



MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani
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Mahalo, Dr. Brummel

A front-page story in MidWeek earlier this month reported that **Dr. John Brummel** is retiring as Complex Area Superintendent for the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua area public schools at the end of the year. That's the job he held after a decade as Vice Principal and then Principal at Mililani High School. Dr. Brummel's fellow campus administrators gave him a proper sendoff at an end-of-the-year holiday gathering last week, and I was honored to present him with a congratulatory and mahalo certificate from the State Senate. His hard work and total commitment to students and teachers is much appreciated, and he will be missed.



Aloha and mahalo, Dr. Brummel!



Legislative session on the horizon

Shortly after last month's elections, the Senate met to discuss leadership responsibilities for the coming legislative session. I have accepted an appointment to be Vice President of the Senate in addition to my ongoing role as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education. I will also be Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee and continue as a member of the important Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee.

Our 60-day session begins in just three weeks, on Wednesday, January 18, with mostly ceremonial events on the agenda – including swearing in of newly-elected Senators and a program of entertainment. You are welcome to visit the Capitol and stop by my office in room 228 to meet and greet me and my staff – on opening day or any time to share your ideas.

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

How quickly the "old" year has passed! For many weeks following our legislative session, I worked with the Governor's team to develop a framework that our public schools can use to implement the federal government's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). That exercise was a constant reminder of how important our schools are to our communities. Looking back at the past twelve months I am reminded of so many highlights that center on our wonderful teachers and students. A few of them are on the next page:

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Celebrating with Mililani's elementary schools at the annual Character Counts! program . . . Congratulating Mililani Middle's Lynn Yoshioka when she was selected Central District Teacher of the Year . . . cheering on the Trojan football team that again won the Division 1 State Football Championship, and the MHS cheer squad that also won the state title . . . and applauding just as much as Mililani was named best public high school in Hawaii – again!

Ahead in 2017, we will see the beginning of major reconstruction improvements to the Kipapa Gulch Bridge early in the year. Sometime in late spring or early summer, we will be dedicating the new Emergency Services Ambulance Station in Waipio that has been under construction for the last few months. These are among the projects I have supported to improve the safety, health and well-being of our communities for many years to come.

My hope is that this Year of the Monkey has been a happy and productive time for you and that the coming Year of the Rooster will provide opportunities for good times and much success for you and your families.

