiative, which promotes food sustainability, supports local farmers, and aligns with Act 175 to improve student health, public school cafeterias on Oʻahu, Kauaʻi, and Hawaiʻi Island had a special treat this September! Students were offered chicken papaya soup, a classic Filipino dish also known as Tinola, made with locally sourced bok choy and green papaya. Thanks to this effort, over 2,000 pounds of local bok choy were distributed to 75 participating schools. Mahalo to the Hawaiʻi Department of Education for bringing fresh, healthy, and local foods to our students while supporting our farmers and strengthening food sustainability across the islands!



Photo Courtesy of HIDEOE



Photo Courtesy of HIDEOE



Photo Courtesy of HIDEOE

Mililani's Own: Dillon Gabriel Carries the Pride of Hawai'i



Photo Courtesy of HIDEOE

Mililani Alumni Dillon Gabriel delivering a speech.

As a proud advocate for Hawai'i's public schools, it is thrilling to celebrate Dillon Gabriel's historic achievement representing Mililani High School and our islands with pride. Dillon, a Mililani High School 2019 graduate, will become the first graduate of a Hawai'i public high school to start an NFL game at quarterback. From setting records in high school to now leading the Cleveland Browns, Dillon's journey has been defined by hard work and determination.

On Sunday Oct 19th, he will take the field for the Vikings vs. Browns game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, with kickoff at 3:30 a.m. HST. Congratulations, Dillon — you make Mililani proud!

Trojan Pride: Mililani High School Homecoming

On Saturday, October 18th, Mililani High School celebrated its Homecoming with an exciting parade, as well as an evening football game matchup against Kapolei High School. The stands were filled with students, families, and supporters, all showcasing incredible school spirit from start to finish. I watched from the end zone as the Trojans played with determination and heart, ultimately defeating Kapolei with a final score of 35-24. The energy by the community's enthusiastic support throughout the night was awesome to hear and watch. Congratulations to Mililani High School on a memorable Homecoming and a well-earned victory — go Trojans!



Photo Courtesy of ScoringLive



Photo Courtesy of Waipahu High School

Waipahu High School's Homecoming theme

The Jewels of Waipahu High School

Waipahu also came out strong in their Homecoming football game on October 3, defeating Nānākuli with an impressive score of 66-43!

The celebration continued throughout Homecoming Week, which was filled with spirit and pride. The Senior Class of 2026—the Immortal Lions—roared to victory in the Arthur Awards. Many students spent months preparing their cheers and choreography, showcasing their dedication and school pride during Blue & Gold Day, bonding through Field Day events like tug-of-war, and honoring tradition on Alma Mater Day. Way to go Marauders!

One card. Endless Opportunities.



A Card That Opens Doors To Learning!

Hawai'i's public libraries are so much more than books, they're gateways to learning, creativity, and fun for the whole 'ohana! 🌺

This month, make the most of your FREE library card:

- Access eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines with the Libby App: hawaii.overdrive.com
- Help keiki practice reading with BookFlix: digital.scholastic.com/slp/login
- Explore over 25,000 activity sheets, mini-books, and crafts on Scholastic Teachables: teachables.scholastic.com

Grab your library card and dive in — there's something for everyone!

Direct2UH: Expanding Access to Higher Education for Hawai'i's Public School Seniors

The University of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Department of Education have announced the launch of Direct2UH, a new program aimed at making the college admissions process easier and more accessible for Hawai'i's public high school seniors. Through this initiative, students can gain free, direct admission to nine UH campuses based on their GPAs, without having to submit a traditional college application!

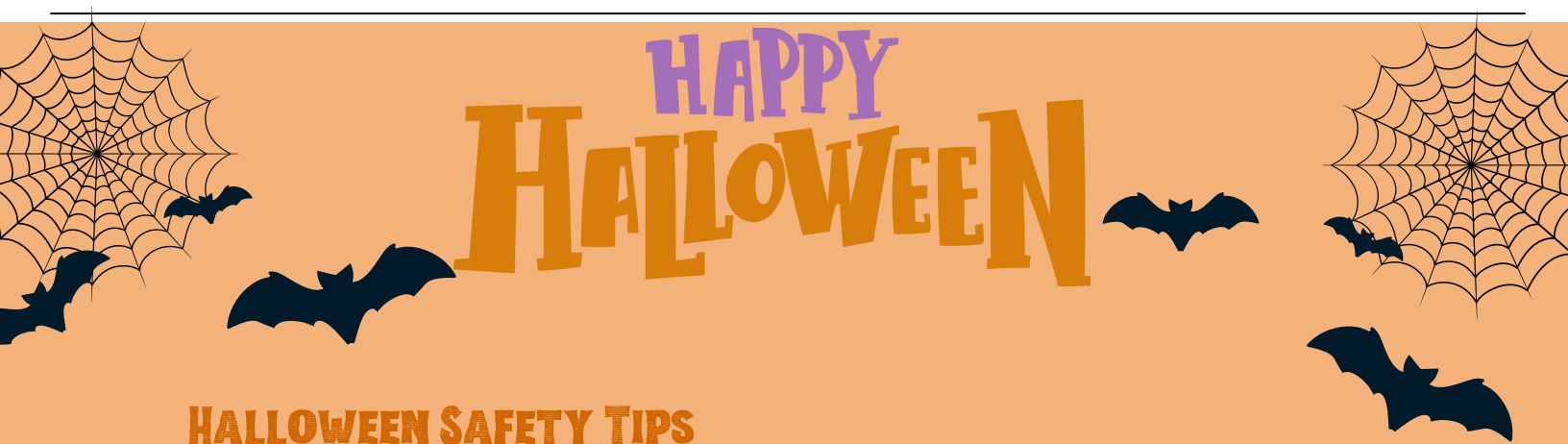
How Direct2UH works:

- Students with a 2.7 GPA or higher automatically qualify for admission to UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu, and all seven UH Community Colleges.
- Students with a 2.69 GPA or below will qualify for admission to all seven UH Community Colleges.
- Admission to the four-year campuses (UH Hilo and UH West O'ahu) is subject to verification of official transcripts and eligibility requirements.

Visit the website to apply: <https://www.hawaii.edu/direct2uh/>



Photo Courtesy of University of Hawai'i
Superintendent Hayashi and UH President Wendy Hensel with Students and Staff



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

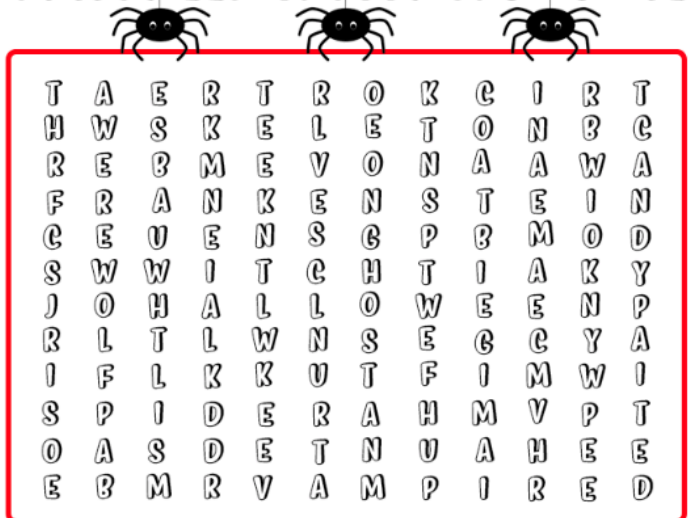
FOR CHILDREN

- Increase being seen by drivers. Wear something reflective on your costume (nothing flammable).
- Carry a flashlight to light your way safely and help others see you.
- Walk, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street.
- Watch out for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms before entering the street. Remember it may be hard for drivers to see you.
- Don't stop on the streets to check your treats. Have your parents do it at home when you meet. (Immediately report obviously tampered items and give it to police.)
- Don't eat treats until checked by your parents.

FOR PARENTS

- Use a pre-planned, well lighted trick-or-treat route.
- Escort your children or designate a responsible older child to accompany the trick-or-treaters.
- Drive safely. Watch out for children when backing out of driveways. Use your headlights early and drive well below the posted speed limit.
- Leave your porch light on if you plan to participate in the festivities. Keep your walkways to your front porch clear.
- Give only commercially wrapped treats, coupons, gift certificates or coins.
- Inspect all treats brought home.

HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CANDY
GHOST
TRICK OR TREAT
HALLOWEEN
NOVEMBER
SKELETON
VAMPIRE
WITCH

HAUNTED
FRANKENSTEIN
WEREWOLF
BAT
SPIDER
MUMMY
WEB