

# 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*

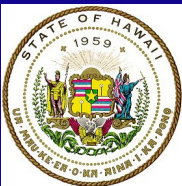
*Member: Committee on Ways and Means*

*Member: Committee on Higher Education*

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Aloha friends and neighbors,

As this year's budget bill (HB 1900) is now written, it includes \$20.5 million for a new classroom building at Waipahu High School, and cafeteria expansion at Kaleiopu`u (\$650,000) and Kanoelani (\$300,000) elementary schools.

A contract has now been awarded for construction of a new portable classroom building at Kanoelani Elementary (\$505,588), and funds have now been released so that design work can proceed on cafeteria expansion at Waipahu Elementary (\$275,000).

A final update on construction projects for Senate District 18 will be available in early May.

This week at the Capitol we have been recognizing Hawaii educators and students for achievements in the classroom and for outstanding community service. We set aside *Education Week* during Spring break as an opportunity to hear wonderful, inspirational stories about teachers' commitments to their students and schools and about the many ways students excel both in and out of the classroom. We began our presentations by honoring the DOE's 2018 Teachers of the Year, pictured with us below.

This school spring break week we are also getting to know **Justine Jumalon** (at right), Waipahu High School Class of 2018. Justine approached me at a Waipahu Band concert a few weeks ago and asked if she could spend her week off as a volunteer in my office. We welcome helping hands, and Justine has quickly become acquainted with the Legislature during an especially busy week.

At WHS, Justine is an honor student ranked in the top 25 of her senior class of more than 500. She also maintains a GPA just a hair under 4.0, has enrolled in Early College classes, and has been an active member of the school's Academy of Engineering. In her fourth year in the band, she's band president (alto sax) and has been involved in numerous other activities as most of the *best* high school students are these days. **Mahalo, Justine for your help this week! We wish you luck as you move on to UH Manoa to major in political science.**

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



**To my left, up front, Central District Teacher of the Year Gregg Iha, Amanda Fretto (Kauai District, Chiefess Kamakahelei Elementary), Naomi Salaveria (Honolulu District, Liholiho Elementary), Cristin Priolo (Public Charter Schools, School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability), and Vanessa Ching, (DOE Teacher of the Year, Leeward District, Ewa Makai Middle School).**





**At the Capitol . . .** we are a little more than half way through our 60-working-day Legislative session.

I am especially pleased that my *Senate Bill 2242* is proceeding through the legislative process. The bill creates a workforce development microgrant program to provide grants for public high school students to help pay for technical or workforce training.

Another important measure is *SB 2922* that would allow the public to vote on a process to fully-fund our public schools through a small increase in the hotel room tax and a surcharge on property taxes owners pay on properties they don't live in.

**Follow the progress of bills, check hearing schedules, and even submit testimony at the Legislature's website: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>**

## Art Open House @ the Capitol



Next month offers a terrific opportunity to visit the State Capitol to enjoy some art and entertainment on the first Friday in April. **The annual Art at the Capitol open house is scheduled for Friday, April 6, beginning at 4:30 pm.**

The State of Hawaii has a wonderful collection of works by Hawaii artists and many of them are on display throughout the Capitol. Most lawmakers' offices – including mine in room 228 – will be open through early evening, and there will be special presentations at several locations. The Honolulu Youth Symphony will perform, and video presentations will be screened in the Senate and House Chambers.

### Waipahu's Science All-Stars!

WHS junior **Dylan Tucker** (with me and Waipahu Principal **Keith Hayashi** below) will represent Hawaii at the Intel International Science Fair in Pittsburgh in May.

His Civil Engineering project studies ash as an ingredient in concrete.



We are so proud of these young men and women from **Waipahu High School** who will represent the school at the **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Hawaii Science and Engineering Fair** at the State Convention Center next weekend. Of the three dozen projects from Leeward District schools, half are from Waipahu. **Mahalo to Science Department Chair Michael Sana and his fellow teachers for their outstanding work in mentoring these budding scientists!**

### APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

*John S. Martinez*  
SCHOLARSHIP



**Sydney Millerd**  
**Waipahu High School**  
**Class of 2016**



**Noah Rodriguez**  
**Mililani High School**  
**Class of 2017**

The **National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)** awards scholarships each year to high school seniors of Hispanic heritage who live in a district represented by a Senator of Hispanic heritage. The scholarships - in the amount of \$3,000 - are named in memory of the late Connecticut state lawmaker, John S. Martinez, who served a term as NHCSL Chair, and who was a true champion for "closing the achievement gap" through education.

I have been active in the Caucus for many years, and Hawaii has been fortunate to see three students whose families live in my district receive these scholarships – **Isis Osborne** from Mililani High School's Class of 2014, **Sydney Millerd**, Waipahu High Class of 2016, and **Noah Rodriguez**, Mililani Class of 2017.

*We are especially proud of this since the Caucus only awards eleven of these scholarships nationwide each year.* I urge qualified students to apply. Download the application online at: <http://www.nhcsl.org/>

**Good luck!**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY ~ FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018**