



MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **WEST VOICE** section on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

Football frenzy

The Waipahu community has had much to celebrate in the last few weeks. We have followed the successes of the **Marauder varsity football team** through the season and cheered as they ended the regular season with six wins and just one loss among their rivals in the OIA Division 2. We agonized over the heart-breaking one point loss to the Waialua Bulldogs in the D-2 Championship, but Waipahu had another chance to play on in the State Tournament in a game on Maui versus Lahainaluna last weekend. This column was submitted to MidWeek a few days before the game, but regardless of the outcome, it was a wonderful season for both the school and the community. Congratulations to players, head coach **Bryson Carvalho** and his staff, parents and families and everyone who has supported the team through the season.

Some of the season's enthusiasm was dampened, of course, when it was discovered that a large sum of money the team had been collecting for expenses and a celebration was missing. Both the JV and varsity teams had been staging fundraising activities during the fall semester to cover team banquets and other extra costs. I heard about this unfortunate incident while I was away at a conference and made a contribution to the team. **WHS Principal Keith Hayashi** told me a few days ago that many people in the community have stepped up with donations to try to replenish the fund. Thank you to all of you who reached out to the team by making a contribution also.



A Golden Anniversary

Just a couple of weeks ago, we joined faculty, staff and students at **Waipahu Intermediate School** for a joyful and inspiring 50th anniversary celebration. WIS is the state's largest single-track intermediate/middle school – home to about 1,300 students. During the day-long celebration we enjoyed performances by the award-winning student chorus; the school is host campus to an annual competition program for singing groups from all intermediate/middle schools on Oahu. WIS placed first in 2011, 2012 and 2014.



Continued next page . . .

VIPs at the anniversary program included former principals Gary Takaki and Edward Oshiro, and I was among the area Senators and Representatives to present a congratulatory certificate to current principal Randell Dunn. Principal Dunn, by the way, is now the longest-serving administrator in the school's history – more than a dozen years on campus!



***Waipahu Intermediate
WIS-Kids at the Capitol
Opening Day of the 2016
Legislative Session***



At the Waipahu Intermediate 50th Anniversary celebration, from left, Representative Ryan Yamane, Senator Clarence Nishihara, myself, Senator Mike Gabbard, former WIS Principal Gary Takaki, current Principal Randell Dunn, Representatives Roy Takumi and Ty Cullen, and former WIS Principal Edward Oshiro.

We can all be proud of the way Waipahu Intermediate students, teachers and administrators represent our community and prepare our youngsters for future success. Congratulations!