

# Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature

*(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia*



**Senate Vice President**

*Chair:* Committee on Education

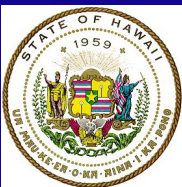
*Vice Chair:* Committee on Higher Education

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Aloha, friends and neighbors:

On July 1, the swimming complex at **Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park** will be renamed to honor the late **Hawaii Congressman K. Mark Takai**. As a standout student athlete at UH Manoa, Mark was a championship swimmer. The dedication ceremony coincides with what would have been the Congressman's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday; he died a year ago after diagnosis and treatment for pancreatic cancer. Mark's son, Matthew, will swim in the annual Keo Nakama Swim & Dive Invitational Tournament that begins that same day.

It was also announced this month that Mark was named recipient of the U.S. Army Pacific annual **Mana O Ke Koa** (Spirit of the Warrior) award for his steadfast support to soldiers, families and the Army community. He was a soldier himself as a lieutenant colonel in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

The Hawaii Department of Education is also committing additional funding support to the DOE's **School Transition Centers** to honor Congressman Takai. His work was essential in securing tens of millions in federal military impact aid funding for the state's public schools. The Transition Centers provide safe, stable foundations for all students, especially newcomer military dependents, offering peer-to-peer mentoring to help them adapt to their new school communities.



*All of this recognition is well-deserved and an appropriate mahalo for Mark's service to Hawaii and our nation.*

Earlier this month, **Senate President Ronald Kouchi** signed off on a letter to inform the Federal Transit Administration that legislators intend to convene in a **special session this summer** to resolve the issue of future funding for the City & County of Honolulu's rail transit project. During the legislature's regular session, the House did not accept the Senate's proposal to extend the current General Excise Tax surcharge for Oahu taxpayers and we adjourned without an agreement.

Our obligation in this matter is clear, and we will resolve the matter in the next several weeks.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

## **Mililani Public Library offers summer activities**

**Pre-K Puzzle Club:** 1030 am, Friday, June 30—FUN for the first 15 pre-k youngsters, no sign-up needed

**Summer Reading Program (SRP) Wednesday movies:** Showings at 2 pm—July 5, *Jurassic World*; July 12, *STEAMBOY*

**More Science, Less Fiction:** Saturday, July 8 at 2 pm—Astronomy! For ages 12 and older

**Lego Club:** 10:30 am Friday, July 7 –Level 2 (3rd to 7th graders only); July 14—Level 1 (K to 2nd graders only)

**Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10:30, July 11 & 18—for youngsters 2-5 years of age

**For more information, call the library at 627-7470**





**Be Prepared!**

**7:00 PM – Thursday, July 6**  
**Mililani High Cafeteria**  
**Natural Hazard Preparedness**  
**A free presentation by**  
**UH Manoa SeaGrant**

**Sponsored by Mililani Senators**  
**Michelle Kidani and**  
**Donovan Dela Cruz**

**For information ~ 586-7100**

Mililani Representative **Beth Fukumoto**, with me and our colleague Representative **Della Au Belatti** in the photo at right, is now a member of the Hawaii Democratic Party. Her request to join the party was approved unanimously by the Oahu County Executive Committee.

*We look forward to working with Beth in the years ahead to the benefit of our Mililani neighbors and all residents of the State of Hawaii.*



Six outstanding Mililani High School grads were awarded scholarship grants by **Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise**. Left to right, **Rae-Ann Wailehua** will attend Leeward Community College, **Max Higa** (LCC), **Marisa Matsuo** (UH Manoa), **Andrew Hipolito** (Santa Clara), **Brandie Kasaoka** (UH West Oahu), and **Gianna Ramiscal** (LCC). *Congratulations to these young men and women and to Mililani Rotary for their ongoing support of our community!*



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 **Joseph Fujioka** and **Chasity Pascua**, **Kipapa Elementary**, at left, and **Payton Lane** and **Evelyn Carillo Cobian**, **Kanoelani Elementary** at right. Those chosen by teachers and principals at other schools:



**Jamie Hirota** and **Robyn Harrison** (Mililani Uka), **Jasmine Smith** and **Quincy Coullahan** (Mililani Waena), and **Michaela Hernandez** and **Nerissa Roxas** (Kaleiopuu). *Congratulations to everyone, and enjoy the summer!*

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education I was invited to accompany Hawaii Island lawmakers on a tour of public schools in Kohala and Waimea. At right, the **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)** building at Waimea Middle School will open for the new school year. I worked with my colleagues in the 2013-2014 sessions to obtain \$16 million in funding for this major new facility. The building includes a large interior corridor and three smaller rooms that can be used as alternative project work spaces for students. →



**Waimea Middle School's still-under-construction \$16 million, nine-classroom STEAM Building will be the largest structure in Waimea.**



A pilot program was underway this year in Kohala schools to develop guides for **Farm-to-School** activities, including purchasing locally grown food and ingredients, modifying school lunch menus, kitchen staff training on scratch-cooking, minimizing food waste, and growing food for cafeteria use. The program will expand to all Hawaii Island schools, then to Maui, and eventually to Oahu campuses.

**With deep roots in agriculture, Waipahu, Mililani and Central Oahu schools should be the first on Oahu to benefit from the program.** ←