



# SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I would be remiss not to address the recent allegations against former legislators here at the Capitol. I have been shocked and saddened by the news of these ethical violations made by my former colleagues. These egregious acts and breach of our oath of office have made it unequivocally clear that we must make much greater efforts to increase transparency, prioritize unity and restore the public trust that has been afforded us as elected officials. I know that the work ahead is a tremendous kuleana, and I remain deeply committed to representing the constituents of District 18 with integrity and aloha. I am grateful for the trust you have bestowed upon me as your Senator and will continue to work to earn the trust and privilege of this position.

We are currently a month into session, which has proven to be a busy one as we work to make necessary changes within our community. I am particularly proud of the bills I introduced and are moving forward, specifically [SB2821](#), [SB2819](#) and [SB2820](#), which relate to menstrual equity and teacher compensation. These bills ensure that our students have equal access to the important menstrual products they need and that teacher retention efforts are advanced through pay increases. I am so grateful for the support of advocates including Niki-Ann Yee of Ma'i Movement Hawai'i and Ilima Intermediate School teacher Sara "Mili" Milianta-Laffin and her dedicated students for helping us advance this bill. Mahalo also to Interim Superintendent Hayashi for supporting our educators as well as HSTA and our community advocates. In addition to those bills, here are more bills I introduced:

-- [SB2185: Relating to Fireworks](#)

This measure seeks to have counties report the results of their annual audits for fireworks inventories, sales, and permit holders for all fireworks sales to the legislature.

-- [SB2640: Relating to Incarcerated Women](#)

This measure provides funds for transition services for women who are currently incarcerated but preparing to leave prison as they transition into the community.

-- [SB2825: Relating to Harbors](#)

Requesting DOT to conduct a study on the expansion of Kalaeloa harbor for additional commercial use in the hopes of reducing traffic on freeways and roadways

I hope you and your 'ohana enjoyed the Lunar New Year as we welcomed the year of the water tiger! I've missed the traditions we normally partake in during this time of year, including lion dancing festivities here at our office. I hope to see the return of such celebrations in 2023 as a time to gather and create memories together!

*with much aloha,  
Senator Kidani*



## 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

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newsletters



## SENATE BILL TRACKING

January 28, 2022

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION PASS BILLS RELATING TO MENSTRUAL EQUITY AND TEACHER COMPENSATION.

"These bills ensure that our students have access to menstrual products when needed and advances efforts to retain teachers through pay increases."

Senate Vice President Michelle Kidani,  
Chair of the Senate Committee on Education



f t i @HAWAIISENATE

Click the images left and right to track some of the significant Senate bills advancing in my recent committee hearings this month. I look forward to seeing them evolve this session!

### BREAKING NEWS

### SENATE PASSES BILL TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$18 BY 2026.



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## LUNAR NEW YEAR



Senators DeCoite, Acasio, Moriwaki, Kim, myself, Misalucha and San Buenaventura were feeling festive in red on February 1st in honor of the Lunar New Year! I am proud to stand alongside them as well as Senators Baker, Inouye, Shimabukuro and our colleagues in the House, as proud members of the Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus (WLC).

Throughout the month of February, members have been featured on our WLC social media pages, as well as information regarding our goals for the year. Follow our [WLC Facebook Page](#) to learn more about our caucus priorities and the WLC Bill Package for 2022.

## ADULT FRIENDS FOR YOUTH'S ANNUAL P.E.A.R.L CONFERENCE

Adult Friends for Youth is hosting its annual P.E.A.R.L Conference, and I was honored to offer a video message to commemorate the occasion. P.E.A.R.L. stands for the five tenets central to AFY's anti-bullying campaign: **Peace, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect and Love.**

In my position as Education Chair, I have witnessed these values in action, and I believe it is impossible to be an educator without love as the foundation of such important work. I am so grateful for the support our keiki have received especially in the past few years from families, educators, and AFY mentors alike. Together we can continue uplifting and empowering our youth to care for one another and strive for their goals!





# WAIAKEA HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

I had a wonderful site visit to Waiakea High School in Hilo for the National Career Academy Coalition as well as to honor science teacher **Whitney Aragaki**, who is the **2022 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year** and a finalist for National Teacher of the Year! During my time there, I had the opportunity to meet with students and teachers, and treasured the time I spent with a sophomore student after our breakout session. Cheydon shared his interest in politics and asked for advice on how to pursue his dreams. It was so inspiring to talk to him and to better hear about the aspirations of our youth. I encouraged Cheydon to participate in local youth programs to gain civic experience and to remain determined in reaching his goals. Mahalo nui to all of the amazing Waiakea student ambassadors, teachers, Principal Kelcy Koga and staff who welcomed us so warmly and full of aloha!



L-R from Top: Representative Woodson and I were proud to honor Hawaii State Teacher of the Year Whitney Aragaki along with Waiakea student ambassadors; talking story with sophomore student Cheydon about his bright political future; National Career Academy Coalition President Jay Steele, Director of Professional Learning for National Career Academy Coalition Connie Majka, myself, Waiakea Principal Kelcy Koga, Representative Woodson, Deputy Superintendent Phyllis Unebasami and Interim Superintendent Hayashi standing together on National Career Academy Coalition day

## HAWAII SAVIN SERVICE

### Hawaii SAVIN

(Statewide Automated Victim Information & Notification) is a **FREE** service that promotes victim/survivor and public safety by providing timely, accurate information about the status of detainees housed within the Department of Public Safety's correctional facilities.

Download the free [VINE app](#) to receive notifications via text or email to access information regarding offender custody status, events such as inmate release, transfer, escape, parole hearings, etc. Reports are anonymous and confidential. Click the image for more information on [Hawaii SAVIN](#).

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote victim/survivor and public safety by providing timely, accurate information about the status of detainees housed within the Department of Public Safety's correctional facilities.

#### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT HAWAII'S SAVIN:

- It's free and your choice to register.
- Is anonymous and confidential.
- Receive notifications via telephone, text and/or e-mail.
- Available in English, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean and Tagalog.
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Hawaii's SAVIN provides notification about custody events such as:

- Release
- Transfer
- Escape
- Death

#### HOW TO REGISTER

##### STEP 1:

Call 1-877-846-3444, visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) or download the VINEmobile app.

##### STEP 2:

Follow the instructions and register to receive notification of custody or release status by telephone, text and/or e-mail.

If you are requesting notification by telephone or text, you will need to create a four-digit Personal Information Number (PIN).

#### IMPORTANT REGISTRATION FACTS:

1. Only register telephone numbers or e-mail addresses that are safe and confidential.
2. The offender will not know that you have registered.
3. Keep Hawaii's SAVIN informed of any changes to the registered telephone number and/or e-mail address.
4. Do not register a telephone number that rings to a switchboard.
5. You can register multiple numbers and e-mail addresses.

**AFTER YOU REGISTER**, Hawaii's SAVIN will notify you when a Trigger for Notification (see reverse side for list) occurs.

#### NOTIFICATION BY TELEPHONE

You will receive a recorded alert message. Enter your PIN to let SAVIN know you received the message. SAVIN will continue to call until you enter your PIN.

#### NOTIFICATION BY TEXT OR E-MAIL

Each alert message will be sent to you only once.

HOW TO REGISTER

GETTING NOTIFICATIONS

HAWAII'S  
SAVIN  
PEACE  
OF MIND



# GOT A CONCERN?

## LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) SERVICES ON OAHU



**Hawaii Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** 808-586-7268  
Information & Assistance with LTC Residents' Rights 1-888-229-2231

**Department of Health Office of Health Care Assurance**  
601 Kamokila Blvd. Rm 361, Kapolei, 96707

- Skilled Nursing Facility 808-692-7420
- Adult Residential Care Home, Assisted Living Facility or Community Care Foster Family Home 808-692-7400

**Community Ties of America - Hawaii** [Comties.com](http://Comties.com) 808-234-5380  
Licensing and Complaints of Case Management  
Agencies and Community Care Foster Family Homes

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**Med-QUEST Division Helpline** [MedQUEST.hawaii.gov](http://MedQUEST.hawaii.gov) 808-587-3540  
801 Dillingham Blvd. 3rd Floor, Honolulu, 96817  
Medicaid Eligibility and Benefits

**Livanta Helpline** [LivantaQIO.com](http://LivantaQIO.com) 1-877-588-1123  
9090 Junction Dr. Ste 10, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701  
Discharges/Benefits Appeals and Immediate Help for Complaints

**Adult Protective Services Helpline** 808-832-5115

**Legal Aid Society of Hawaii** [Legalaidhawaii.org](http://Legalaidhawaii.org) 1-800-499-4302  
Legal Counseling and Assistance

**Hawaii Disability Rights Center** 808-949-2922  
1132 Bishop St. Ste 2102, Honolulu, 96813  
Enforcement of Disability Rights and Protection from  
Disability-Based Discrimination

**Social Security Administration** [SSA.gov](http://SSA.gov)  
• 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm 1-114 Fed Bldg., Honolulu, 96850 1-855-572-4879  
• 970 Manawai St., Kapolei, 96707 1-855-572-4866  
Social Security Benefits and Medicare Enrollment

**Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** 808-586-7299  
Medicare Eligibility and Benefits [HawaiiSHIP.org](http://HawaiiSHIP.org)