



MidWeek

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Recognizing Student Achievement

The Mililani High School graduation ceremony at Aloha Stadium last month was spectacular, as usual. The event is a favorite of mine, and while we didn't have any family members in the Class of 2017, we celebrated along with our proud Mililani neighbors who did.

There are a few outstanding Trojan grads who I met through the Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise that I'd like to recognize. Each year, the Club presents scholarships to graduating seniors for further studies and career training. All six of the students we recognized this year were from MHS: **Brandie Kasaoka** received the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation Scholarship; **Gianna Ramiscal** and **Rae-Ann Wailehua** earned community college grants; **Max Higa** won a Career & Technical Education award; and **Andrew Hipolito** and **Marisa Matsuo** secured scholarships for their athletic accomplishments. The grants are funded by proceeds from our annual golf tournament and sponsor contributions. Altogether, Trojan grads this year earned more than \$18 million in scholarship awards – a wonderful tribute to their hard work and support by dedicated teachers.

Congratulations to these young men and women and to Mililani Rotary for their ongoing support of our community.



Left to right, Rae-Ann, Max, Marisa, Andrew, Brandie and Gianna.

Summer break is underway for all schools in the area except Mililani Middle School where the next term in the multi-track calendar begins on July 3. As the school year ended, I was able to make it to May Day programs and awards assemblies at some schools – but it's difficult to get all campuses when programs here and there are scheduled at the same time.

Over the past several years, I have presented gift cards and congratulatory certificates from the State Senate to outstanding students at five elementary schools in my Senate District 18. Recognition this year went to **Chasity Pascua** and **Joseph Fujioka** at Kipapa Elementary, **Jamie Hirota** and **Robyn Harrison** at Mililani Uka, and **Jasmine Smith** and **Quincy Coullahan** from Mililani Waena. These outstanding youngsters were selected by their teachers and principals to recognize their achievements in the classroom and in their school communities. ***Congratulations to everyone, and enjoy the summer!***

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Title IX Anniversary

This week marks the 45th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX – the landmark changes to federal education laws that assured equal opportunities for women and men in schools that receive federal funding. The law was renamed the **Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act** in 2002 to acknowledge the leadership of the late Hawaii Congresswoman who co-authored Title IX and fought for its passage. I am honored that the American and Hawaii flags that once stood in her office are on loan to *my* office.

A few years ago, the Legislature allocated funding to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to create a permanent memorial to Representative Mink, and a special committee has been working on the final design of a commemorative statue. I was honored to be invited as an observer to the committee's most recent meeting at which we met with Hawaii Island artist/sculptor Holly Young at which she showed us a small model for the committee's comments. The life-sized final version of the statue will be created over the next several months. It's expected to be ready for installation at the site selected on the grounds of the Hawaii State Library – at King and Punchbowl Streets in downtown Honolulu – sometime next year. We all look forward to this enduring reminder of the truly historic achievements of Congresswoman Mink.



Reviewing the Legislative Session

By now, all households in my Senate District 18 should have received my special edition newsletter in the mail. It provides a fairly detailed summary of bills we passed in the Legislative session that ended last month, with special attention to issues that affect residents within the district. If you haven't received it and would like to review our work, the newsletter is online at the Legislature's website: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> – click on members and scroll down to find my Senate member home page.