



# MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani  
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## **Aloha and mahalo – after 74 years**

A longtime landmark in the heart of Waipahu town met the needs of three generations or more of motorists in need of car repairs. At the end of August, Saiki Motors closed the doors for good as bothers Albert, Harold and Walter decided that it was time to retire. Their father, William “Bill” Saiki, and the behind-the-scenes backbone of the family, Mama Kikuyo, took a leap of faith in the midst of World War II, followed their dream and opened their shop in 1943 – an astounding 74 years ago.

Bill instilled a firm work ethic in his sons, who worked at Saiki Motors even before they could drive. The three brothers worked tirelessly over the years, with honesty and integrity, always putting first the needs of loyal customers from all over Oahu. As time passed, health challenges came along, the next generation decided to pursue other careers, and so it is time for well-deserved retirements.

The Saiki family and their business that served our community so well for so long are a perfect example of the values that make our neighborhoods stronger. We’re so glad to have known them as friends and neighbors, and wish them all the best in the years ahead. Mahalo!

***The Saiki brothers carried on their father Bill's work at Saiki Motors - founded in 1943 - until the end of August when the doors closed for good after 74 years of serving the Waipahu community.***

***From left, Walter, age 76; Harold (Yasu), age 79; and Albert (Yoshi), age 81, accepting congratulations and mahalo from the State Senate.***



## **Free tuition at UH Community Colleges**

I was so pleased to see the news report a few weeks ago from the University of Hawaii that nearly 1,000 students from the seven UH community colleges have been awarded Hawaii Promise scholarships for the current semester. That’s almost 4 percent of 23,000 community college students enrolled. Figures for this school year show 271 Hawaii Promise students are at Leeward Community College, our closest UH campus.

We made sure \$1.8 million was included in each year of the two-year budget to support this important program that basically provides free in-state tuition for qualified UH Community College students and covers tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation.

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Hawaii Promise provides assistance to meet financial needs not covered by other forms of financial aid, such as federal grants and benefits and scholarships from UH or other sources. UH Community Colleges are encouraging even more students to enroll and apply for Hawaii Promise scholarships for the spring 2018 semester.

More information is available by calling the UH System Financial Aid Office at 956-8753 or email [uhsfao@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhsfao@hawaii.edu).



### **Off to a good start**

Congratulations to the Waipahu Marauder football team and Head Coach Bryson Carvalho for their great start to the OIA Division II season! The team inaugurated the new football stadium with a convincing home-field win over Waialua, and was looking forward to facing a tough Kalani Falcons team as this column is being submitted. Funding for the new field and the state-of-the-art track were first included in the state's budgets when I oversaw the Senate's construction plan as Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means.

We are so proud of the hard work that everyone contributed to create this landmark campus facility for Waipahu student-athletes for many years to come.