

Senator Michelle Kidani

Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature

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



Senate Vice President

Chair: Committee on Education

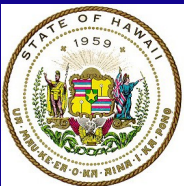
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Aloha, friends and neighbors,

I am always happy to visit our local schools and students—it really is one of my most favorite things to do as Chair of the Senate Education Committee. I was at **Mililani Middle School** this week for their Career Day and spoke to three different classes regarding my job as an elected official and the importance of community service. I also plan to be at one of our elementary schools next week to do a special presentation to a very special person. (I'll tell you about that in my next newsletter.)

In an abundance of caution, Hawaii public schools and the University of Hawaii are beginning to plan seriously about how to prepare their students, staff and campuses for a possible nuclear attack by North Korea. While diplomats and military commanders believe such an event is unlikely, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HEMA - formerly State Civil Defense) has been prudent about planning. HEMA has already rolled out a TV public service announcement to raise awareness. The issues were explored at a legislative briefing a few weeks ago, and HEMA is available for community forums with tips about how you can prepare to safeguard your property, and - more important - your families.

HEMA has posted a notice of a public meeting for Saturday morning, November 4, at one of their buildings in Diamond Head Crater. Details, directions and more emergency preparedness information - including the TV public service spot - can be found at the agency's website: <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

My colleagues, Senators Gabbard and Espero, are also scheduling a session with HEMA for next month to discuss what their agency is doing to prepare our state for a nuclear threat. Time and place details are still being finalized. If you are interested in participating, call 586-6360 or 586-6830 for more information.

On a lighter note . . .

I plan to be giving out treats (no tricks!) at the **Mililani YMCA** 5th annual "Trunk or Treat" family event on Saturday night, October 28, from 5-9 p.m. as we start off the Halloween "season."

Costumed trick-or-treaters young and old will be enjoying the excitement of visiting neighbors or joining in organized activities around our communities. **Caution is advised. Parents, please accompany younger children going door-to-door. Drivers, PLEASE be on the lookout for our eager keiki crossing streets next Tuesday. Happy Halloween—be safe and have fun!**

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Congratulations to the Waipahu Marauders Varsity Football Team, undefeated this season, and taking on the Pearl City Chargers for the **OIA Division II Championship**, Thursday, October 26!

Good luck to the Mililani Trojans Varsity Football Team, undefeated this season, and up against the Kahuku Red Raiders for the **OIA Division I Championship** next weekend, Saturday, November 4!

Hats off to the Lady Trojans of Mililani High School's Girls Varsity Volleyball Team, taking their 12-2 record into the **OIA Championship Quarterfinals** on Thursday night, October 26!



Notes from the Capitol



The Senate met for a second time this year in a Special Session to consider nominations to fill two Hawaii Island Circuit Court vacancies.

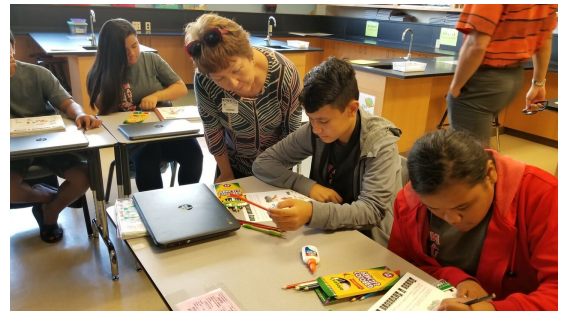
As Senate Vice President, it was my honor to preside over the sessions in the absence of President Kouchi.

The nominees were confirmed on unanimous votes. In the photo below, with lei, are attorney **Robert D.S. Kim** (left) and Family Court Judge **Henry T. Nakamoto** who now assume Circuit Court positions in Hilo and Kona respectively.



Committee on Ways & Means tours Maui

At left, committee members visit *Hale Mahaolu Ehiku* senior living residence in Kihei. That's Housing Manager Michelle Payton, former Mililani resident, in the back row between Senators Glenn Wakai and Lorraine Inouye.



Above, with students at Maui Waena Intermediate.

As we prepare for next January's Legislative session, the Senate's budget committee – the Committee on Ways and Means – traveled to Maui to visit programs and service agencies that receive state support.

The Committee will be on Hawaii Island October 25-26, and on Kauai November 5-6.



At left, WAM Chair Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and I met with Kathleen Dimino, Area Superintendent for the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui High School complex, Maui High's Principal Jamie Yap, as well as other Maui principals.



High Energy at the State Capitol last week!

About 300 Oahu youngsters who benefit from organized after school programs spent their afternoon time at the State Capitol last week. They were part of the nationwide *Lights On Afterschool Day* celebration to raise awareness of the importance of supporting their programs.

I joined 4-H youngsters along Beretania Street (at left) to help call attention to this good cause and got to meet and talk with a number of youngsters during our time together.

The annual rally and sharing of song, dance and fun activities is staged each year by the **Hawaii Afterschool Alliance**, a network of individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting and advancing quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities. The Alliance is totally committed to these enrichment programs that go a long way toward improving academic, social, emotional and physical outcomes for families and their children in Hawaii.

2017
GLOBAL TOURISM SUMMIT
 HAWAII TOURISM
 AUTHORITY



There is no question that the visitor industry is a powerful driver of Hawaii’s economy. The latest industry report said that September was the 20th straight month of growth in the numbers of people visiting Hawaii and the money they spent to support local jobs. Importantly, visitors generated \$1.24 billion in state tax revenue in the first nine months of 2017, \$43 million more than in the same period in 2016.

To assure appropriate state support for the industry, it is important for us as lawmakers to be aware of visitor trends, potential challenges to the robust health the industry is currently experiencing, and Hawaii’s place in the world-wide tourism market.

I joined several of my Senate colleagues and more than 1,800 participants from 18 countries during the Global Tourism Summit sponsored by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) at the Hawaii Convention last month.

The theme of this year’s summit was Sustainable Tourism. During the three days, presentations, sessions and panel discussions spurred a broader and deeper discussion on issues such as cultural tourism, global marketing, lodging and alternative accommodations, and air travel.

In a conference highlight, the **Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage** and crew of the Hokule’a were honored with a Tourism Legacy Award.

HTA recently launched a refreshed version of GoHawaii.com, Hawaii’s official travel site. The consumer website showcases Hawaiian culture and aims to inspire travelers to explore the Aloha State’s six unique islands. Check it out; it’s always interesting to see how Hawaii, our island people and rich cultures are presented to a global audience.



With me at right: Senator Lorraine Inouye, George Szigeti, President and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and Senator Breene Harimoto.



Ewa Makai Vice Principal Geri Martin and Olomana School Principal Stacey Oshio

School leaders honored

October has been designated as **Principals Month** to recognize outstanding public school leaders. To mark the occasion, the Hawaii Association of Secondary School Administrators (HASSA) honored **Stacey Oshio from Olomana Elementary School** as the state’s National Distinguished Principal of the Year and **Geri Martin from Ewa Makai Middle School** as the Vice Principal of the Year.

Principal Oshio traveled to Washington, D.C., where she joined the other 49 state awardees at a Principal of the Year Institute and was formally recognized. She has been an administrator for 15 years and at Olomana for six years. Vice Principal Martin has been at Ewa Makai Middle School for four years and an administrator for 14 years.

Awardees are selected based on a wide variety of criteria including leadership skills, student learning, school demographics, professional preparation and education, and recommendations from students, teachers, staff and DOE leadership. ***Congratulations and mahalo for your work on behalf of our students!***

Mililani and Waipahu schools among the Hawaii’s largest

The Department of Education has released official public school enrollment figures for the 2017-2018 school year. They show that schools in Mililani and Waipahu host some of the largest numbers of students among all campuses statewide. **Mililani High School** has the second-largest student population among all high schools in the state with 2,571 students grades 9-12, followed by **Waipahu High** – third highest – with 2,554 enrolled in 9th through 12th grades.

Mililani Middle School has the largest number of students on campus among intermediate and middle schools statewide with 1,873 youngsters, followed by **Waipahu Intermediate**, with 1,294 students.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, it is my responsibility to work in the best interests of all public schools across the state. But as a Senator representing my Mililani, Waipio and Waipahu neighbors, it’s important to advocate for our own schools as well. We are fortunate to be able to celebrate student success in all of our neighborhoods thanks to dedicated teachers and committed school leadership.

Notes from our Communities



In ceremonies earlier this month at Wheeler Army Airfield, **Brigadier General Keith Tamashiro** officially retired as Commanding Officer of the **Hawaii Army National Guard** after more than three decades of service to Hawaii and the nation. General Tamashiro compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in the Guard, including overseas deployments in Kuwait and Afghanistan. In his civilian life, Keith is a longtime employee in the State Department of Human Services, where he is supervisor of the First-to-Work Program that helps residents receiving state assistance to acquire educational skills and employment. And, of course, we know him as current Vice Chair of the **Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board** where he has served since 2006. ***Mahalo for your service!***

For more than three decades, Mililani resident **Colette Miyamoto Kajiwara** has engaged central Oahu high school students who need extra motivation and focus to achieve their goals. Colette works at the Alternate Learning Center **Store Front School** in Wahiawa where she is now director. Store Front is an after-school program that mentors students and provides basic skills education so that the target population of at-risk young men and women can make good decisions to guide their lives. Several of her students are from Mililani, and Colette's successes at Store Front caught the attention of **Mililani High School Principal Fred Murphy** who nominated her for recognition by corporate sponsors SPECTRUM and Pizza Hut. ***Congratulations, Colette, for being named the 2017 Outstanding Educator from our area, and mahalo for your efforts to improve the lives of so many young people!***



Kudos to Mililani Mauka resident **Bob Barrett**, president of Coastal Windows. Bob was named to the Board of Directors of the **National Association of Manufacturers**, flying to Washington, D.C., for his official installation. Bob has been recognized many times for his outstanding business practices and employee support programs, and the visit to his manufacturing plant in Waipio has been a highlight of the Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Day tour. In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Bob is the current President of the **Mililani Town Association**. ***Great work, Bob!***

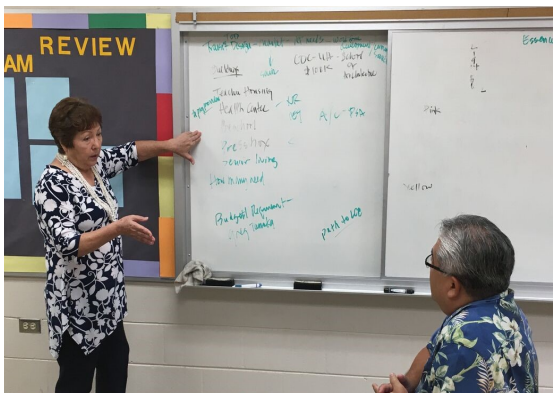
Mark your calendars

A few weeks ago, the animal aid/support organization Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) sponsored a Central Oahu pet walk event at the Mililani Mauka Dog Park. As a puppy parent, I'm a big fan of this organization that has been an active animal advocate island-wide – so much so that I happily serve on the Board of Directors. PDP is sponsoring a seminar next month to talk about several ways to effectively reduce the feral cat population in our community. You can join the discussion on **Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.** at MTA Rec Center 2.

More information is available by calling 551-7915 or at the PDP website: www.poidogsandpopoki.org.



Waipahu High plans for the future



Waipahu High School can rightfully claim to be one of Hawaii's legacy public school campuses. The school was founded in 1938 to serve students in Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahu, Ewa, Nanakuli and Waianae, and now focuses on families in the immediate neighborhood and nearby communities. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, the campus is home to 2,554 students – the third largest high school population in the state.

WHS is among a handful of DOE schools with the unique opportunity to transform the campus as part of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) zone. Under the visionary leadership of **Principal Keith Hayashi**, Waipahu has begun to plan its campus-of-the-future.

I was pleased to meet with Principal Hayashi to talk about this at the school earlier this month (photo at left). As a part of the planning process, the school will engage parents, students and community stake-holders in this discussion, and I urge everyone interested in the future of our schools to become involved when there are opportunities to do so.