

# 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

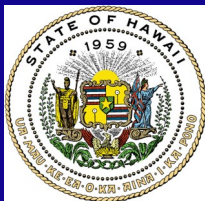
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Aloha Friends and Neighbors:

I am always excited to be able to share with you all the exploits and successes of the young women and men of our community. I am very pleased to be able to congratulate our Mililani High School girls volleyball team for winning the OIA Division 1 title this year. My best wishes to all of the young women and coaches as they head to their first match of the State Tournament. Best wishes also to our Mililani High School football team all the best as they prepare for their semifinal game this weekend. I look forward to reporting their continued successes in my next newsletter.

General Election Day (Tuesday, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>) is coming up in just a couple of weeks. For those of you who have taken advantage of our absentee voting system you should have already received your ballots in the mail. Don't forget that this is the first year of **same-day voter registration**. This means that even if you did not register to vote you can go to your designated polling place and present a valid photo ID (such as a HI drivers license or passport). You can find your polling place by going to <https://olvr.hawaii.gov/>.

I'm giving out treats (no tricks!) at the **Mililani YMCA 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Trunk or Treat"** family event on Saturday night, October 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5-9pm as we kick off the Halloween "season". Please be sure to stop by and say "Hello!" and show off your costumes.

Costumed trick-or-treaters young and old will be enjoying festive activities and visiting with neighbors and friends in and around our communities. **Please remember to use caution during this busy time. Parents, please accompany younger children going door-to-door. Drivers, PLEASE be extra careful on the roads and keep a lookout for eager keiki crossing the streets next Wednesday. Happy Halloween – be safe and have fun!**

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

### Safe Halloween Tips (No Tricks!)

- Remember to use reflective tape or dots on costumes to help increase the visibility of your children when walking
- Always use sidewalks or other paths when trick or treating
- Use all traffic signals and crosswalks when crossing the street
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them
- Remember to look both ways before crossing
- Know the route you and your party are going to take and review with everyone before leaving



# Notes from the Capitol



The Senate will meet for the second time this year in a Special Session to consider nominations to fill a vacancy on the District Court of the First Circuit and on the Intermediate Court of Appeals. As the Senate Vice President I will be presiding over the session in the absence of Senate President Kouchi.

The nominees to be considered for confirmation are **Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo** and Judge **Keith Hiraoka** of the First Circuit Court.

5th graders from Kanoelani Elementary school had an exciting day out when they stopped by the Capitol to take a tour and learn about the legislative process. Mahalo to Ms. Heidi Fukunaga for organizing this annual field trip and to all the volunteers for making this possible.



## HABA 14th Annual Convention:

The Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis honored me with the 2018 Community Contribution Award, alongside with Mitzie Higa of the Hawaii State Teachers Association for our work in advocating and moving forward legislation to insure appropriate services are delivered to our students in Special Education. We were also thrilled to be able to present a Senate Certificate to Luke Pinnow for receiving the HABA lifetime achievement award. I first met Luke during the push to pass the law named after him, Luke's Law, which mandated health plans to cover autism diagnosis and treatment in Hawaii. Luke regularly advocates at the Capitol and his voice is always welcome.



Luke, Myself, and Mitzie at the 2018 HABA Awards Luncheon



Tourism remains the economic driver for our State. The preliminary numbers show that Hawaii visitor spending continues to increase and is now at \$1.41 billion in August 2018. The largest areas of visitor spending came from the US West, East, and Canada. This spending provides revenue for critical government services and creates thousands of jobs for our local residents. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism anticipates continued growth in visitor arrivals through 2019.

I joined several of my Senate colleagues and thousands of participants during the Global Tourism Summit sponsored by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) at the Hawaii Convention Center this month. Over the three day conference of speaker panels, presentations, and breakout sessions spurred a broad discussion on topics such as a sustainable tourism, global tourism trends, and the future of technology in the hospitality industry.



One of the highlights of the conference was the “talk story” session with Sophia the Robot. Sophia is an Artificial Intelligence robot created by Hanson Robotics.

Sophia charmed the crowd with her attempts at “pidgin” and learning “Aloha” and “Mahalo”. She also showed off her humorous side by asking the crowd “What is a robot’s favorite snack? Microchips”.

Sophia’s presence highlighted a movement towards automating functions within the hospitality industry. In the same way that “smart homes” are able to turn your lights on and off, hotels are looking to similar automations.

### *Waipahu EMS Updates*

#### **Emergency System Upgrades for Central Oahu**

I am pleased to report that the siren upgrades for the Waikele Community Park are underway and aim to be completed in November.

The Waipio EMS station is also looking to open towards the end of November.

In light of all the natural and man-made threats to our islands it is critical that we make sure our Central Oahu community has the resources needed to alert and respond to disasters.



## Notes from our Communities

### Miss Chinatown Hawaii 2019 Scholarship Paegent:

I attended the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Miss Chinatown Hawaii Scholarship Pageant at the historic Hawaii Theatre to cheer on my former staff, and Waipio Gentry resident, Danicia Honda, who entered the competition.

Dancia made all of us so proud with her great answers, hilarious monologue about Asian parents, and cheongsam (traditional Chinese dress), as well as her flawless Chinese.

A proud University of Hawaii graduate she spent a year in China working for a law firm under the Chinese Flagship program.



Myself, my granddaughter Kamalani, and Miss Chinese Jaycees 2018 Danicia Honda

For all of her months of hard work and dedication, Danicia won the title of Miss Chinese Jaycees which qualifies her to compete in the 2019 Miss Hawaii Competition!

We wish her the very best and will continue to support her endeavors.



### Jarand M.Y. Iwase Tennis Complex:

Jarand Iwase, son of Randall and Jan Iwase, was a great young man who left us much too soon due to kidney disease. A great tennis player and coach who gave freely of his talents, I am so pleased that the Central Oahu Regional Park tennis courts were renamed the "Jarand M.Y. Iwase Tennis Complex".

The Kidney Foundation was also present to do a free blood test for signs of kidney disease.



*"Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift—there is nothing small about it"*  
*"Florence Nightingale"*