

Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Senate Vice President

Chair: Committee on Education

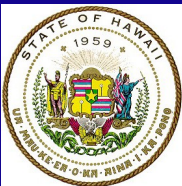
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Aloha, friends and neighbors,

Just two months from now, the Legislature will be in session again to resume our oversight of state departments and programs and the budgets we approve for them. I look forward to my continuing work as Vice President of the Senate, and Chair of the Senate's Committee on Education. In this tenth session as your elected Senator, I am also a member of the budget oversight committee - the Committee on Ways and Means - as we look at funding priorities statewide.

As a part of that process, the Committee has toured state facilities in our neighbor island counties. Six days 'on the road' have given us valuable perspective on where taxpayer dollars can best be spent, even while we maintain our focus on priorities for our own district's needs—especially transportation infrastructure and our several public school campuses.

This Thanksgiving season is an appropriate time to express my gratitude for your support over the past several years, and to reaffirm my pledge to make sure state government is responsive to ways in which we can support our families to continue to build strong communities. ***Mahalo, and Happy Thanksgiving!***



We all celebrated Mililani's spectacular varsity football success this year. After going undefeated to win the OIA Red Division Championship, two tough games in post-season kept the Trojans from reaching their ultimate goal. We can proudly congratulate players and their families and the coaching staff for their hard work and commitment to excellence that will mean success in the years ahead.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Recognizing teacher excellence

DOE Central District Resource Teacher **Gregg Iha** – at left with DOE Superintendent Christina Kishimoto – is among eight public school Teachers of the Year nominated and selected by their peers and DOE administrators. Gregg has been instrumental in introducing and promoting the *Character Counts* program in all Mililani public schools where students learn about and live the program's values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. ***Mahalo to everyone recognized this year and to all of Hawaii's thousands of public school teachers who work so hard for our students and communities.***



Mahalo to the Mililani YMCA for inviting me to the **5th Annual Trunk & Treat** Halloween costume party – complete with Moana-wannabe little girls and cute ladybugs, an assortment of princesses, along with lots of today's superheroes.





The Mililani Trojan Marching Band was among the nation’s top 100 high school bands invited to the prestigious Bands of America competition this month in Indianapolis. Over the four-day program, the Trojans advanced to a semifinal round and a 29th place overall finish, winning the **Esprit de Corps Award** for “pride, spirit, enthusiasm, friendliness and unity of purpose.”

Drum Major Giscelle Rosario and **Band Director Derek Kaapana** led the 160 band and color guard students in a ten minute musical interpretation of an Asian proverb, *The Red String of Fate*.

Congratulations



Roosevelt Bridge work 35 percent complete

The State Department of Transportation reports that the **Roosevelt (Kipapa Gulch) Bridge** refurbishing project is about 35 percent complete, with most of the work expected to be done in about 6 months. Full closures of the bridge on some weekends - although inconvenient for many motorists - are significantly reducing the overall project timeline. DOT says that as part of the project, plans for pedestrians and bikers to access the bridge are being evaluated. Highways Division Director Ed Sniffen will request time on the Mililani Neighborhood Board agenda early in 2018 to present the options for community input. *He says that once such access has been implemented, it will be possible to walk or bike from Mililani to Pearl City on Kamehameha Highway and connect to the Pearl Harbor bike path and future rail stations.*

Two other projects proceeding

A year’s worth of work is virtually complete now on a new enclosed space at the **Mililani Public Library** – a great addition to a wonderful community asset. During the construction, a portion of the ceiling over the garage fell and needs repair. The State says that since the contractor for the original \$1.3 million project is still on site, they are attempting to work it out so that they can do the additional work as well. If all goes as expected, the ceiling work should be done in late January or early February.

Preliminary work is proceeding for the major new classroom building at **Mililani Middle School**. Information is being compiled for an environmental assessment and a 1.44-acre site for the structure has been identified. Planning is proceeding to make sure that people using the adjacent city park will have access to the school parking lot when school is not in session. The DOE timeline calls for construction to begin in late 2018 with a completion date in 2020.



A moving ceremony at the Hawaii State Capitol earlier this month marked the 100th anniversary of the passing of **Queen Lili’uokalani**. *Aloha Lili`u* was planned by my colleagues, **Senators Brickwood Galuteria and Kai Kahele**, as both a memorial and celebration.

“A century after her passing, she is still beloved by her people, many of whom have benefitted from her legacy,” said **Senator Kahele**. “We hope through this observance, we can all be reminded of and emulate her spirit and character of grace, compassion, courage, and strength.”



Earlier this year, my grandkids, Kahiau, Akoni and Kamalani paid a visit to and learned about the Queen’s memorial statue at the Capitol.

“More than just marking a milestone in history, this event provides an historical admonition for us today to act with intentions that benefit the greater good and encourage the best in all of us,” **Senator Galuteria** said. “This begins a year of discussion and reflection about how the Queen’s legacy continues to impact our lives today and how as a State we can continue to improve the lives of Hawaii’s people.”