



MidWeek

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Student and teacher success at Mililani High School

One of the delights of opening day at the legislature is the opportunity to meet and greet so many people who visit my office during our post-session open house. I was especially pleased to welcome the current officers of ASMHS - the Associated Students of Mililani High School - the very active student government organization on the Mililani campus.

Student government leaders from Mililani High School always make a point to call at my office on opening day. From left, Student Body President Travis Afuso, Hoyong Lee, Service and Outreach Chair, Jessica Delos Reyes, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer Kaylee Johnson, Airi Morita, Senior Class Senate President, Meghan Usam, Recording Secretary and Savannah Mollohan, Homecoming Chair.



Student Body President this year is Travis Afuso, elected to head student government and only a junior. Travis shadowed me during a visit-your-Senator day a few short years ago when he was at Mililani Middle School, and it was obvious even then that he is a future community leader. It came as no surprise when the Department of Education announced in mid-January that Travis has been selected as one of only fourteen high school students nationwide for a project to learn and write about an important milestone in the history of World War II.

The award has a long title – *Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute* – and it aims to teach a new generation about the sacrifices and challenges faced during the war in Europe. Through the program, Travis will travel to Washington, D.C., and eventually to Normandy, France, where more than 150,000 allied soldiers stormed the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944, to begin the end of the European war. In Hawaii, we are usually so focused on the Pacific War, especially with the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor commemorative program in

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December fresh in our minds. The research award will be a valuable learning opportunity for Travis and those with whom he shares his final report later this year.



This is a student-and-teacher program, and Travis will be accompanied by his Mililani High history teacher Amy Boehning, who has herself won numerous awards for her teaching as a distinguished faculty member at MHS.

Congratulations to Travis and Ms. B for this distinction that adds shine to the all-stars at Mililani High School.

***History teacher Amy Boehning and
MHS junior Travis Afuso***

You can participate

While the public mainly sees the entertainment programs and other activities around the Capitol from our opening session, much work is being done behind the scenes. Hundreds of bills have been introduced in the first two weeks of our session, and hearings on dozens of them are underway. Many bills are important measures that did not pass last year for one reason or another, others are introduced at the request of constituents, and I have my own set of bills that I have originated. For summaries, please visit the Legislature's extremely useful website: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov>. Click on Senate, then on members to find my web page where I have listed those bills that I will be focusing on during the next several weeks.

You'll also find useful information here about how you can participate in the lawmaking process by following the progress of bills, and even submitting testimony for public hearings. Your ideas and your participation are important to the success of the work we do.

