



MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **WEST VOICE** section on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.

Summer's here!

We are well into the summer break for public schools in our area. As the year ended, I was able to join Waikele Elementary sixth graders and their proud families and friends for graduation ceremonies. Just two weeks earlier, the Waikele 'Ohana had learned that the school's excellent staff and curriculum had met the national standards to be fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). It was a great way to end the school year and send the sixth-grade class off to the next steps in their educational journey with a solid foundation from the school's committed teachers and staff.

Again this year, I asked administrators at schools in my Senate district to select a couple of outstanding students so I could recognize them with congratulatory certificates from the Senate and a gift card. At award assemblies, we acknowledged **Brooke Piena and Treyton Anbe from Kaleiopuu Elementary (below left)** and **Kanoelani Elementary students Joulian Sadio and Jenna Funtanilla (below right)**.

Congratulations to these students, their teachers and families for a successful school year!



Saluting our Super Students at Kaleiopuu Elementary (left) and at Kanoelani Elementary (with an assist from Scott Fuji of my staff).

Mahalo to everyone who has supported these students and their schools throughout the year.



Graduation Day! Waikele Elementary sixth-graders take the next steps toward fulfilling their dreams.

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Creative Media Center at UH West Oahu

Big changes are on the horizon for the creative media industry in Hawaii and for the ever-expanding UH West Oahu skyline. A contract for just over \$33 million dollars has been awarded to Kiewit Building Group to begin construction of the new Academy for Creative Media Center on the Kapolei campus. I worked closely with the University and guided the funding request and allocation through the legislative process to provide the best opportunities available to creative media students at UHWO.



Design work for the new facility is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with anticipated occupancy for classes and studios in the fall semester of 2020. Already in the works is a public/private partnership to build a major film studio and sound-stage for commercial TV and feature film production to be located adjacent to the West Oahu campus – creating an ideal opportunity for students to pursue careers in TV and film production.

The building will be the central focal point for the growing campus. It will include a two-story sound stage for filming, a 100-seat screening auditorium, smaller sound stages, editing and sound mixing suites and a shop for building film sets. Also, an outdoor screening area will allow hundreds of students to enjoy special screenings and presentations in the evenings.



**Primary Election Day ~
Saturday, August 11**

**General Election Day ~
Tuesday, November 6**

Make your voice heard!

It's an election year in Hawaii, with primary voting scheduled for Saturday, August 11, and the general election on Tuesday, November 6.

The Legislature has moved to improve voter turnout by authorizing online voter registration, voting by mail or at walk-in polling locations ahead of election day, and – for the first time this year – enabling all qualified voters to register at polling places same-day on election day.

Even with same-day voter registration, the Office of Elections is encouraging people to register by July 12 for the August primary and October 9 for the November general election. Doing so minimizes last-minute rush business and assures that you are on the registered voter lists posted at polling places.

Everything you need to know about this year's elections – including an opportunity to sign up as a paid poll worker – is available at the Office of Elections website: <http://elections.hawaii.gov>.

Please vote – it's our right and responsibility to participate.