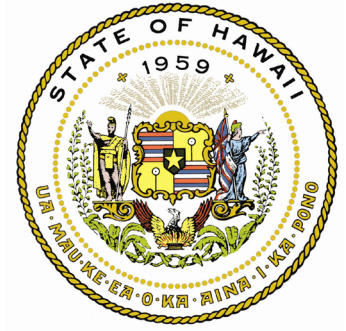


MILILANI/WAIPAHAU COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 – APRIL 2021

Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

This month saw the close of our 2021 session on April 29th, one week shy of our usual schedule. This shorter session and budget woes prompted new challenges at the Legislature with a very busy week of conference committee hearings rather than the usual two weeks to ensure our deadlines. The lessons we have learned in the last year have been instrumental in guiding legislation and helping forge new paths forward as we work to rebuild our economy and find greater support for our local communities. Despite these setbacks, however, I have remained determined to seek the necessary changes our residents deserve.

When the pandemic began last March and the call for a statewide quarantine began, the Hawai'i State Capitol was immediately shut down and our 2020 Legislative session cut short. This called for the Special Session in June and the need for the Special 6 member Committee on COVID-19 of which I was a member, to provide support for the people of Hawai'i. The changes of 2020 have had great impact on the 2021 session and the goals we aim to reach for the future of our state.

Despite these challenges, however, we have endured. We reimagined traditions such as our annual Education Week, Art At The Capitol and the Women's Legislative Caucus' Easter Basket Drive with new precautions in place. Many things have changed this year-- from transitioning Legislative hearings online to a greater digital communications presence as well as socially distanced presentations and celebrations. At times the distance felt greater due to the physical separation that kept us apart, but as a community we have made tremendous efforts to foster greater closeness and transparency online. We have learned to utilize technology to our advantage as powerful digital tools. We garnered even deeper gratitude for the educators and essential workers whose resilience endured in the face of adversity. And, ultimately, we have an even greater appreciation for our friends and neighbors during such a trying year. The strides we have made in the last year will have a lasting impact on the future of our state and generations to come, and I am proud to be a part of such change.



SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Member:
Special Committee on
COVID-19

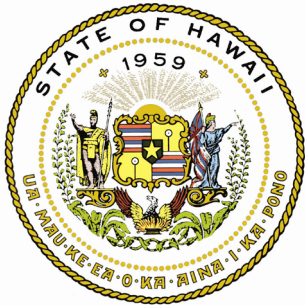
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228
(808) 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



My session intern, Kate Ozawa, opened Session on March 29th with a heartfelt tribute to teachers, healthcare workers and first responders in a moving Moment of Contemplation Speech. In it she shared how their family's efforts helped shape the path forward for students and community members, for which we are forever grateful.

2021 LEGISLATIVE BILL STATUS UPDATES



One of the biggest issues that we faced during session was paring down the State budget due to less revenues. While the receipt of Federal Aid through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding will help to fill the budget hole, it requires a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provision, which maintains the same proportionate level of funding in state funds to the DOE over the prior 3 year average. While this does not equate to a full restoration of all previously proposed

cuts by the Governor, the Senate draft of the budget makes strategic reinvestments into the DOE prioritizing school and complex level funding and resources, supports for teachers, and equity to charter schools.

Highlights of the Senate Draft (SD1) of the State budget for education includes:

- *Restoration of reductions in the Governors budget to the DOE through program reviews*
- *Add \$4.4M funds to ensure that vulnerable populations of students (including students who qualify for special education), to make appropriate services available*
- *Appropriating \$5M to allow for extended summer learning for students utilizing teachers*
- *Restoring \$22.3M to Weighted Student Formula, the primary allocation formula for school-based budgeting*
- *Adding \$39.7M in FY22 and \$47.7M in FY23 to the Complex Areas to ensure that they have the resources available to support their schools and*
- *Adding \$5M for a pilot teacher rental subsidy program*
- *Adding \$5.1M for school level repair and maintenance*
- *Restore \$3.5M to the public library system that were cut in the Governor's budget*
- *Restore \$14.4M to the Charter Schools*

Other Statewide highlights include:

- *Restores \$1.8M for the Career Criminal and Victim Witness Program*
- *Pay down of the principal and interest of the working capital loan taken out by the Governor to cover on-going expenses during the pandemic*
- *Restores positions for the Youth Challenge Academy*
- *Adds \$5.4M to maintain General Assistance payments at \$388/month for some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations.*
- *Adds \$750,000 for State Rent Supplement Vouchers to prove up to \$500/month*
- *Adds a total of nearly \$720 million over the next two fiscal years to pay down the Unemployment Insurance Fund (Note: This is a loan obligations that local businesses have to pay to the Federal Government as part of the Unemployment Insurance program. The Senate, in trying to help local businesses and employers, is dedicating funds to pay this down so they aren't burdened by it.)*

For more information on Senator Kidani's bill proposals and status updates via the Capitol website!

1. [SB804: Relating to Teacher Rental Housing](#)

Authorizes the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to provide rental housing projects for teachers employed by the DOE and public charter schools.

3. [SB807: Relating to Education](#)

Requires the department of education to submit an annual report on the school academic and financial plans to the board of education and the legislature.

4. [SB808: Relating to the School Facilities Agency](#)

Transfers the total fund balance in the state educational improvement fund to the school facilities special fund by a certain date.

5. [SB811: Relating to DOE](#)

Requires the DOE to publish a weekly report on schools that have reported COVID-19 cases.

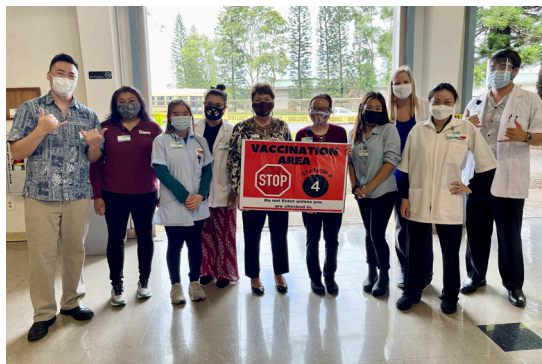
5. [SB830: Relating to Employment](#)

Requires each department to establish a telework and alternative work schedule policy.

5. [SB1387: Relating to Microchip Identification](#)

Requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed.

COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE



MILILANI COVID-19 VACCINATION SITES

SUPPORTED BY:



SENATE VICE PRESIDENT
MICHELLE KIDANI



SENATOR DONOVAN
DELA CRUZ

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & TIMES PHARMACY

Distribution of the **Moderna** vaccine will take place at **Mililani Town Association Recreation Center 5** on

Thursday, April 15, 2021 (8:00am-5:00pm)

Thursday, April 22, 2021 (8:00am-5:00pm)

Thursday, April 29, 2021 (8:00am-5:00pm)

MORE DATES ADDED

f t i @HAWAIISENATE

TO BE ELIGIBLE, INDIVIDUALS MUST QUALIFY UNDER PHASE 1C

The Mililani COVID-19 Vaccination Site was a success as it administered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to Central O'ahu residents in its first 3 weeks before transitioning to the Moderna vaccine on April 15th. I had a wonderful site visit to Mililani Recreation Center 5 and am so grateful to our dedicated community partners for their support! Thanks to the efforts of Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, the Department of Health and Times Pharmacy, we were able to announce 2 additional vaccine dates on April 22nd & 29th. A big mahalo to Mililani Town Association for making Recreation 5 available.

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [Aloha United Way](#)

Call 211 for the only statewide hotline partnering with the Department of Health for help finding food, shelter, financial assistance, childcare, disability services, etc.

3. [MEDQUEST](#)

The Department of Human Services MEDQUEST division provides eligible low-income adults and children necessary access to health and medical coverage through managed care plans. Find out if you are eligible and file your application online for medical assistance coverage

4. [SNAP](#)

The Supplemental Nutrition and Food Assistance Program is funded through the USDA to qualifying households. Find out if this program will support your family at the link above.

5. [Hawaii Foodbank](#)

This dedicated nonprofit has been at the forefront of this pandemic working tirelessly to provide and distribute food throughout the community. Learn more about their efforts as well as more information on their upcoming food drives or to donate or volunteer.

WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS



Congratulations to Waipahu High School junior, **Taylor Fukunaga**, on becoming the very first high school student in the nation ever elected as an international officer in the prestigious collegiate honor society, Phi Theta Kappa! Taylor is enrolled in Waipahu High School's Early College Program and is currently taking college courses, qualifying her to serve on the collegiate honor society board. Taylor will proudly represent all PTK chapters in the Pacific region in her new role. Congratulations, **Taylor!**

Waipahu High School (WHS) **Principal Keith Hayashi** was recognized with the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. The award celebrates college presidents whose leadership has demonstrated academic success and student advancement on their campus. With Waipahu serving as Hawai'i's Early College pioneer in HIDOE schools, he is the first high school Principal to receive this distinguished award.

Thanks to his steadfast support, his students have made incredible strides in their educational pursuits, earned countless awards and are embarking on promising careers. Waipahu is the first high school in the nation to have an honor society such as PTK on their campus. Congratulations and mahalo nui for your inspiration, **Principal Hayashi!**



MILKEN TEACHER OF PROMISE

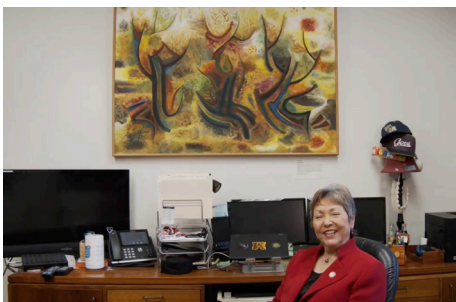
The Milken Teacher of Promise award was established in 2007 by former National Milken Educators of Hawai'i award winners. The annual award recognizes teachers who showcase educational excellence and the highest qualities of a professional educator during their first four semesters in the classroom, demonstrating tremendous promise at the onset of their teaching career. **Jenna Oskey** is a special education teacher at Kanoelani Elementary School whose incredible leadership and desire to cultivate student learning in a digital environment has helped guide veteran colleagues through the challenges of the pandemic. I was thrilled to attend Kanoelani's surprise celebration to honor **Jenna** and present her with a Senate certificate on April 14th surrounded by colleagues and loved ones. Congratulations, **Jenna!**



Senator presenting Jenna Oskey with a Senate certificate on April 14th. Photo Credit: Department of Education

ART AT THE CAPITOL

We celebrated the annual "Art at the Capitol" virtual event from April 14 -16. State Senators and Representatives shared heartfelt video messages regarding significant art pieces loaned to us by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts! Head to my [Facebook Page](#) to learn about my own personal favorites that hang in my office at the State Capitol!



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



April is the official Month of the Military Child. To recognize Military children and youth for their heroism, sacrifice and continued resilience, lawmakers were encouraged to join us for Purple Up! Day on April 21st by wearing their favorite purple clothing. The color purple symbolizes all branches of service—a combination of Army Green, Marine Corps Red, and Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard Blue. I was proud to bring awareness to this important cause and to highlight the incredible sacrifices of our Military children and families. I am grateful to my fellow Senators for joining me in recognizing this cause and celebrating together on Purple Up! Day.

[Click the image](#) to download the Aloha Safe app to your smartphone to stay updated with contact tracing & how to keep your 'ohana safe from COVID-19!



COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [State of Hawaii COVID-19 Portal](#)

The official COVID-19 state portal for all the latest updates and information on COVID-19.

2. [One Oahu](#)

The City & County of Honolulu's COVID-19 Response Team. This site shares frequently updated and relevant pandemic updates and resources for the community.

3. [Hawaii State Department of Health](#)

Stay updated with the most recent health updates on COVID-19 in Hawaii.

4. [DLIR Unemployment Benefits](#)

Learn about the various Unemployment Insurance benefit programs you may be eligible for and schedule an appointment online 3wks in advance for benefit assistance.

5. [Kupuna Vaccine Hotline](#)

Open 7am-10pm seven days a week, the hotline is available to assist kupuna ages 65+ with vaccine registrations as well as for those with limited access to technology, language barriers, those without transportation or family. *Call 211 for help today!*

COVID-19 RESOURCES:

1. [Vaccine Registration](#)

Currently accepting vaccination registrations for kupuna ages 75 and older. Eligibility is required based upon Hawai'i's tiered program and must review the prevaccination checklist before receiving their vaccine.

2. [Hawaii Vaccination Plan](#)

For more information regarding Hawai'i's detailed vaccination plan, please refer to the CDC-approved executive summary noting the operational structure to reach high-risk groups as quickly and efficiently as possible.

3. [Statewide PODs](#)

A list of clinics or Points of Distribution (PODs) note locations throughout the state where you can receive your COVID-19 vaccination.

4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Expectations & FAQs](#)

One Oahu offers information regarding Hawai'i's distribution plan, vaccine safety, as well as what to expect when receiving the vaccine and a list of FAQs to address community vaccine concerns. It is important to note that people who have recovered from COVID-19 are still urged to receive the vaccine with new variants being introduced into the country and natural immunity varying between individuals. Mask-wearing and hyper hygiene is still urged after receiving a vaccination.



A festive moment on the Senate floor standing alongside fellow lawmakers all dressed in green for St. Patrick's Day on March 17th! (L-R: Senators Sharon Moriwaki, Donna Mercado Kim, Rosalyn Baker, Joy San Buenaventura, Lorraine Inouye & Bennette Misalucha.

WLC EASTER BASKET DRIVE



The Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC) is a bipartisan group comprised of the women senators and representatives in the Legislature and the co-conveners for 2021-2022 are Senators Rosalyn Baker and Michelle Kidani, and Representatives Lauren Matsumoto and Linda Ichiyama. Each year, the WLC hosts our annual Easter Basket Drive to collect donations for organizations that help women and children in need. This year we were excited to support the charitable work of these incredible organizations: Domestic Violence Action Center, Institute for Human Services, Parents and Children Together, and Salvation Army Hawai'i. Female Lawmakers gathered on March 25th to collect and distribute baskets alongside Representative Branch and Senator Lee dressed as our festive Easter mascots!



Helpful information from the Hawaii State Senate on post-vaccination changes in your daily interactions and travel:

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When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

New CDC Guidelines on how to protect yourself and others after being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



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Fully Vaccinated People Can:

- Gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks (unless one of those people or someone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness).
- Skip quarantine and testing if exposed or someone who has COVID-19 but are asymptomatic



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Fully Vaccinated People Must Still:

- Wear a mask, physically distance, and avoid crowds in public, while gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household, and visiting with an unvaccinated person who is has an increased risk for severe illness.
- Get tested if you experience symptoms of COVID-19.



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Travel Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated People

- CDC travel guidelines have not changed.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel.
- If you do travel, you must follow CDC requirements



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For More Information, Scan the QR Code Below!

