

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

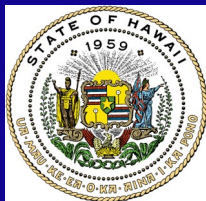
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Aloha friends and neighbors:

The deadline for acting on bills passed by the Legislature in the 2018 session has now passed. There were 2,260 bills introduced this year. About ten percent of them - 229 bills - were given final approval by the Senate and House, and 212 of those bills were signed into law. In addition, 8 bills became law without a signature, and another eight bills were vetoed. The remaining bill, SB 2922, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment that needs no signature - it goes directly to the General Election ballot to be voted on by the people.

Unfortunately, one of the bills vetoed by the Governor was my Senate Bill 2919 that would have benefited our public libraries. The bill proposed a pilot program to allow the State Library System to explore the lease of unused library lands to generate revenues to support public libraries. An example of such properties is the now-unused former site of the Aiea Public Library.

I wanted to find ways to help the libraries expand their services by, for example, cultivating public-private partnerships to make best use of these lands and provide a sustainable source of revenues.

The Governor, in his veto message, indicated he didn't think this was something the library system should be involved in, preferring instead a return of unused lands to the Department of Land & Natural Resources. *Our libraries need and deserve additional support, and this bill - which easily passed both the Senate and House - was a creative proposal to generate additional funding.*

This summer, we have had numerous opportunities to celebrate our Mililani and Waipio neighbors. I hope you will enjoy some of the captured memories in this newsletter.

Me ke Aloha Pūmehana,

At right, Mililani alum **NOAH RODRIGUES** received a check from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL). The Caucus awards only eleven such scholarships each year, and we are so proud that Hispanic students in my Senate District have won the award in three of the last four years. Noah is a pre-med student at UH Manoa.

At our State Capitol ceremony (from left) Noah's grandfather Steve Fernandes, sister Noelle Shimabukuro, Dawn Shimabukuro (proud mom and Registrar at Mililani Middle School), and grandmother Kathryn Fernandes.



Congratulations



These Mililani PONY baseball all-stars made it to the regional tournament in California this summer, and got to tour Anaheim Angels Stadium (above). *Congratulations to these boys AND girls for their outstanding season!*

At right, our Mililani neighbor, **Melveen Leed**, celebrated a golden 75th birthday with family and friends last month. Melveen sang, of course, and another neighbor – *kumu hula Iwalani Tseu* – joined in with a graceful dance. *Hau'oli la hanau ia oe, Melveen!*





As required by the State Constitution, the Senate convened a two-day special session this month to consider the nominations of four people to fill vacant judgeships on two islands. The nominations were approved for (above, with lei, from left) Mahilani E.K. Hiatt and Wendy M. DeWeese, for the Circuit Court on Hawaii Island, and Kenneth J. Shimozono and Kristine Y. Yoo, for Circuit Court positions on Oahu. They were nominated by Hawaii Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, front row, far left.



Congratulations to (1) Quaid Seu, Mililani Class of 2018, chosen to receive my \$1,000 Ukulele Festival scholarship for his studies at UH Manoa; **(2) Glan Allan Manio**, MHS Class of 2019, Hawaii delegate to the prestigious Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Massachusetts; and to **(3) Angela Lee**, Mililani alum & world champion who successfully defended her atomweight title at the ONE MMA tournament in Singapore.



With me above, nine outstanding teacher/mentors from Mililani Middle School who have each contributed 20-23 years of time and talent to the **Challenger Science Learning Center** in Kapolei – this year celebrating a 25th anniversary. From left, **Diane Awana, Michael Nishiki, Yvonne Kauhhou, Paul Sasaki, Carrie Hata, Amy Kim, Laurie Sogawa, Lynn Yoshioka and Glory Ann Kama.** Mahalo for your great work on behalf of our keiki!



Primary Election Day
Saturday, August 11
General Election Day
Tuesday, November 6

Hawaii's primary election day is just a couple of weeks away – with walk-in voting at polling stations from 7 am – 6 pm on Saturday, August 11.

Many Hawaii voters have chosen to vote by mail-in “absentee” ballots, even though they won’t be out of town on election day. The Office of Elections notes that 62 percent of those who voted in the 2016 primary did so by mail-in ballot or at early walk-in polling stations – and that percentage is expected to be higher this year.

If you have requested a mail-in ballot, you should have received it by now. It must be returned by 6 pm August 11 for your vote to be counted. **If you wish to request a mail-in ballot, you may still do so until Saturday, August 4 – one week before election day.**

It is also possible to vote before primary day at walk-in voting sites set up at **Kapolei Hale** in West Oahu or downtown at **Honolulu Hale**. Those sites will be open for voters through Thursday, August 9.

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE? Hawaii law has been changed to allow registration at polling places same-day on election day. Be sure you have appropriate identification (driver license & Social Security number) if you do this - then you will be allowed to cast your ballot.

All the information you need about voting - including online voter registration - is available at <https://elections.hawaii.gov/> . You may also call for information - 453-8683.

Please vote – it’s our privileged right and responsibility to participate.