

Senator Michelle Kidani

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



Aloha friends and neighbors,

It's hard to believe the 2015 Legislative session will begin in just a few weeks - and those weeks will include the year-end holidays that always seem to make time pass much more quickly. Informational briefings and hearings on potential legislative issues are already underway. In odd-numbered years we formulate a two year budget for the State, and so our deliberations will be especially important to further stabilizing our economy and supporting State services.

I have accepted an appointment as Chair of the Committee on Education where I previously served as Vice Chair. The Committee oversees programs in the Department of Education - early education, K-12 public schools, public charter schools, continuing education, and the State's public library system. The DOE's budget is one of the largest of any State agency, and I look forward to the challenges of supporting our public school students and teachers with the best resources we can afford. And while the Legislature must consider the needs of all campuses in our public school system, I will continue to keep in mind the several schools in District 18 that I visit regularly. *The Legislature will convene on Wednesday, January 21. Our Opening Day program is a great opportunity to stop by lawmakers' offices to "meet and greet."* My office remains in room 228 on the 2nd floor - see you at the Capitol!

Funds I secured in a previous session are now available as follows:

- **\$3,000,000** in construction funds for fencing to protect forest land and watershed areas from non-native cattle, goats, pigs and deer—including **Kaala Natural Area Reserve** which is the source of fresh water for Mililani.
- **\$8,000,000** for major structural repairs, interior renovations and improvements to **Leeward Community College Theatre**. This great facility hosts 100,000 patrons a year. No major renovation work has been undertaken since the curtain was first raised forty years ago in 1974.

Finally, allow me to extend my sincere mahalo for the strong support that district residents showed me on election day earlier this month. I am humbled by your vote of confidence and gladly accept the responsibility of representing you in the State Senate for the next four years. You can be assured that I will be working diligently on your behalf. With Thanksgiving this week and the holiday season approaching, I wish all of my friends and neighbors in our several communities all the best for joyful celebrations in the company of family and friends.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Trojan Nation Triumphant ~ Hail to the Champions! Cheer the Champs at the Mililani Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6!



These pictures are worth much more than a thousand words . . . I watched last week's championship game from the sidelines, and the heart-thumping excitement was almost too much to take. Mililani and Punahou scored more total points (98) than in any previous championship game, and the final outcome wasn't for sure until the last play. **Congratulations to both teams for a hard-fought game, and to the Mililani Trojans for winning their first state championship – in their words "for the community."**



Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 Phone (808) 586-7100; email: SenKidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

At the Capitol & In Our Communities . . .



Special Session October 22-23, 2014

The Legislature convened in Special Session for two days last month to confirm the appointments of three new judges in the Hawaii Judiciary.

As the Session ended, (*photo at right*) I presented Senate certificates to say Aloha and Mahalo to Senator (now Governor-elect) **David Ige**, and to Senators **Malama Solomon** and **Clayton Hee** – all now leaving the State Senate.



Doctor of Education Day, November 20

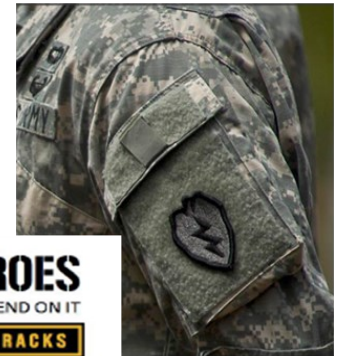
Last week I attended a ceremony to recognize the first graduates in the UH Manoa College of Education Professional Practice Doctor of Education program. At left, Mililani residents **Annette Cravalho** (*far right in the photo*) and her daughter **Erica** – a member of the first graduating class – joined **Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui** and me at the event. The new program focuses on principles of leadership, collaborative problem solving, applied research skills, and critical reflection. The 28 new Doctors of Education represent a diverse mix of administrators and teachers from Hawaii's public and private schools

A Critical Concern for our Communities

With the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Military Affairs Council, State lawmakers are urging residents in their districts to become involved in a petition drive aimed at the U.S. Department of Defense. The Pentagon has said it envisions a reduction in uniformed Army personnel and civilians of nearly 20,000 people at Oahu bases, including Schofield Barracks – with the attendant loss of as many as 30,000 family members. That amounts to about 5 percent of Oahu's population.

We know how important our Army families are to Mililani and Wahiawa, and such a massive reduction would be devastating. You will be hearing more about this campaign in the next several weeks. But right now you can make your voice heard by signing the petition you can find online at KeepHawaiiHeroes.org.

Please join us in urging the Pentagon to reconsider its Force Structure Realignment as drafted.



KEEP HAWAII'S HEROES
SAVE OUR BASES, OUR COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON IT
FORT SHAFTER ★ SCHOFIELD BARRACKS



Salute to our veterans . . . The Wahiawa Lions Club Veterans Day Parade is one of the community events I most look forward to each year. This year the parade saluted three Grand Marshalls: **Mitsuo Hamasu**, from the 110th Infantry, and **Glen Arakaki** and **Yoshinobu Oshiro** who both served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

← **Mahalo to them, and to all our Veterans, for protecting our freedom.**

Signholding for safety . . . Mahalo also to my signholding partner **Nathan** who joined our team on **Make A Difference Day** to urge drivers to exercise caution and common sense, and follow the traffic rules to keep all of us safe. We were out on the corner of Kamehameha Highway and Kuahelani Avenue for the event – sponsored each year by **Mililani Town Association**. →



Martinez Scholarship Applications Available

The **National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)** is once again encouraging high school seniors to apply for the **John S. Martinez Scholarship** awarded to eleven students from across the country each year to recognize academic excellence. Applicants must be of Hispanic background and attend schools in districts represented by legislators of Hispanic ethnicity – in this case, Senators **Michelle Kidani** and **Donovan Dela Cruz**, who are both active in the Hispanic Caucus.

Last year, **Ms. Isis Usborne – Mililani High School Class of 2014** – was one of the national scholarship awardees. She has used her \$3,000 grant to help with college expenses at UH Manoa.

More information and the application forms are posted on the Caucus Web site – www.nhcsl.org.

Application deadline is January 9, 2015