



MidWeek

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Recognizing Student Achievement

The Waipahu High School graduation ceremony at Blaisdell Center 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 the many proud neighbors who did.

Altogether, Waipahu grads earned an amazing \$25 million in scholarship awards and grants. Many earned their diplomas with distinction, including **Jommel Macaraeg**, pictured at right, who was just one of three public high school seniors in Hawaii selected as a finalist in the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Jommel was class president in his junior and senior years, maintained a 4.075 grade point average, and is an active volunteer for several organizations in the Waipahu community. Congratulations, Jommel, and to all of these outstanding Waipahu High School young men and women who now pursue college and career opportunities.



Summer break is underway for all schools in the area. 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 of the elementary schools in my Senate District 18. Recognition this year went to **Michaela Hernandez and Nerissa Roxas at Kaleiopuu Elementary and Evelyn Carillo Cobian and Payton Lane at Kanoelani Elementary**. 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!*



***Payton and Evelyn at
Kanoelani Elementary***

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. If you missed this, and would like to have a copy to review, please contact my office at the Capitol and we'll be happy to send it to you.

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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 – or maquette – 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 next year.

We all look forward to this enduring reminder of the truly historic achievements of Congresswoman Mink.

