

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

It's hard to believe the 2015 Legislative session will begin in just two months - and those months will include the year-end holidays that always seem to make time pass much more quickly. Informational briefings and hearings on potential legislative issues are already underway. In odd-numbered years we formulate a two year budget for the State, and so our deliberations will be especially important to further stabilizing our economy and supporting State services.

I have accepted an appointment as Chair of the Committee on Education where I previously served as Vice Chair. The Committee oversees programs in the Department of Education - early education, K-12 public schools, public charter schools, continuing education, and the State's public library system. The DOE's budget is one of the largest of any State agency, and I look forward to the challenges of supporting our public school students and teachers with the best resources we can afford. And while the Legislature must consider the needs of all campuses in our public school system, I will continue to keep in mind the several schools in District 18 that I visit regularly. *The Legislature will convene on Wednesday, January 21. Our Opening Day program is a great opportunity to stop by lawmakers' offices to "meet and greet." My office remains in room 228 on the 2nd floor - see you at the Capitol!*

Funds I secured in a previous session are now available as follows:

- \$3,000,000 in construction funds for fencing to protect forest land and watershed areas from non-native cattle, goats, pigs and deer—including **Kaala Natural Area Reserve** which is the source of fresh water for Mililani.
- \$8,000,000 for major structural repairs, interior renovations and improvements to **Leeward Community College Theatre**. This great facility hosts 100,000 patrons a year. No major renovation work has been undertaken since the curtain was first raised forty years ago in 1974.

Finally, allow me to extend my sincere mahalo for the strong support that district residents showed me on election day earlier this month. I am humbled by your vote of confidence and gladly accept the responsibility of representing you in the State Senate for the next four years. You can be assured that I will be working diligently on your behalf. With Thanksgiving and the holiday season approaching, I wish all of my friends and neighbors in our several communities all the best for joyful celebrations in the company of family and friends.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Salute to our veterans . . .

The Wahiawa Lions Club has been hosting an annual Veterans Day Parade for many years now. It's one of the community events I most look forward to each year. This year, as always, veterans from all eras were present, whether they were marching in the parade or standing in the streets dressed in the uniform of their service. This year the parade saluted three Grand Marshalls: **Mitsuo Hamasu**, from the 110th Infantry Battalion, and **Glen Arakaki** and **Yoshinobu Oshiro** who both served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). *Mahalo to them, and to all our Veterans, for protecting our freedom.*

A Critical Concern: Save Our Bases – Our Communities Depend on It . . .

As part of a 2020 restructuring proposal, the U.S. Army is considering a plan that could eliminate 19,800 uniformed service personnel and as many as 30,000 civilians and dependents from Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks. That's roughly 5 percent of Oahu's total population – a huge economic impact we cannot afford. Learn more – and sign a petition to keep Hawaii's heroes at KeepHawaiiHeroes.org.

Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 Phone (808) 586-7100; email: SenKidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

At the Capitol & In Our Communities . . .



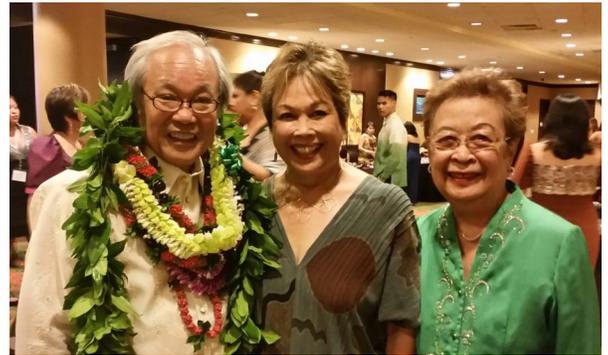
Special Session
October 22-23, 2014

The Legislature convened in Special Session for two days last month to confirm the appointments of three new judges in the Hawaii Judiciary. Above from left, Attorney **Margaret K. Masunaga**, appointed by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald to a vacant district court seat on Hawaii Island; Attorney **Jeff Crabtree**, appointed to a vacant position on the Circuit Court on Oahu; and Family Court Judge **Christine Kuriyama**, appointed to fill another Oahu Circuit Court position. All of the nominees were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Photo below, As our Special Session ended, I presented Senate certificates as we said Aloha and Mahalo to Senator (now Governor-elect) **David Ige**, and to Senators **Clayton Hee** and **Malama Solomon** – all now leaving the State Senate.



I was honored to be invited to the **Filipino Community Center's 12th Annual Bayanihan Gala Dinner** as part of the celebration of **Filipino American History Month**. FilCom paid tribute to the lifetime achievements of retiring State Supreme Court Associate Justice **Simeon Acoba**, former Supreme Court Associate Justice **Mario Ramil**, and noted community philanthropist **Maria A.F. Etrata**. In the photo at right, Justice Ramil is joined by **Lorraine Inouye** (*center*), newly-elected to the State Senate, and **Dr. Belinda Aquino** (*right*), past director of the UH Center for Philippine Studies and now a Professor of Political science and Asian Studies. The event is held each year to help FilCom continue its social, educational and cultural programs.



At left, we gathered late last month to recognize **Pacific Marine and Supply Company** – celebrating 70 years as a Hawaii leader in the areas of ship repair, environmental remediation and research, and many related fields. With the *maile* lei is company Chair, **Steven Loui**, son of the company founder David Loui.

Earlier this week, several lawmakers took a bus tour of the rail route for an update on the project that officials say remains on schedule for completion in 2016 - followed by as much as two years of testing.



My staff and I participated in the District 5000 Rotary International **Strike Out Polio** bowling tournament at Fort Shafter. With me from left are **Office Manager Park Kaleiwahea**, **Legislative Aide Gerri Kaneshiro**, and our friend **Hyla Solano**. The event coincided with the 100th birthday of Dr. Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine.



A view of the Oahu rail guideway as it runs along Kualaka'i Parkway in Kapolei.

More than 5,200 massive concrete trusses – each weighing 50 tons – are being put in place atop columns for the first ten miles of the rail guideway. The tracks for rail cars sit on top of all of that.

About a dozen of these trusses are being produced each day by the 140 workers at the casting yard.

