



MidWeek

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Better late than never . . .

About a year ago, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators announced the names of the 2017 winners of the John S. Martinez Scholarships, specifically designed to help Hispanic high school students achieve educational success in college. We were so excited that for the third time in four years, a Hawaii student from my Senate District 18 was selected – especially considering that the Caucus awards only eleven such scholarships each year nationwide.

We congratulated Noah Steven Bradley Rodrigues – who graduated at the top of his class at Mililani High School last year – and wished him well at UH Manoa. Indeed, he has done well – completing his first year of studies with a stellar GPA, aiming to pursue a medical degree with a specialty in dermatology.

But wait . . . something was missing! We wanted to give Noah some recognition for his accomplishments, but “circumstances” intervened. You may recall that a year ago, several states – including Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico – were dealing with devastating hurricane and flood damage and recovery as well as the nationwide turmoil over the Federal government’s enforcement policies for illegal immigrants. The Hispanic Caucus was especially caught up in these events of the day since they affected dozens of Hispanic lawmakers’ constituencies. As a result, the scholarship presentations were put on hold.

Now, we have made up for the delay. I was so pleased to present Noah with his “big check” for a photo opportunity and his REAL check for \$3,000 to help cover his college costs as he prepares for his second year at UH. It was a treat to meet Noah’s proud mom, Dawn Shimabukuro (she’s the Registrar at Mililani Middle School), sister Noelle Shimabukuro, and grandparents Steve and Kathryn Fernandes. I am so glad we could finally bring some public attention to Noah’s outstanding academic and community service accomplishments.

Congratulations, Noah, and best wishes for continued good work!



From left, Noah’s grandfather Stephen Fernandes, sister Noelle Shimabukuro, Senator Kidani and Noah, mom Dawn Shimabukuro and grandmother Kathryn Fernandes.

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Election Day reminder

This Saturday is Primary Election Day. With options to vote by mail or at early walk-in polling places, there's a good possibility that you may already have cast your ballot. In the 2016 primary, about 62 percent of votes were cast early. But if you haven't already voted, polls will be open on Saturday from 7 am to 6 pm, and election results will be reported by the media through the evening.

If you are properly registered to vote, you should have received a yellow official notice from the Hawaii Office of Elections letting you know where your polling place is located. If you did not receive such a card, or if you want to know where you should go to vote, you can find out by going online to the Office of Elections website: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/>.

NOT REGISTERED to vote? Hawaii law has been changed so that you may still take care of that business at your polling place same-day on Saturday. You will need a valid ID (driver license or State ID) and your social security number – then you will be allowed to cast your ballot.

The point is, voting is one of the most important rights and obligations we have as citizens. This week is the time to do our part.



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

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