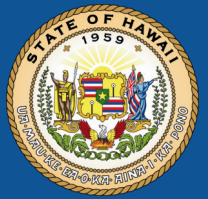


COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | END OF SESSION NEWSLETTER

Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o 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,

With the conclusion of the 2024 legislative session, I have reflected on the numerous community events in which I had the honor of participating, celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of our students across Mililani, Waipahu, and Pearl City. The commitment and innovation of our educators, faculty, and staff in the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) continue to inspire me, as they play a foundational role in nurturing the potential of our young learners.

In celebration of their academic excellence, I provided Kidani Awards at several elementary schools, including Kanoelani, Kalei'opu'u, Mililani Waena, and Honowai. It was a joy to witness the enthusiasm and pride of our school communities and their families during their year-end ceremonies.

This session, the Legislature has made substantial progress in enhancing our schools statewide. Notably, we passed key legislation which established a Harm to Students Registry and allocated funds to strengthen educational resources for our Native Hawaiian students at Kaiapuni (Hawaiian language immersion) schools. We also secured funding for several important Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) after visiting schools in the district and meeting with principals and students to understand their top priorities. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a detailed breakdown of the legislative advancements made this session, an overview of the state budget allocations, and updates on CIP that will benefit our district. During the interim, I remain committed to continuing our work to enhance the educational experiences of our keiki and to support the dedicated professionals who make their successes possible.

Last but not least, I extend my warmest aloha and congratulations to our Mililani, Pearl City, and Waipahu High School graduates! The commencement ceremonies were a profound testament to the resilience, dedication, and academic prowess of our students. It was uplifting to see their accomplishments being celebrated by friends, family, and our wider community. I hope you and your 'ohana enjoy a safe and joyful summer. Congratulations to the class of 2024!

Mahalo,

Michelle



Top left: Inspecting school grounds of Mililani Uka Elementary with Vice Principal Marlene Ohira-Tayama and my Committee Clerk Lisa Barnett. Bottom left: Observing the construction of Kanoelani Elementary's covered stage area with Principal Neil Blomberg. Above: Principal Stacy Kawamura noting areas of ADA improvements at Honowai Elementary.

Keep reading for additional information about our district's CIP projects, legislative accomplishments, and more featured in this newsletter.



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NOTABLE BILLS OF 2024

SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill; *CD = Conference Draft

*Conference draft (CD) is a final version of a bill agreed upon by both the Senate and House during a conference committee.

SB2475 SD2 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

It is important for our keiki to receive education in a safe and secure environment. This measure, the first in Hawai'i, establishes a Harm to Students Registry to ensure safer learning environments and hold accountable those who have committed egregious actions towards students, preventing them from securing employment at other educational institutions. The registry will contain information about school employees, contractors, or volunteers who have been found to have inflicted harm on a student after an investigation.

HB2404 HD1 SD1 CD1: RELATING TO INCOME TAX.

This bill increases the standard deduction amounts and adjusts income tax brackets, which designate how much tax is owed for different levels of income, every two years from 2025 to 2031. Enacted on June 3, 2024 as Act 46, this became the biggest tax cut in the state's history, benefiting working families beginning with the 2024 tax return.

SB2305 SD2 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

This bill establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing kūpuna, as well as those who are cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

SB2476 HD2 CD1: RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

This bill permits licensed dental hygienists to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply preventive dental sealants in a school-based dental program. This is a proactive step to address tooth decay among Hawai'i's children.

HB2074 HD2 SD1 CD1: RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION.

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools of the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) deliver instruction in the Hawaiian language. Offering a bicultural and bilingual learning environment, there has been a significant increase in demand for Hawaiian language immersion education over the past decade. There are currently 22 Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools, but there is a growing need for more teachers and resources to meet the demand and ensure quality education. This measure aims to ensure sufficient staff for both new and existing Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools by allocating \$3.5 million for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Hawaiian language immersion education, including funding for three full-time-equivalent Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and 10 full-time-equivalent Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

SB2943 SD2 HD1 CD1: RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Due to the critical role that commercial drivers license (CDL) drivers play in the State's infrastructure, this measure will establish a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the scarcity and availability of CDL drivers in the State. The workforce shortage of CDL drivers directly impacts the State's education system, where over 200 additional CDL drivers are required to fully cover school bus routes statewide.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mililani Uka Elementary: \$1.5M for the design and construction of telecom improvements, including upgrading the telecommunication system used for safety drills, active shooter incidents, and daily announcements.

Honowai Elementary School: \$1.95M to finance the design and construction of ADA improvements. This funding will be used to make repairs to elevators, ensure safe pathways, and address safety concerns for special needs or impaired students and staff with health and mobility issues.

Kanoelani Elementary School: \$150K for construction to install light poles with floodlights. The campus is dimly lit at night, so proper lighting is essential for campus security and nighttime events, especially as we use the new covered stage area at the back of the campus, which was approved by a separate budget.

LEGISLATIVE BIENNIUM 2023 THROUGH 2024: BY THE NUMBERS

The Hawai'i State Legislature operates on a biennial, or two-year, cycle. The Thirty-Second Legislature, which began in 2023, concludes in 2024. Here is a quick snapshot of legislative activities my office has administered during this period.



388 measures

as Primary Introducer



37 hearings

as Education
Committee Chair



116 measures

reported from EDU
Committee



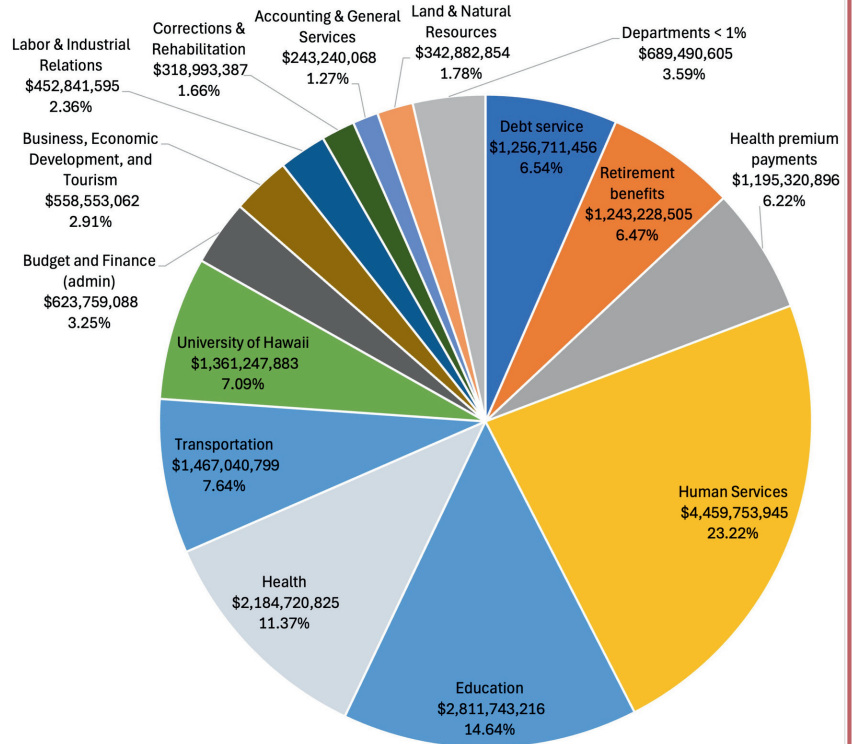
1,778 testimony

processed through
EDU Committee

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW

The Legislature’s total budget for fiscal year 2025 for all means of financing is **\$19,209,528,184**. Charted below are the budget breakdowns for all categories during the 2024-2025 year:

Department	FY25 \$	%
Debt service	\$ 1,256,711,456	6.54%
Retirement benefits	\$ 1,243,228,505	6.47%
Health premium payments	\$ 1,195,320,896	6.22%
Human Services	\$ 4,459,753,945	23.22%
Education	\$ 2,811,743,216	14.64%
Health	\$ 2,184,720,825	11.37%
Transportation	\$ 1,467,040,799	7.64%
University of Hawaii	\$ 1,361,247,883	7.09%
Budget and Finance (admin)	\$ 623,759,088	3.25%
Business, Economic Development, and Tourism	\$ 558,553,062	2.91%
Labor & Industrial Relations	\$ 452,841,595	2.36%
Corrections & Rehabilitation	\$ 318,993,387	1.66%
Accounting & General Services	\$ 243,240,068	1.27%
Land & Natural Resources	\$ 342,882,854	1.78%
Departments < 1%	\$ 689,490,605	3.59%
Departments < 1%		
Defense	\$ 140,319,539	0.73%
Attorney General	\$ 122,059,115	0.64%
Commerce and Consumer Affairs	\$ 119,535,961	0.62%
Law Enforcement	\$ 96,559,143	0.50%
Taxation	\$ 42,572,479	0.22%
Human Resources Development	\$ 33,375,527	0.17%
Agriculture	\$ 60,476,762	0.31%
Hawaiian Home Lands	\$ 66,488,074	0.35%
Office of the Governor	\$ 5,426,774	0.03%
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	\$ 2,677,231	0.01%
Total	19,209,528,184	100.00%



Hawai‘i DOE Launches CPR/AED Training Pilot Program

The DOE has recently launched a pilot program for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training in partnership with the Hawai‘i Heart Foundation. The initiative aims to provide CPR education and AED training to selected schools throughout the state, ensuring that students are equipped with life-saving skills. I participated in the program’s launch at Mililani High School (MHS), where our students and I received hands-on instruction in essential techniques. The training session was conducted by Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Char, former Director of the Hawai‘i Department of Health, along with nurses from the UH Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing’s Hawai‘i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program.

Funded by the state legislature through Act 143, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, the pilot program aims to enhance cardiac survival rates in Hawai‘i by training approximately 20,000 students annually. As reported by the Hawai‘i Heart Foundation, this training is crucial for improving survival rates as bystanders currently perform CPR in less than one in three cardiac arrests. At the end of the training program, each student will receive a CPR/AED competency card, recognizing their proficiency and knowledge in lifesaving skills under the Good Samaritan Law.

This program not only prepares our youth to respond effectively in emergencies but also empowers them to assist family members and community members. I am proud to support this program and look forward to its expansion in high schools statewide, which will make a lasting impact on the health and safety of our communities.



Left (L-R): Former Deputy Superintendent Curt Otaguro, Dr. Elizabeth Char, Hawai‘i Heart Foundation Executive Director Pamela Foster, Superintendent Hayashi, myself, MHS Principal Fred Murphy, and Hawai‘i Keiki nurses. Middle: With Dr. Char practicing CPR skills. Right: Dr. Char and I observing students implementing these life-saving skills on adult manikins.

A Hui Hou, Senator Shimabukuro!

After decades of steadfast service, we bid a heartfelt aloha and a hui hou to Senator Maile Shimabukuro as she concluded her final session. It has been an immense privilege to work alongside Senator Shimabukuro, whose dedication to her community has profoundly impacted Hawai'i and its people. Throughout her 21-year career in the Legislature, Senator Shimabukuro has been a pivotal force in championing significant projects and legislation such as the expansion of MA'O Organic Farms to major legislative reforms like the legalization of pa'i'ai and protections for sex abuse victims. Thank you, Senator Shimabukuro, for your distinguished service and enduring commitment to our state.



Members of the Senate, along with Lt. Gov. Luke, posed with shakas, the official gesture of the State of Hawai'i, bidding a fond aloha to Senator Shimabukuro on Sine Die.

'Iolani Palace Tour with Executive Director Paula Akana

This year's CIP budget allocated \$150K for the plans, design, construction, and equipment for improvements, maintenance, and renovations within 'Iolani Palace. Guided by The Friends of 'Iolani Palace's Executive Director Paula Akana and Director of Learning Engagement Anuheia Kanealii, my staff and I visited the palace to learn more about its rich history and the meticulous restoration efforts to return it to its original splendor.

I am excited to share that 'Iolani Palace welcomes all residents to Kama'āina Sunday, a free event where guests can explore the palace, immerse themselves in Hawaiian culture, taste 'ono food, support local vendors, and enjoy lively entertainment. Kama'āina Sunday is held on the second Sunday of every month, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A valid Hawai'i State ID, driver's license, or proof of residency is required for each complimentary ticket, with one ticket per resident. Kama'āina are encouraged to come early! For more information, visit iolanipalace.org/visit/kamaaina-sundays/.



Left (L-R): Executive Director Paula Akana and I are in the Grand Hall of the Palace, standing in front of a large staircase made of Hawaiian koa wood. Middle (L-R): myself with Director of Learning Engagement Anuheia Kanealii admiring the intricacy of Queen Lili'uokalani's crochet work displayed in the quilt in the glass case. Right: Friends of 'Iolani Palace staff, my staff, and I are all smiles after our tour of the Palace.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program Accepting Applications for SY 2024-2025

The Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) is accepting applications to its Public Prekindergarten Program for the 2024-2025 school year. To qualify, children must be 3 or 4 years old by July 31, 2024. Priority admission is extended to English as a second language learners, children in foster care, those experiencing homelessness or unstable housing, and those placed through individualized education programs in a general education setting. Applications for these priority groups are open until September 30. After this, any remaining spots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until the end of the school year.

I urge our families to visit earlylearning.hawaii.gov to apply and to find more information about the program. This is a wonderful opportunity to give your child a solid foundation in early education.



Photo Courtesy: EOEL

Mililani High School Softball Team HHSAA Division I Softball State Champions

CONGRATULATIONS to the Mililani High School Lady Trojan Softball Team! Despite the game being rescheduled due to inclement weather, the team emerged victorious as the Division I Softball State Champions. It was thrilling to celebrate this achievement with the team, Principal Fred Murphy, and Coach Rose Antonio at the Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium.

The team's relentless spirit and teamwork have not only inspired their peers but have rallied family, friends, fans, and our entire community in support. It was a special honor to present the championship trophy to Coach Antonio (I had the privilege of coaching Rose when I helped start up the Mililani-Waipio Bobby Sox softball program).



Left (L-R): Principal Murphy, Coach Antonio, and I; Middle: Celebrating with the Lady Trojans; Right: Congratulating Coach Antonio on a job well done.

Hawai'i's Citizen-Scholars of 2024

It was an honor to participate in the presentation of the 2024 Hawai'i Citizen-Scholars at the State Capitol. Initiated in 2005, this program celebrates outstanding students from each of Hawai'i's public high schools. These young individuals are recognized not only for their academic and extracurricular achievements but also for their dedication to service, volunteerism, and contributions to building a better island community.

The scholarships, supported by the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the Hawai'i State Department of Education, and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, include a \$1,000 award for each scholar with additional prizes for top students in each county and two exceptional seniors. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the 2024 Citizen-Scholars!



L-R: HLTA President & CEO Mufi Hannemann, Sen. Hashimoto, 2024 Citizen Scholars Bransen Hatakenaka, Priscilla Matthews, Kayuga Jade Garcia de Guzman, Chelsey Konno, Alanna Nicole Rillorta, myself, and Sen. Fevella.

2nd Annual Food Drive Fest at the Capitol

The 2nd Annual Food Drive Fest, hosted by Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, was held at the Capitol featuring small businesses and local vendors. My staff and I collected canned goods for the State Employee's Food Drive in support of the Hawai'i Foodbank. The event brought together our community in a collective effort to fight hunger and support those in need.

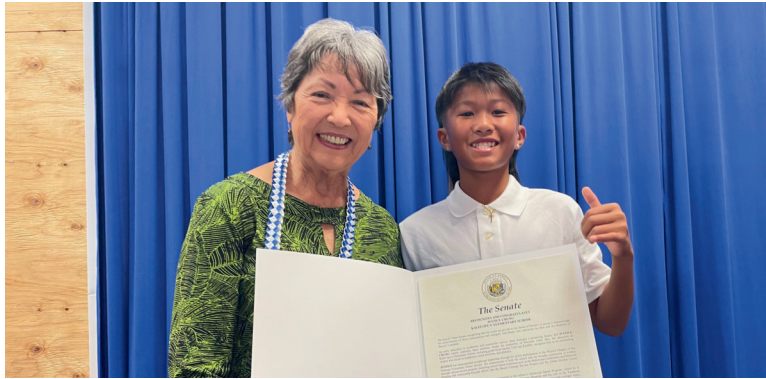


L-R: Myself with Lt. Gov. Luke at the Food Drive Fest; members of the Legislature gathered with their canned goods and donations; exploring sweet treats from our local vendors.

2024 Kidani Awards

At the close of each school year, I look forward to acknowledging outstanding District 18 elementary and middle school students, celebrating their achievements and recognizing their hard work. These students are selected by the teachers and staff of their respective schools, who consider academic achievement and character as part of their selection.

This year, I recognized students from Kalei'opu'u, Kanoelani, Mililani Waena, and Honowai Elementary Schools. Mahalo nui loa to all of the District 18 school principals and teachers for their help in making their Aloha Assembly celebrations such a memorable event.



Above L-R: at Kalei'opu'u Elementary School with students Justice Chung and Sarah Chan.



Above L-R: Honowai Elementary School Principal Stacy Kawamura with John Gabriel Basilio; Principal Kawamura with Kenji Conselva.



Above L-R: Mililani Waena Elementary School Principal Troy Tamura with Aiden Aoki; Principal Tamura with Isla Yum; Kanoelani Elementary School Principal Neil Blomberg with students Adam Kawamura and Cassie Nino.

Free Summer Meals for Keiki at Hawai'i's Public Schools

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) is offering free meals to all children 18 years and younger throughout the summer! Starting in June, 73 public schools across Hawai'i are participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. Meals are available Monday through Friday, with breakfast served from 7:15 to 8:45 a.m. and lunch from 10:30 a.m. to noon, excluding state holidays.

I encourage our families to take advantage of these meals to ensure our keiki receive consistent nutrition during the summer break. **Please note that meals must be consumed on-site.** For children with special dietary needs, parents can contact specialdiets@k12.hi.us with as much detail as possible. For more information, visit the HIDOE's website at <https://go.hidoe.us/2024SummerMeals>.



<https://go.hidoe.us/2024SummerMeals>

73 public schools to offer summer meals to children ages 18 and younger



Photo Courtesy: HIDOE

Mililani, Pearl City, and Waipahu High School Commencement Ceremonies

I had the pleasure of attending the commencement ceremonies at Mililani, Waipahu, and Pearl City High Schools. Witnessing the hard work and dedication of our remarkable students culminating in this significant milestone was truly an honor. The pride and joy on the faces of the graduates and their families were deeply inspiring. Each ceremony was a unique celebration of achievements, all connected by a shared sense of resilience and accomplishment. I left each event feeling hopeful and excited for the bright futures that lie ahead for our graduates.

At the Mililani High School commencement ceremony, Principal Fred Murphy eloquently addressed the graduating Class of 2024, capturing the spirit of our community and its enduring commitment to fostering excellence in our youth. I was both surprised and touched by his heartfelt speech, particularly when he acknowledged my contributions to the Bobby Sox and softball community. I am deeply honored and grateful to Principal Murphy. His words resonated so profoundly with me that I wanted to share excerpts from his speech in this newsletter. It serves as a powerful reminder of how interconnected our lives and achievements are within this vibrant community:



“As I stand on this stage I can’t help but reflect upon what occurred about 300 yards from this location just two nights ago. Our Trojan Softball team’s performance at the Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium was outstanding. They scored a remarkable 14 to 1 victory over a talented Kamehameha team, securing the HHSAA Division I state championship. This marks a significant milestone for the team, as it was their first championship in 10 years!

You may’ve noticed that Senator Kidani was my guest at both the OIA and HHSAA Championship Games. You see Senator Kidani is a softball trailblazer in the Mililani Community. She helped to organize the Bobby Sox league in Central Oahu. In 1988, the Mililani Bobby Sox team was the first Hawai’i Bobby Sox team to travel outside of Hawai’i and compete at Nationals. It was an exceptional team. One of the reasons it was special is that one of its

stand out players was none other than today’s Head of the Trojan Softball Team: Coach Rose Antonio! So when our team won the OIA and State Championship titles this year, it was so much fun to ask Coach Kidani to present the Championship trophy to her former player, Coach Antonio! [...]

Senator Kidani, along with other trailblazers in our community, have worked tirelessly to create a future in which girls experience athleticism, competition, and sportsmanship. Seniors, You have benefited from many community contributors to make it to where you are tonight. When you leave this arena to be greeted by your friends and ‘Ohana it may be overwhelming to think just how many people are in your corner, rain or shine, everyday supporting your journey.”

—Principal Fred Murphy, Mililani High School



SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!



Top L-R: Mililani High School's graduation at the Stan Sheriff Center; Pearl City High School's ceremony at the Hawai'i Convention Center; and Waipahu High School's class of 2024 graduates at the Stan Sheriff Center.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Senate Vice President Michelle N. Kidani • District 18

