

# Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-eighth Hawaii State Legislature

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



Chair, Committee on Education

Vice Chair, Committee on  
Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Health

Committee Member  
Higher Education and the Arts  
Transportation and Energy

Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 228  
Phone 586-7100

[senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov)



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

A few months ago, I reported that funding was available for major improvements to the **Roosevelt (Kipapa) Bridge** - a major thoroughfare linking Waipahu/Waikele, Waipio and Mililani. A Mililani resident who travels that route on a regular basis remembered that, but he noted, "To date I see/feel no improvement in crossing it six times (or more) a week," and asked, "Any update?"

We are often reminded that the wheels of government sometimes move a little slower than we would like, but I can report that this project is moving forward. The head of the Highways Division at the State Department of Transportation, Ed Sniffen, informed me last week that "The bridge project is currently being advertised for bids, with bid opening scheduled November 9. The Department expects to issue a Notice to Proceed in mid-December with construction work expected to last for about one year."

Keep in mind that improvements to our roads and highways often create temporary detours and inconveniences - but the effort to enhance safety and "drivability" are worth the wait. Stay tuned for progress reports.

The **State Department of Education** has issued its latest measurements of student achievement in island public schools, and youngsters on campuses in Senate District 18 did well - exceeding statewide averages in English Language Arts/Literacy and math and science standards.

The summaries issued earlier this month show **Mililani Ike and Mililani Mauka Elementary Schools** are among the highest achieving schools in English language arts and mathematics. Mililani Ike is also on the list of top schools that are exceeding state averages for science learning.

The report also notes that Waipio Gentry's **Kanoelani Elementary** is on the list of schools that have showed significant improvements in achievements in English language skills.

We are blessed with dedicated campus administrators and committed teachers at these schools and continue to seek the most effective ways to support their work on behalf of Hawaii's *keiki*. If you would like a closer look at the report, check online at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org) and search for STRIVE HI.

The time between our Legislative sessions is passing quickly. The next Legislature will convene in less than three months as we sort through spending priorities as weighed against available resources. Some attention has been given to a so-called budget "surplus" of \$1 billion. But that big number comes with a caution that this may be an opportunity to meet pressing health, social services and housing needs that have intensified over the last few years.

As always, I encourage you to join the discussion as our session approaches.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

## Sports Report

- Congratulations to the **Mililani High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team and coach Val Crabbe**, undefeated in regular season play and runner-up in the OIA D-1 Tournament, wrapping up with 12 wins and just 2 losses.
- Congratulations to the **Mililani Trojan Varsity Football Team and coach Rod York**, looking forward to the D-1 state championship tournament quarterfinal game v. Baldwin on Maui, Friday, November 4!
- Congratulations to the **Waipahu Marauders Varsity Football Team and coach Bryson Carvalho**, playing for the OIA Division 2 Championship against Waialua on Friday night, October 28, at Aloha Stadium!

## ***Celebrating Excellence in Teaching***

Washington Middle School teacher Sung Man Park has been named Hawaii's 2017 State Teacher of the Year. Park received the state's top teaching award from Governor David Ige and State Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi during a ceremony held at Washington Place this month. The honor is presented annually to a classroom teacher selected from more than 11,000 educators within the DOE. Park was one of seven District Teachers of the Year and one Charter School Teacher of the Year so honored. The Legislature will be recognizing these teachers, other outstanding educators and students during **Education Week at the Capitol** in March.



***Front row, First Lady Dawn and Governor David Ige, Luane Higuchi, Leeward District, Tracey Idica, Central District, Kristi Kusunoki, Windward District, Jennifer Suzuki, Maui District, Laurie Ann O'Brien, Hawaii Island District; back row, Kay Beech, Public Charter Schools, Dan Mireles, Kauai District, Sung Man Park, Honolulu District, DOE Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.***

Last month I reported on the national scholarship awarded to Waipahu High School graduate **Sydney Millerd – WHS Class of 2016** – who is studying to become a marine biologist at UH Manoa. We were all thrilled that Sydney, her parents, and Waipahu High Principal Keith Hayashi were able to come to the State Capitol so we could present the scholarship to Sydney in person. Only eleven such scholarships - named to honor the late John S. Martinez, a Hispanic legislator from Connecticut - are presented nationwide each year by the **National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislatures** – and Sydney received one of them!

We are all very proud of Sydney for her wonderful achievements in academics and community service. Not only did she earn top grades throughout her years at Waipahu, but she also has shown exceptional talents in science and math that will serve her well as she pursues her studies.



Attending the scholarship presentation ceremony, Sydney Millerd's parents, Waialeale residents Edward and Virginia Millerd, Senator Lorraine Inouye, recipient Sydney, and to my left, Waipahu High School Principal Keith Hayashi, and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz. The three Senators are all members of the National Hispanic Caucus.

## **2016 General Election voting now underway**

◆ Early walk-in voting locations opened this week at Kapolei Hale and Honolulu Hale. Registered voters may cast their ballots Monday through Friday 8 am – 4 pm until Friday, November 5.

◆ ***If you are not yet registered to vote, it's not too late. Effective this year, qualified Hawaii residents may register in-person at walk-in voting sites.***

◆ Mail-in ballots were sent last week to registered voters who requested them. It's still possible to request a mail-in ballot until Tuesday, November 1.

◆ On Tuesday, November 8 – General Election Day – polling places are open statewide from 7 am – 6 pm.

◆ ***Call 453-VOTE (453-8683) or check online at [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov) for more information.***

