

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

The months following our Legislative session have been busy, with quite a bit of official business as well as numerous community events throughout the district. This newsletter highlights some of the activities I've been able to attend.

I'm always grateful to be included in the "busy-ness" of our neighborhoods. Here are a couple of "breaking news" items to share:

- We learned last week that students from **Mililani High School** led the list of all Hawaii public high schools receiving Advanced Placement Scholar Awards for exceptional achievement in rigorous college-level courses. A total of **81 Trojans** were named AP Scholars, Scholars with Honor and Scholars with Distinction. Mililani's top two AP scholars among nearly 500 students from all Hawaii public high schools are **Viola Mocz** and **Ganesh Prasa Rapolu**.
- Congratulations are also in order for **Maria Jurado** of **Waipahu High School** who received an AP Scholar Award for scoring 3 or more out of a possible high score of 5 on six AP exams.
- Good news for **Waikele, Waipio and Mililani residents**. A contract has been awarded to Paul's Electric for \$826,000 to make improvements at the intersection of Lumiaina Street and Kam Highway. The Department of Transportation has for years received complaints about traffic backing up on Lumiaina Street heading toward Waikele Shopping Center. To ease this condition, an additional mauka-bound lane will be added to improve traffic flow. This is part of the larger Kamehameha Highway repaving and improvement project that began earlier this year. Work on the additional turn lane should begin in January 2015 and be completed in July.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

The deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 6.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to voters who have asked for them the week of October 13.

Early walk-in voting sites at Kapolei Hale and Honolulu Hale will open on Tuesday, October 21.

Questions? Call 453-VOTE (453-8683)



At Waipahu High School . . .

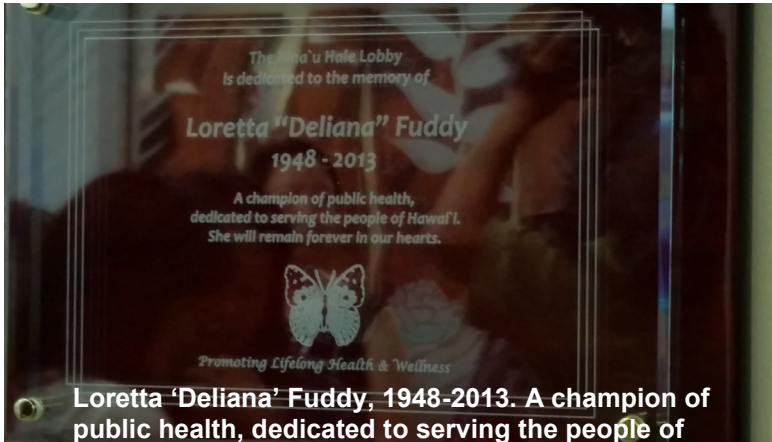
♦ 328 students took Early College classes during the 2013-2014 school year, about 80 % girls and 20 % boys.

♦ For all classes they took in a huge variety of subjects, 83 % of the grades students earned were As & Bs.

Waipahu High School has been a leader in Hawaii in participating in the Early College program – the goal of which is to increase college and career readiness in providing low-income youth, English Language learners, first generation college goers, minorities and other under represented students in higher education with accelerated learning opportunities and tuition-free Early College classes. Many students can graduate with an Associate degree at the same time they graduate from high school. WHS students and partner schools **Leeward Community College** and **UH West Oahu** presented information about their program at a legislative briefing last month.

**Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 Phone: (808) 586-7100; e-mail: SenKidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
Visit Senator Kidani's Legislative Web site : <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> - click on Senate and then Members**

Notes from the Capitol . . .



Loretta 'Deliana' Fuddy, 1948-2013. A champion of public health, dedicated to serving the people of Hawai'i. She will remain forever in our hearts.

The photo at left is a little dark, but if you look carefully you will see the reflections of people who gathered to dedicate the newly renovated lobby at Kinohi'ole – the Health Department building on the corner of Punchbowl and Beretania Streets.

The inscription on the crystal plaque notes that the lobby is dedicated to the memory of the late **Dr. Loretta "Deliana" Fuddy**, former State Health Director, who perished in a tragic aircraft crash in the waters off Kalaupapa after a work assignment last December.

The re-done lobby includes a greatly improved marriage license application section and a security station; Dr. Fuddy helped to design the space to better serve the public.



Several committees of the Legislature called Hawaiian Electric Company and solar industry leaders to a joint hearing last week. Our concern is that a HECO rule change a year ago regarding rooftop solar panels has significantly slowed consumers' plans to install and operate the energy cost saving systems.

Inquiries to my office and others constantly ask us to do what we can to speed up the process – but oversight of HECO is through the quasi-independent Public Utilities Commission, not directly by the Legislature.

The facts are disturbing: more than 4,000 people are waiting for utility review to proceed with installations, and permits for installations have dropped by nearly 70 percent from a year ago when the new review rule was imposed.

We received some assurances from HECO that it will be more responsive to consumer needs and the overall goal of reducing energy costs. However, it is clear that this will be the subject of serious deliberation in the 2015 session.

In my newsletter last month we reported national recognition of Mililani High School scholar **Isis Osborne** for her academic success and community service work. Isis is one of only eleven high school students nationwide selected to receive a scholarship award from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislatures (NHCSL).

Earlier this month we were able to arrange a public presentation of the scholarship award to Isis at the State Capitol. I was pleased to welcome **Mililani Principal Fred Murphy** (at left below) to assist in recognizing our honoree. At right is Dane Wicker who represented Senator Donovan Dela Cruz at the presentation. Both Senator Dela Cruz and I are active members of the NHCSL.



I was among Hawaii lawmakers invited to meetings of the **Japan Hawaii Legislators' Friendship Association** late last month at the Hawaii Convention Center. In addition to Japan's Consul General in Hawaii, Toyoei Shigeeda, participants included former **Governor George Ariyoshi** (seated fourth from the left in our row) and senior representatives from Japan Travel Bureau and Kintetsu – sponsors of the *Honolulu Festival* and the *PanPacific Festival*.



My colleague, Senator Gilbert Kahele, Chair of the Tourism Committee, presented our certificates of appreciation to these companies that are responsible for bringing significant numbers of visitors to Hawaii each year.

In Our Communities . . .



Leeward Community College is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the vibrant on-campus theatre that has served as a significant performing arts resource in the West Oahu area since 1974. A gala anniversary fundraising event is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 in the theatre courtyard. The event sold out earlier this month, but you can support the theatre by attending performances throughout the year. At age 40, the theatre auditorium and supporting spaces are in need of some significant fixes.

This year, I secured a Legislative appropriation of \$7 million for a facelift and renovation work that will be completed in 2016. Look for the LCC 40th season events calendar online at: <http://lcctheatre.hawaii.edu/>.



Community



Photo Gallery



Photos clockwise from upper left (1) Congratulations to Mililani Town Association for a record turnout of perhaps as many as 15,000 people + vendors that made for a festive *Eat the Street* - one of the year's signature MTA events. (2) The great *I ♥ Mililani HI* t-shirts were a hot seller! (3) I always enjoy participating in the annual bon dance event at **Mililani Hongwanji**. With me are my granddaughter Kamalani (*at right*) and her good friend Khloe. (4) A Senate certificate congratulated **Bob Barrett** for his selection as the 2014 Small Business Person of the Year for Oahu by the U.S. Small Business Association. Bob is President and co-owner of Coastal Windows in the Waipio Industrial Park. He is also the current President of Mililani Town Association. (5) The **Navy Federal Credit Union** has opened a branch office in Mililani Mauka. With me at the grand opening is Navy FCU regional manager **Maria White-Marchus**.



Photo courtesy of Jan Iwase

Hale Kula's library media specialist Michelle Colte enjoying a moment with her happy and excited keiki "customers" in the school library.

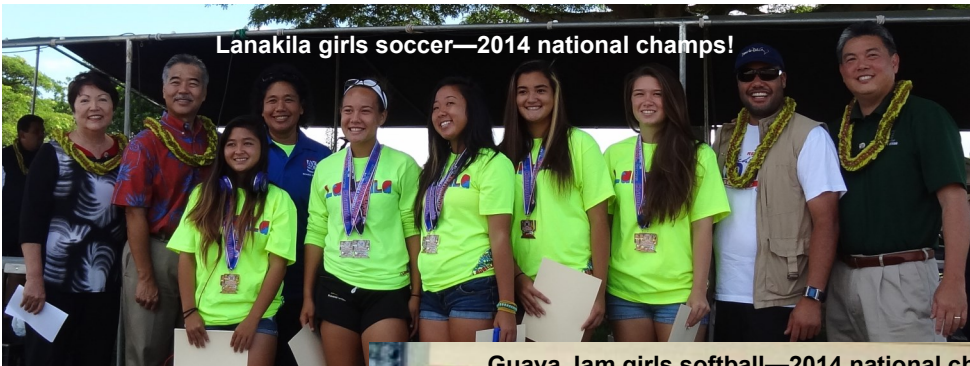
Tops in the Nation! Hale Kula Elementary Library Media Specialist Michelle Colte

Scholastic and School Library Journal announced this month that **Michelle Colte** – a resident of Mililani Mauka – was selected from more than 90 applicants around the country as the magazine's first-ever **School Librarian of the Year**. Michelle has been at Hale Kula – Hawaii's public elementary school on base at Schofield Barracks – for nine years. She was cited for her use of 21st century tools to engage students as they develop skills in "multiple literacies." Students use the computer game *Minecraft* to build a community and a Web site shares their projects. The library welcomes Schofield soldiers who read to Hale Kula students, along with artists and musicians who enrich learning programs, and a faithful corps of families who volunteer for book fairs and hands-on learning activities.



Congratulations for your good work on behalf of our students!

Sports Page!



Lanakila girls soccer—2014 national champs!

Coaches & girls from Mililani's team **Lanakila** - 2014 AYSO National champs in their age group - were recognized at the opening of the fall soccer season in late August. **Senator David Ige** joined me and, *at right*, **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz** and **Representative Mark Takai**.



Guava Jam girls softball—2014 national champs!

Girls from Mililani make up the **Guava Jam softball team** that won the 2014 American Softball Association national championship in their age group. My colleague **Senator Dela Cruz** and I recognized the girls and coaches at an end-of-the-summer get together.



Waipahu vs. Leilehua – September 12
With cheer girls & WHS Principal Hayashi

Football season is underway – and Mililani High School proudly displays the banner (*above left*) signifying that Trojan coaches have adopted the **Coaching Boys Into Men** program that teaches boys on athletic teams about respecting women and modeling respectful behavior for their peers. **Coaching Boys . . . Executive Director Ed Flores** stopped by at my Capitol office to officially present the banner to **Principal Fred Murphy** as MHS coaches implement the program developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

Participate!

Saturday, October 4 – You can celebrate **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** – the major event of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – with a 5K walk beginning at Richardson Field near Aloha Stadium. Early morning registration on site at 6 a.m., with walkers stepping out between 7 and 8 a.m. About 7,500 people are expected to participate. Come early to celebrate survivorship! Info at 595-7500.

Saturday, October 4 – AARP Hawaii will offer a **free family caregiver conference** for family and friends assisting older adults with living at home or those planning for their own aging. Beginning at 8 a.m. at the Japanese Cultural Center on Beretania Street. Information and registration at 1-877-926-8300.

Sunday, October 5 – **Hawaii Children & Youth Day** – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the State Capitol grounds and the surrounding Capitol District. More than 300 exhibitors and organizations offer interactive, educational and fun activities for the whole family. General information (*including parking advice*) at <http://hawaiiicyd.org>.

Saturday, October 18 – **Waipahu Pop-up Legal Clinic** sponsored by Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. **Free legal advice** on family law, estate planning, bankruptcy, veterans benefits and other matters. Waipahu High School cafeteria beginning at 9 a.m. Information and reservations at 528-7050.

