

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

It's always nice to begin a report with good news.

Earlier this month, a resident of Waikele contacted elected officials to let us know he was having difficulty hearing the civil defense warning sirens during the monthly tests on the first working day of the month. There is currently no siren in Waikele proper; area residents rely on the siren from nearby Crestview, across Kamehameha Highway. State Civil Defense explains that this is common for inland communities such as Waikele and Crestview that are both outside the tsunami zone. Although residents might not hear a warning siren,

they should have plenty of time to react to warnings that come via other means - cell phone alerts, Emergency Alert System broadcasts over radio and TV, social media alerts, and friends and family calling each other.

Nevertheless, in response to the Waikele resident's concern, I contacted Adjutant General Daryll Wong who heads the department that administers State Civil Defense. I was pleased with the prompt - and positive - response I received. They confirmed that Waikele does not have its own siren, but also noted that the nearby siren in Crestview had "a major malfunction and is not repairable," and thus was not in service on the July 1 test day. As a result of my inquiry, Civil Defense conducted a review of their modernization and replacement schedule, and I am pleased to report the following:

- The malfunctioning Crestview siren has now moved up to the "emergency repair" list and will be replaced no later than January 1, 2015 - fewer than six months from now. The new siren in Crestview will be of the type pictured at right, and it should be audible many places in Waikele.
- Civil Defense says that a new, dedicated siren for Waikele is scheduled to be installed at the Community Park in 2016.

The location of sirens close to or within residential neighborhoods is important for the safety and security for our communities. I will continue to monitor this matter to make sure the installation of the new siren in Waikele remains on track.

Me ke Aloha pumehana,



Primary election day is Saturday, August 9.
If you are a registered voter, please make sure you
cast your ballot for the candidates of your choice.
It's your right . . . and responsibility!

- You may vote by mail with an absentee ballot, most of which have already gone out in the mail to voters who requested them. *You may still request an absentee ballot for the primary until Saturday, August 2.*
- You may vote "absentee" in person at walk-in polling places beginning Monday, July 28 through Thursday, August 7. On Oahu, walk-in voting sites are at Honolulu Hale downtown or at Kapolei Hale in West Oahu.
- Polls are open on Election Day – Saturday, August 9 – from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If you have questions about any of these options,
call the Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (453-8683).

Some good news as the
new school year begins!

A contract in the amount of \$220,058 has been awarded to replace the fire alarm system at **Kanoelani Elementary School in Waipio Gentry.**

Safety and security of our students and teachers is a priority on all campuses, and this project will assure that upgraded alarms are in place as quickly as possible.

The contractor will be meeting with Kanoelani Principal Stacie Kunihisa soon to work on details of scheduling the work.

Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 Phone: (808) 586-7100; e-mail: Sen-Kidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

Visit Senator Kidani's Legislative Web site : <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> - click on

Little fire ants a BIG concern . . .



When the State Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Little Fire Ant in Mililani Mauka, my colleague, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, and I knew immediately that the people of our community needed to know about this tiny pest with the big bite.

We scheduled a town hall meeting for mid-July, and the huge turnout told us that our neighbors are taking this “invasion” very seriously.



July 14, 2014 - A packed cafeteria at Mililani Mauka Elementary

The Little Fire Ant may have been present in Mililani for several years according to the Department of Agriculture. A thorough inspection has identified the infested area as 15 to 20 house lots along Auina Street, in an adjacent gulch, and across the gulch along Kopalani Street. The ant is considered one of the world’s most invasive species. It has been found on Hawaii Island since 1999, and in December 2013 was detected on *hapu’u* (Hawaiian fern) logs on Maui and Oahu. More recently, six acres in Waimanalo have been treated to control and eradicate the pest. In his presentation, DOA spokesman Rob Curtiss said that the ant can be eradicated through the use of pesticides and community participation. But he warned that everyone in the neighborhood needs to cooperate and allow treatment of their property. **The DOA said it will be meeting with Mililani Town Association and individual homeowners before the end of July.**

Information about the Little Fire Ant is available online at <http://www.littlefireants.com>

For the latest Hawaii updates: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/main/lfainfo/>

For information about how to recognize and test for the ants:

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2014/05/LFASurvey.pdf>

View a video presentation at <https://vimeo.com/97558997>



People who attended our town hall session viewed the tiny ants through a microscope. They’re small – see the three ants on a pencil point at left – but can inflict severe pain with their bites.

If you have questions, check out the information at the online links above, or call the DOA’s Pest Hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378).



You should know . . . Changes to the cell phone ban passed by the legislature in 2013, prohibiting the use of mobile electronic devices while operating a vehicle, went into effect on July 1. The amendments to the law include exempting drivers who are completely stopped and pulled over in a safe zone with their engines off, making a violation a traffic infraction (eliminating the need to go to court), and changing the penalties for violations. **The fines in the new law have changed to a flat fee of \$250 for first and multiple violations and \$300 for violations in a school or construction zone.**

Our students continue to excel . . .



Photo from T. Cramer

Above, Mililani senior **Tess Cramer** and **Brandon Kinnard**, Class of 2015, at the INTEL Science Fair in California. *Right, Waipahu High's girls are front and center* with delegates from other Hawaii high schools. We are so proud that six students out of the Hawaii delegation of 25 were from our area schools!

Twenty-five students - including **Waipahu and Mililani High School** scholars - were selected to represent Hawaii at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair. They were among an estimated 1,750 participants from over 70 countries, regions and territories at the annual competition. Intel ISEF is the world's largest pre-college science competition, showcasing independent research for more than \$5 million in awards. **Waipahu High's Maria Jurado** won a 4th Place Grand Award in Chemistry and **Mililani's Brandon Kinnard** was presented an Honorable Mention citation from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. **Congratulations!**



Charlyn Manuyag

Maria Jurado

Irene Kuikahi

Jasmin Valera

Photo by Pascale Pinner



Mililani High School sent a delegation of 13 students to the 37th Annual Leadership Conference of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)-Future Health Professionals in Orlando, Florida, in late June. Pictured here are Vice Principal and chaperone J. Matsukawa with students **Fejereich Luz Lopez, Alyssa Fukumae, Kara Meske, Rebecca Sandvig, Joby Celozza, Mart Joshua Lopez, Gilbert Caraveo, Mason Matsuo, Brysen Pasion, Jessica Jicha, Chelsi Valenzona, Callie Toyama and Chasidee delaCuesta-Batara** and advisor chaperone S. Tanaka. *Photo below left, Josh Lopez, named HOSA Region 1 Vice President (the first Hawaii student ever chosen for this honor), and MHS teacher and advisor Candace Chun, recipient of the Region 1 Outstanding Service Award for Secondary Chapter Advisors. Below right, Fejereich, Mason and Chasidee celebrated their Gold Medal winning Health Education Team effort. Six others in the MHS delegation were also finalists in their respective categories. Congratulations!*

Loving our laptops! **Mililani Mauka and Mililani Waena** are among eight schools statewide that have been participating in the **Access to Learning Digital Pilot** program. Every teacher and student in these schools has a laptop computer. The first evaluation of the program by Associate Professor Jonathan Schwartz from the Education Division of UH West Oahu concludes that teachers, students and parents are overwhelmingly positive about the benefits of using computers in the classroom. Teachers say they have already witnessed measureable improvements in student work and learning. Visit <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org> – search for the “Access Learning Report” to read the full evaluation. The Legislature will use the data to decide whether and how broadly to expand the program.



In Our Communities . . .



At left, I joined DOT Director Ford Fuchigami, Rep. Ryan Yamane, US Federal Highway Administration representative Matt Schmitz, Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Grace Pacific Senior Vice President Darrell Goo for the kickoff. The \$13 million project is 80 percent federally funded.



Over the July 4th weekend, I was invited to the opening and closing events for the very special **62nd Annual Fil-Am Golf Tournament** at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course. Among the other guests was Mililani resident **Erika Ordonez** (pictured above), the reigning Miss Hawaii Filipina 2013, who will relinquish her title in a few weeks. I was privileged to present a Senate certificate to tournament organizers – including **Chair Rito Saniatan** – thanking and congratulating them for their work to maintain this annual tournament as a bonding and booster event for Filipino golfers statewide.

A Ceremonial Start . . . No bulldozers, no pavement rippers, not even any construction workers. Nevertheless, a significant beginning to the long-awaited Kamehameha Highway Resurfacing and Improvements project that has been pending since funding was first approved in 2011. The approximately four mile stretch between Ka Uka Boulevard in Waipio and Waihau Street just beyond Mililani Town will be brought up to standard with repaving, new guardrails, shoring up of shoulders and widening where possible – all to assure a safer and more comfortable experience along this heavily used corridor. Detours and lane closures will be necessary. You can check the latest on this project online at: <http://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/> - enter Kam Highway Resurfacing in the search box.



Congratulations . . . to the *Waikele Community Association*, celebrating the grand opening of their new permanent office on July 25 . . . to Mililani Mauka's Boy Scout Troop 664, welcoming *Eagle Scouts Benjamin Takami, Kendall Hamasaki and Mason Matsuo* at a Court of Honor on August 2 . . . and to the players and coaches of Mililani's *Guava Jam Softball Club*, winners of the 2014 American Softball Association U-16 *national championship* during their summer tour in California.



A Solar Farm coming to our neighborhood

Developing Renewable Energy Resources



The Waipahu Neighborhood Board is scheduled to hear a briefing from **Ho`ohana Solar**, a major energy producer for the island of Oahu, about their plans to construct a solar power center on property near Kunia Country Club.



The company already operates Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park, that produces enough electricity to power 1,000 homes. The complex in Kunia will produce many more times that amount of power.