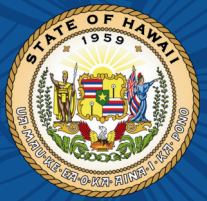


COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | AUGUST 2024

Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Michelle
KIDANI

**Senate Vice
President**

Chair
Committee on
Education

Vice Chair
Committee on
Higher Education

Member
Committee on
Ways and Means

**Join our monthly
digital mailing list!**

To subscribe to our monthly digital newsletters, email senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov with your name, email, and mailing address.

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Mahalo to everyone who has reached out to share your concerns about the school bus services in Mililani. As a grandmother with public school students of my own, I share your worries about the safety of our children, especially those who have to rely on alternative transportation to get to school. The temporary suspension of regular education bus routes has frustrated many working families in our community.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) has announced that several suspended school bus routes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Island have been restored, including routes serving Mililani Middle School in Central O'ahu (CR03A/CR03B, CR07A/CR07B, CR01B, CR01C, CR02B, CR04A, CR04B, CR05A, and CR05B). Efforts to restore additional routes are ongoing, with DOE actively exploring partnerships with tour bus companies, City and County of Honolulu public bus transportation, and other businesses employing commercial driver's licensed (CDL) drivers. Please visit the DOE's website at <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org> for the latest information.

To help expedite the restoration of these routes, Governor Green issued an emergency proclamation allowing drivers possessing a CDL with a "P" endorsement—permitting them to transport passengers—to operate school buses temporarily, in lieu of the "S" endorsement specifically required for school bus drivers. In the meantime, the DOE has provided impacted families with two transportation options. The first option is subsidized county transportation. If TheBus is a feasible option for your family, please notify your school so they can assist with applying for a free HOLO Card. The second option is mileage reimbursement for those who can transport their children to and from school. If driving your child is possible, please fill out the application for reimbursement on DOE's website above.

While we face some challenges as the new school year begins, it also brings exciting opportunities and renewed inspiration. I had the opportunity to participate in the DOE's Education Leadership Institute (ELI) at the Hawai'i Convention Center. This annual conference marks the start of the school year and brings together educational leaders from across the state—principals, district administrators, and state officials—to discuss research-based practices, build networks, and unify our vision for public education.

The event was charged with energy as Superintendent Hayashi delivered a powerful message to tackle current challenges while embracing innovative educational practices. One of the most memorable moments was hearing from Nainoa Thompson, a respected figure in Native Hawaiian navigational voyaging. His heartfelt and inspiring speech reminded us all of the essential role educators play in guiding over 170,000 students on their educational journeys every year.

As we embark on this new school year, I am hopeful and excited. The collaboration and shared vision displayed during the ELI conference are key as we strive for quality education for our keiki.



Above left, members of the Board of Education, DOE administration, Nainoa Thompson, and I with this year's Educational Leadership Institute conference theme, Ne'epapa: Strongest Together. Above right, Nainoa Thompson and I.



Address
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 214

Phone
(808) 586-7100

Email
senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov

Website
www.bit.ly/senkidani

Department of Education's 2024 Education Leadership Institute Conference

The theme of this year's Educational Leadership Institute (ELI) annual conference was Ne'epapa: Strongest Together. The Hawaiian word ne'epapa conveys the action of moving and working together in unison. In this spirit, many community partners and organizations participated in the conference, and I was delighted to reconnect with the talented students of Hānai Kaiāulu. They showcased innovative sustainable solutions using cardboard from their cardboard shredding program.

Hānai Kaiāulu has equipped our schools on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu with cardboard shredders, promoting recycling and waste reduction among our keiki and their families. This fantastic program helps educational institutions, such as the DOE, manage waste sustainably and instills eco-friendly practices in students from a young age. They do such an awesome job!



Above left (L-R): Myself with students of Hānai Kaiāulu Jeremiah and Keola and Kumu Michelle Pieper with their cardboard shreds. Above right L-R, front row: Nainoa Thompson, Superintendent Hayashi, and I; second row: DOE Deputy Superintendent of Operations Randy Moore, Board of Education members Bill Arakaki and Elyne Chung.

Girls' Flag Football Kicks Off in Hawai'i Schools for 2024-2025



Above, U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink.

Great news! Starting this 2024-2025 school year, girls' flag football is now offered at all 44 public high schools statewide, along with a handful of private schools. This marks the first new sport for high school girls in nearly twenty years and is a significant step in continuing the legacy of U.S. Representative Patsy T. Mink. Her groundbreaking work on Title IX has been instrumental in ensuring gender equality in our schools. This new program reflects Patsy Mink's vision of a world where all students, regardless of gender, have equal opportunities.

As a high school athlete and a coach for the Mililani-Waipio Bobby Sox and girls' softball programs, I've witnessed the powerful impact that sports can have on our youth. Sports teach invaluable lessons in teamwork, leadership, and resilience—qualities that our young women will develop through this exciting new opportunity. The enthusiasm that our girls have shown for flag football is truly inspiring, and I'm confident that this program will not only enrich their high school experience but also open doors for them to compete on larger stages. With flag football making its Olympic debut in the Summer of 2028, the possibilities are endless for our athletes!

It is important that we continue to provide our young wahine with the opportunities they need to excel. I can't wait to be in the bleachers next spring, cheering on our girls as they take the field and make history for Hawai'i. Mahalo nui to the DOE and Hawai'i High School Athletic Association for their collaboration in support of this effort.

Helpful Community Contacts and Resources

Report Leaks to the Board of Water Supply.....808-768-2673

Report an Outage to Hawaiian Electric.....855-304-1212

Report an Illegal Dump Site.....808-768-3003

Report a concern for City park maintenance, playground, and equipment.....808-678-6940

Report an Invasive Species Sighting (CRB).....808-643-7378

Report Abandoned or Derelict Vehicles.....808-768-2530

Request removal or relocation of trees/shrubs:

-On highways or adjacent to freeway/highway overpasses, on and off ramps.....808-831-6712

-Streets and sidewalks.....808-971-7151

Schedule Bulky Item Pickup (C&C of Honolulu).....808-768-3200

Report Missed Trash Pick Up

To report a missed trash pick up, contact the local collection yard that directly services your area.

Mililani residents, call Wahiawa Collection Yard.....808-768-9766

Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia residents, call Pearl City Collection Yard.....(808) 768-9732

Request Assistance for Veteran Affairs (State).....808-433-0420

Veterans and their families may request help regarding VA claims, forms, appeals, and benefits assistance. For in-person services, visit the Office of Veterans' Services at the Tripler Army Medical Center. Walk-ins accepted Tuesday-Friday; 9:00am - 12:00pm.