



SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI

District 18 • Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia



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Aloha friends and neighbors,

I am please to send you this comprehensive summary of the recently concluded 2013 legislative session — my fifth as your elected Senator from District 18.

We took a very reasoned approach to our allocation of funds, with a heavy investment in our public schools, much needed improvements to our transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, and to vital upgrades in technology that will allow State government to better serve the public.

Legislators took the first steps in supporting a school readiness program for our younger keiki, as well as appropriating funds for Kupuna Care and a Healthy Aging Partnership Program. We also made investments in the financial stability of the state with major contributions to the Hurricane Relief Fund and Rainy Day Fund, and a fist installment on reducing our unfunded liability for retirement benefits.

Also with an eye toward the future, we invested in sustainability by creating Green Infrastructure Loan Program that provides a pathway for individuals to more easily invest in energy saving devices such as photovoltaic panels.

We also took the opportunity to preserve our agricultural land by purchasing over 20,000 acres of Dole Foods agriculture land on the North Shore of Oahu. The Senate included \$175M in Revenue bonds and \$12.5M in G.O. bonds to take advantage of this opportunity. I truly believe that we need to preserve this land for our children.

For our district, I was able to secure funding for specific projects:

- \$7.9 million for school projects: Waipahu High — athletic field (\$5.5M) and retaining wall (\$800K); Mililani Middle — resurface parking lot (\$300K); Waikele Elementary — expand cafeteria (\$500K), digital media and library expansion (\$300K); Mililani Waena Elementary — air conditioning (\$325K); Kanoelani Elementary — portable classroom (\$475K).
- \$7.28 million for highway improvements: Waikele (\$1.5M) and Kunia (\$780K) interchanges along H-1; resurfacing major portion of

Kamehameha Highway (\$4M); continued rehabilitation of the Kipapa Stream Bridge (\$1M).
• \$6.7 million for economic development and community well-being, including: Kunia Agriculture Park (\$2.5M); a new Central Oahu ambulance facility in Waipio (\$3.8M); grants in aid to the Filipino Community Center (\$250K) and new classroom at Mililani Presbyterian Preschool (\$100K).

Although our working session has now concluded, our work at the Capitol and in our neighborhoods continues. Hearings will take place through the summer and fall months, and as part of Senate leadership, we are already meeting and preparing possible agenda items for the 2014 session. As always, I welcome your ideas about how state government can better serve our communities. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve and thank you for your continued support.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Senator Michelle N. Kidani

2013 Legislative Session: State Senate Invests in Hawaii's Future

The Hawaii State Senate adjourned on its final day of the 2013 Legislative Session on May 2, passing many bills in support of its priorities set forth at the beginning of the session. With a spirit of cooperativeness, civility, and compromise exercised by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Finance, the Hawaii State Budget, House Bill (HB) 200, was passed more than one week before the final day of the 2013 session.

The budget's early passage allowed the Senate to carefully assess the needs of Hawaii residents and the direction of Hawaii's government through bills pending in conference committees.

This Session, the Legislature fulfilled its commitment to start prefunding



Legislative session opening day on January 16, 2013 in the Senate chamber.

unfunded liabilities pertaining to other post employment benefits. The Legislature made appropriations through House Bill (HB) 200, the State Budget, with \$100M for fiscal year (FY)14 and \$117.4M for FY15. Currently, the unfunded liabilities for the employer-union health benefits trust fund is \$13.6 billion. Paying down these liabilities

will have a positive impact on the state's bond rating and ensure that Hawaii's future is not handicapped by increasingly burdensome debt. Additionally, HB 546 will make Hawaii the first state in the nation to statutorily require payment of the annual required contribution for future public worker health benefits.

The State Budget also funded several capital improvement projects, which include the renovation of our airports and harbors and repairing our roads and bridges. Additionally, funding was allocated in the

capital improvement program for projects such as a new building at the Honolulu Community College, Ewa Makai Middle School to reduce overcrowding, and a new high school in Kihei. These projects will contribute to stimulating the economy and job growth.



2013 Legislature End of Session Report

Food and Energy Resiliency

With the Senate Majority exploring the concept of food self-reliance and agricultural resiliency within the State, the Caucus took steps toward developing a strong foundation that will enhance food and agricultural self-sufficiency by passing several bills to support this mission. To support Hawaii's livestock production, Senate Bill (SB) 593 expands livestock feed subsidies to include goat milk, sheep, lamb, fish, and crustaceans. Increasing livestock production is vitally necessary to meet the State's goals of ensuring food security and self-sufficiency. Through HB 200, funds were allocated towards a biodigester, which produces a clean, healthy and economic alternative fuel and fertilizer that can be used in farming. Additionally, to protect Hawaii's unique environment and crops, ten positions were funded for plant and pest, and bio control personnel, and programs.

The Senate Majority continues to advance the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative and align government regulations and policies with clean energy goals. SB 120 (signed into law in April as Act 37) authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a policy to incentivize Hawaii's electric utility companies to make needed reforms that attain lower electricity rates. SB 1087 provides a lower cost financing alternative for Hawaii businesses and residents to utilize green infrastructure equipment and technology to reduce electricity consumption by leveraging clean energy technology. The innovative financing method created in this measure will provide a secure financing structure to allow the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to issue revenue bonds at very competitive rates, which these savings can be passed on to the consumers in the form of lower borrowing costs.

Government Efficiency and Accountability

I support the Senate Majority's position to encourage long-term planning and efficiency efforts to fundamentally change the character and delivery of government services. We in the Senate continue to promote the enhancement of the State's information technology services and support the Governor's Chief Information Officer as he works on modernizing the



During recess of Budget conference committee meeting in late April to work out final details of the state's two-year budget. (Senator Kidani with Budget CIP Specialist Will Kane and Senator David Ige.)

technology infrastructure. HB 200 has provided positions and \$18.8M in fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$14.4M in fiscal year 2014-2015 in general funds to the Office of Information Management & Technology so it can continue its work. Additionally, \$130M went to informational systems in various departments to streamline tax collections as well as provide for a secure communication network for the islands. To protect the State's information and data, SB 1003 authorizes the Chief Information Officer to conduct security audits, preventing intrusions and theft of the public's personal information. Seeking to encourage economic diversity, we passed SB 1349 that reestablishes the income tax credit for qualified research activities to encourage job growth in research and development. This measure contributes to the diversification of the State's economy by creating and maintaining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics jobs in the State. The Senate also passed HB 726 for the film, television, entertainment, digital media,

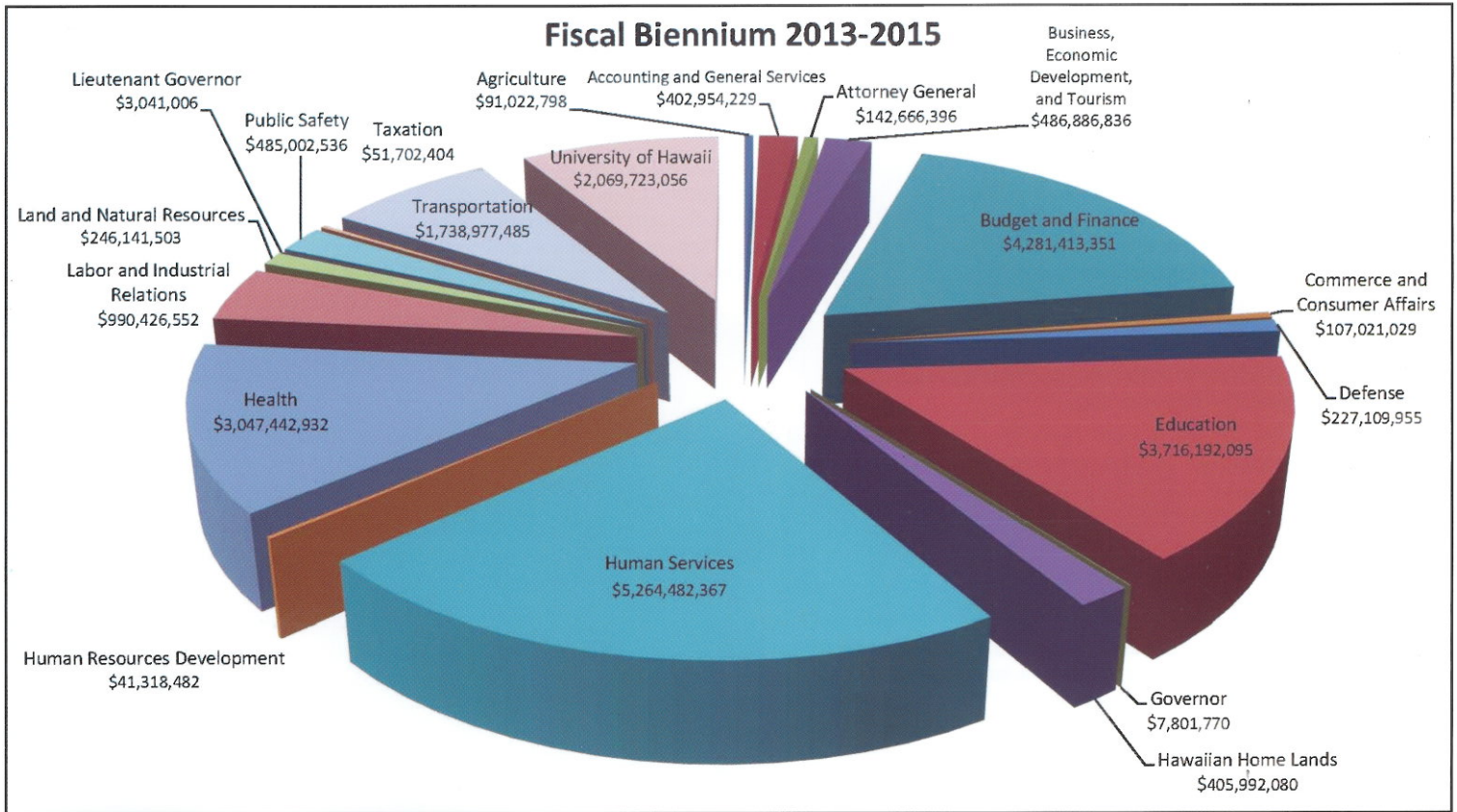


The Senate honored recently-retired U.S. Senator Dan Akaka by presenting him with the first ever Aloha Order of Merit. (Senator Kidani and her sister, Leilani Sakai saying aloha.)

and music production industry in Hawaii by increasing the amount of the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production income tax credit for qualified production costs incurred by an authorized production company. The Legislature also passed SB 237, which establishes a program to optimize the use of public school lands for public purposes, generate revenue to build and retrofit twenty-first century schools and create more school-centered communities.

Supporting People, Strengthening Communities

From keiki to kupuna to ohana, I have continued to support the State's core functions, including programs for those most in need. To encourage positive outcomes for our young keiki and to prepare them to thrive in an educational environment, Senate Bills 1093 and 1084 were passed to build the foundation for a future early childhood education program. SB 1093 establishes a school readiness program as a major component of the early learning system, while SB 1084 would allow voters to choose whether to allow for a publicly funded private early childhood education. For the Charter Schools, \$1.2M for FY14 and FY15 was appropriated in the State Budget for the Charter School Commission, creating 15 positions that support its work in providing quality educational services to students who attend a charter school. To help students become successful in this modern digital age, \$8.2M was appropriated in the State Budget for a "one-to-one" laptop program pilot project. Homelessness in Hawaii is a significant problem in the State and the Senate Majority is working to find ways to help people and families who are homeless. SB 515 appropriates funding for services and programs that target issues such as substance abuse, mental health, housing assistance, health care, and employment to help reduce the number of homeless in Hawaii. SB 1340 establishes the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program to care for and supervise eligible foster youth until their twenty-first birthdays as long as they pursue higher education. To protect our kupuna, SB 102 requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse against an elder to the appropriate county police department immediately.



FISCAL BIENNIUM 2013-2015 STATE BUDGET:

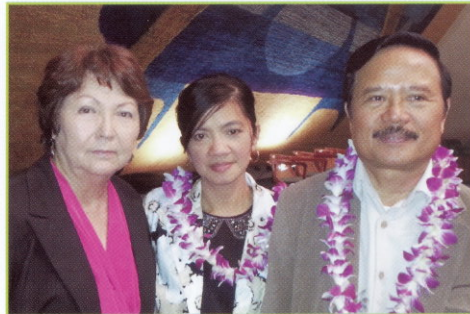
Discussions between the Senate and House on the budget started ahead of schedule this year, marking a paradigm shift in the approach taken to complete the work of the legislative session. Over the upcoming fiscal biennium, the Legislature's

final draft of the executive budget is \$23.8 billion, more than \$250 million under the Governor's budget proposal. The above chart depicts all means of financing allocated to each department.

In Memoriam U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Don C. Viray

On Wednesday, March 27, the Senate and House convened in joint session to present the Hawaii Medal of Honor to recognize the sacrifices of 19 military service members who were residents of Hawaii, or personnel who were stationed at bases here, who died in Iraq or Afghanistan. The medal has been presented each year since 2006.

I hosted the family of the late U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Don C. Viray of Waikale.



CWO 2 Viray served in the 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division at Wheeler Army Airfield. The Viray family was represented at the State Capitol ceremony by parents Leodindo and Luz Viray and sister Sherry Anne Viray and his fiancée, Joy Pacba.

The freedom we treasure is not free. The families of all of the service personnel honored this year know this to be true. Let us not forget those who paid the price for our freedom.

CONTACT US



I can continue to be effective as your senator only if I know what's on your mind and in your heart. My door is always open and I would like to invite you to share your concerns with me.

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CELEBRATING HAWAII'S FUTURE LEADERS



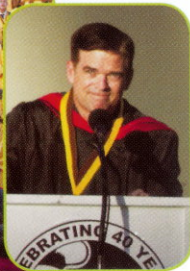
Senator Kidani welcomed Hanalani School senior Chelsea Robinson of Mililani to recognize her selection as the 2013 Distinguished Young Woman of Hawaii. Formerly known as the Junior Miss program, the competition honors high school seniors from each state who demonstrate excellence in academics and exemplary service to their schools and communities. Chelsea will head to the national competition in Mobile, Alabama, this summer and plans to use her full scholarship to Hawaii Pacific University.



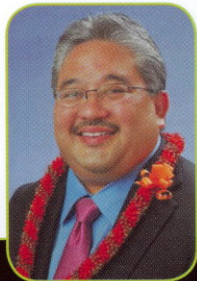
Waikele Elementary School's Student Leadership Team conducted surveys about the effects of school bus transportation cuts this year and sent the results to Senator Kidani. Grateful for their involvement, the Senator personal met with the students and also invited Ray L'Heureux, Department of Education, to explain what is being done to restore bus service in their neighborhoods. "They made us feel special!" commented one student.



Kudos to Mililani High School the 583 graduates of the Class of 2013 who hit a record \$12.4 million in scholarship grants for post-secondary education and training in its 40th year. MHS was selected for bronze medal recognition as one of the eleven best public high schools in Hawaii by U.S. News & World Report. This was especially meaningful for new Principal Fred Murphy, who assumed the top job at his alma mater this year. He's a proud graduate of the MHS Class of 1988.



The nearly 600 seniors in Waipahu High School's graduating class proudly celebrated the school's 75th anniversary as one of Hawaii's legacy public school campuses this year. The Class of 2013 qualified for more than \$11 million in merit-based scholarships. As the school year ended, Principal Keith Hayashi was honored with the Masayuki Tokioka Foundation Award for Excellence in School Leadership, with a cash prize that he plans to re-invest in Waipahu's highly successful Career Pathways and College Readiness programs.



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Kidani presents awards to elementary school students

Each year, Senator Kidani asks each of the elementary schools in her district to select two outstanding 5th or 6th grade students for special recognition. This award is selected by the teachers of the "graduating" class as they move on to their Middle schools.

The Senator awards them with gift cards (with the suggestion that they stock up on summer reading materials!) and Certificates of Congratulations from the Hawaii State Senate. Congratulations to this year's honorees!



Grad Souza and Doulton-Lee Ho, Kanoelani Elementary School.

Senator Kidani with Anne Ruedo and Simeon Ines, Kaleiopuu Elementary School.



Josiah Clymer and Tatem Foster with Senator Kidani, Mililani Uka Elementary School.

Senator Kidani with Serenity Jackson and Blaide Kashiwabara, Mililani Waena Elementary School.



Senator Kidani with Kimie Fujioka & Leilani Miguel, Kipapa Elementary School