

# Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

You may have seen media reports last week about the Department of Education's transportation pilot program that will eventually restore **school bus services** that were cut last year.

As I learned from the DOE when I visited Waikele School to meet with the Student Leadership Team, this year's pilot is part of a two year plan that will greatly improve service, and, we expect, help the DOE get a better handle on the escalating costs for bus service as the Legislature has insisted.

**Kanoelani Elementary** is the only school in my district that is included in the pilot at the present time, but the DOE has assured me that problems created by the cuts will be addressed at Waipahu and Mililani Complex schools in the 2014-2015 school year. Data gathered in the first year will be a big help in making sure the needs of all our public school students and their families who rely on bus service to get to campus are met.

Also of interest to District 18 residents is the status of the **Emergency Services ambulance facility in Waipio**. I have been fighting for funds for a new ambulance base station in this location since I first became a Senator in 2009. Money was appropriated then, but the previous State and City administrations did not act in a timely manner to use the funds. I made sure that \$3.85 million was re-appropriated again this year so that the project can proceed.

**Last week I met with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell** to stress the importance of this new ambulance facility to our Central and West Oahu communities, and to urge him to make sure the state funding for this city project is earmarked right away. The Mayor agreed, noting that the Kaiser Clinic in Waipio - where ambulances are currently based - has asked the city to relocate its EMS services. This makes it all the more urgent that the State appropriation be released to the city as soon as possible. As it is planned, the new station will serve as an Emergency Operations Center and home base for an EMS command vehicle, with the second floor intended to be a full backup EMS Communication Center.

**I am pleased to report that the Mayor wrote to the Governor immediately to ask that the funds be released.** I will also be in touch with the Governor about this critically important project. A new, permanent state-of-the-art ambulance facility will greatly improve emergency response times in our neighborhoods, helping to assure the safety and security of the families in our communities.

Me ke Aloha,

## *National GEARUP Student of the Year ~*

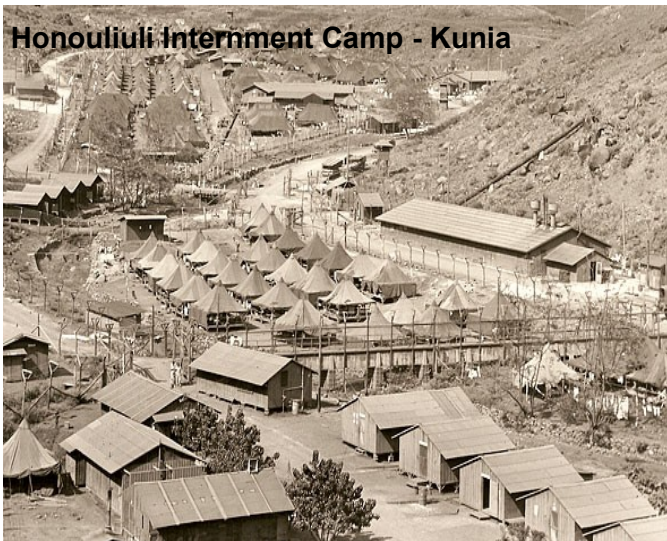
### *Juanito Moises of Waipahu High School!*

Waipahu High School is brimming with pride this month, celebrating the announcement that incoming senior **Juanito Moises** has been named **2013 National Student of the Year** for the GEARUP college prep program.

GEARUP - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs - has been active at Waipahu High and Intermediate Schools since 2008, tracking and supporting student progress from 7th grade right on into college. Juanito's bio reads like the polished resume of someone poised for great accomplishments: National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, track & field and cross country, the League of Extraordinary Students, and much more. He received his award at the GEARUP National Conference in San Francisco last week. We are sure to hear more about this exceptional young man in the years ahead. Congratulations!



**Juanito Moises, WHS Class of 2014**



**Honouliuli Internment Camp - Kunia**

UH West Oahu is one of the partners in a program that will help research and preserve the former **Honouliuli Internment Camp at Kunia** in Central/West Oahu. U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa this month announced that the National Park Service is providing a federal grant of \$111,557 to the Japanese Cultural Center to develop a public awareness program about the history of the camp where as many as 300 Japanese-Americans were detained during World War II.

I was a primary sponsor of last year's bill – now enacted into law – that created an advisory committee to formulate recommendations for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli site so that future generations will know about this important part of Hawaii's WW II history. Along with UH West Oahu and the Japanese Cultural Center, the other organizations in the advisory committee are the State's Historic Preservation Division, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, and current landowner Monsanto Hawaii, which has pledged its support for the project.



## Waipahu High School *In the News . . .*

**STEM Science All-Stars: Richard Alipot, Jasrin Alexander, Mark Lester Apuya, Raina Andres, Jason Mateo and Al Jerome Leano ~ ~ WHS photo**

MidWeek recently highlighted a summer STEM program at **Waipahu High School** that teacher/advisor Erwin Legaspi says had his students “up on the roof” of the Industrial Arts Building for electronic satellite weather observations.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) project students are pictured at right, and you can check out the complete MidWeek story on the Web at: <http://www.midweek.com/waipahu-students-gain-stem-skills/>

Also, **Star Advertiser** reporter Nanea Kalani updated the WHS Early College High School Initiative in a recent story. She says that more than 200 WHS seniors will begin the new school year this fall with college credits earned for a big head start on graduation and their college careers. The program is a partnership with UH West Oahu and Leeward Community College that is growing in popularity among WHS students.

Read the whole story at [www.staradvertiser.com](http://www.staradvertiser.com) by searching “back issues” for the newspaper dated July 8, 2013.



### **Mililani Pinto All-Stars - a summer to remember**

Congratulations to the Mililani Pinto All-Stars of the Central Oahu Youth Baseball League for their summer to remember.

Team members were selected by League coaches who screened more than 250 players following the regular season.

The All-Stars won the First Annual Zone Tournament in late May and the Mililani Goodwill Tournament two weeks later.

They travelled to Kona for the State Pinto Tournament, and went undefeated in five games, ultimately emerging as State Champions. After the State Tournament, Mililani played in the prestigious Kalaniana'ole Athletic Club Tournament, finishing with a 3-0 record in pool play, advancing to the following week's gold bracket division, losing only in its last game to Wai Kahala “A” in a close 8-7 finale.

While the individual efforts all contributed to the remarkable season, this kind of success is also a tribute to the encouragement and support of coaches and families.

A big Mahalo for the team's hard work and warmest Aloha to everyone who had a part in this winning season.

**Top row** - coaches: Lance Machida, Brandis Ueyama, Kyle Aoki, Wes Yoshida, Johnny Suehisa; **middle row:** Brayden Suehisa, Ripken Chong, Colby Fournier, Finn Bergan, Kai Redoble, Ethan Nakamura, BJ Tokushima, Ryder Okimoto; **front row:** Elijah Ickes, Cadence Ueyama, Brock Makishima, Randen Silva, Tanner Aoki, Aydan Lobetos, Raine Yoshida



## Two Mililani High students win summer travel grants from Pacific and Asian Affairs Council.



At a reception prior to departure for China, MHS student **Gabrielle Gregorio** (above) received my Senate certificate of congratulations. With her, from left, are **Ambassador Lauren Moriarty**, Dean of Academics at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, and PAAC Board President **Ruth Limtiaco**.



<<Gabrielle with home-stay buddy.

Gabby on a "drum line" at Village No. 4 >>>



This is the second year that **Keelan Okazaki** (above) has participated in this study abroad program. This program in Vietnam focuses on service learning. Instead of touring all around Vietnam, students stay primarily in Hoi An. They teach elementary school 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders English each morning, and then spend the afternoons in a variety of cultural activities. This year Keelan also received the Honda Scholarship from PAAC for his demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to international affairs.

For **Gabrielle Gregorio**, a two week China tour included study of Mandarin, visits to a high school, and a few days stay with a local family. Her travel was made possible by a Freeman Scholarship through the PAAC.



## For Hale Kula School, a grand renewal begins

Just one look at the photo below will tell you that the groundbreaking for new, expanded facilities at Hale Kula School is a big deal. The school is located on the U.S. Army base at Schofield, and the event attracted members of both the State House and Senate, from the U.S. Senate, leaders of the Schofield military command, and Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Hale Kula opened in 1959—the year Hawaii became a state. This will be the first upgrade to the campus since that time. A Federal Department of Defense grant of \$26.6 million is being supplemented by State funding in the amount of \$6.6 million.

The project will result in a new administration building, a two-story classroom building, a student center and library-media center, renovation of existing classrooms, and construction of additional classrooms.



### A banner year for Hale Kula's Principal

It was my pleasure to honor Hale Kula Principal **Jan Iwase** for her exceptional leadership over the last ten years with a certificate from the State Senate. Jan was selected Central District Principal of the Year for 2013. Joining me and Jan in the photo above are Sen. Clayton Hee and Hawaii Schools Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.

Military dependents make up 98 percent of Hale Kula's nearly 1,000 students. Because of this highly transient population, the school always faces special challenges, and Jan has proved to be an innovative and inspirational leader over the past decade.

# Community Photo Gallery



I am fortunate to be invited to share in recognizing the successes of people in our communities. *Top row left*, congratulations to **Tyler Oshiro**, Mililani Troop 664, who became an Eagle Scout this month. *Top right*, **John Okutani** of Mililani Mauka received the *Spirit of JCCH Award* from the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii where he is the volunteer program coordinator and mentor. *Below*, Hawaii Catholic Bishop **Larry Silva** was named to the Order of Kamehameha, recognizing his leadership in canonizing St. Marianne Cope. *At left*, the Mililani Neighborhood Board recognized **Giovanni Kaanehe**, 2013 PACT Keiki Day grade 3 poster contest winner - pictured with Board Chair **Dick Poirier** and proud mom **Josie Kaanehe**.

**Emmy Kiyabu**, (pictured at far right) won a coveted Kamaoka ukulele at the Annual Roy Sakuma Ukulele Festival.



*At the State Capitol . . .* Governor Abercrombie has finished his work of signing, vetoing or allowing to pass without signature all bills sent to him from the 2013 Legislative session.

A total of 288 new laws have been enacted. That's about 10 percent of all bills introduced (2,872) which is a bit higher than the usual percentage.

Among the bill signing ceremonies I attended was enactment of **SB 1087**, creating a plan to allow utility customers to finance some renewable energy investments, including solar photovoltaic systems, through a monthly charge on their electric bills. The so-called "on-bill financing" requires some detail work by the Public Utilities Commission, but it is hoped that the program can be ready for consumers sometime early in 2014.



I joined PUC Chair Mina Morita, Rep. Chris Lee, Gov. Abercrombie, DBEDT Director Richard Lim, and Rep. Cynthia Thielen.



Base Camp Safety Briefing

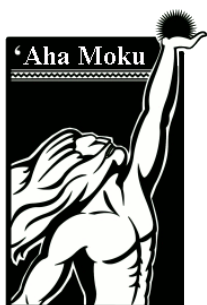
Aha Moku Chair Les Kuloloio

## Visiting Kahoolawe - Moku O Kanaloa

In late May, the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission hosted the Aha Moku Advisory Committee and members of the Legislature on an overnight visit to Kahoolawe. *Below right*, I am with **Sen. Brickwood Galuteria**, **Rep. Faye Hanohano** and **Sen. Gil Kahele**. The visit was an eye-opening experience that adds first-hand knowledge to many of the complex resource decisions with which we lawmakers are faced.



Our itinerary included cultural and historic sites and this visit to the shoreline.



*The Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) was created by the State Legislature in 2012. Its purpose is to advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues related to land and natural resources management through the aha moku system, a system that is based on the indigenous resource management of moku (regional) boundaries. The visit to Kahoolawe was the first official action of the AMAC.*

