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Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Easter! The arrival of the spring season celebrates the closing of one chapter and beginning of another. It is a time for renewal, reflection and clarity. March marked an important month as we celebrated the heartening stories of honorees in our annual Education Week celebration as well as the 50th anniversary of the State Capitol. The remarkable efforts of former Governor John Burns were revealed in the time capsule that was preserved in the structure 50 years ago. In it were mementos from the past, including photos from each island, the first Hawai'i State constitution as well as a phone book from a bygone era, reminding us of a simpler times.

We also celebrated the extraordinary achievements of educators during Education Week who inspired us all by their leadership and committment to Hawai'i's keiki. It is with profound aloha that we thank them for the role they play in shaping the minds of our youth and for the endless ways they touch the lives of our community.

Spring transitions one cycle to the next, as graduations and the end of the legislative session draws near. It is with great pride that we continue to work together as leaders to represent the voice of the people and honor the needs of our community. We are eager to share the recent status updates on bills intended to positively impact local families throughout the state to create a safe and nurturing environment for all to thrive.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE CAPITOL



On March 15, 2019 lawmakers gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hawai'i State Capitol. Built in 1969 under former Governor John Burns, the design includes significant details subtle references to the number 8 to represent the 8 main Hawaiian Islands. The Capitol is said to have been designed to symbolize an island, including the open roof to represent the state's volcano formation and the adjacent reflection pool to honor the Pacific Ocean.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE CAPITOL

The celebration included warm speeches including by the grandson of Governor Burns, hula and music performances as well as the opening of the time capsule and reflection of artifacts built into the structure in 1969. We are now gathering items for a new time capsule to be sealed within the building and marked to be opened in 2069.



Photo Captions (L-R): Deputy Comptroller for the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) Audrey Hidano (left), State Comptroller Kurt Otaguro stand and Senator Kidani feature the steel case that will house the new time capsule that will be buried in the Capitol walls for the next 50 years; Keiki and kupuna dancers from Hula Hui o Kapunahala o Nu'uaniu YMCA offered heartfelt hula and mele during the ceremonies to honor the 50th anniversary before shaking hands with lawmakers and expressing their gratitude to Senate leaders.

EDUCATION WEEK



It was an inspiring week for all who gathered last week at the Capitol as the Senate honored the extraordinary accomplishments of Hawai'i's students, teachers, principals, counselors and librarians. From community service efforts to academic achievements, educational initiatives and leadership opportunities, each individual who was honored on the floor represented their school and their values in leading by example.

Left Photo: Senators pose with Waipahu High School's 2019 celebrated principals including Derek Minakami, Noreen Kunitomo, Deb Hatada, Sherry Gonsalves and Corinne Yogi

Congratulations to 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree, Mililani Middle School 8th grader Chelsea Masaki! This honor is the largest youth recognition program in the United States which recognizes middle and high school students based upon their outstanding service to others.

Chelsea was one of two honorees recognized along with two student finalists from Hawai'i. The Mililani Middle School 8th grader's passion for the ocean and Hawai'i's beaches inspired her to post information on her website about local cleanup opportunities, concerns about environmental issues, and works to educate the community through speaking



EDUCATION WEEK



Photo Captions (L-R): Kipapa Elementary's 2018 Central District Hawai'i National Distinguished Principal of the Year Corinne Yogi celebrated her honor with granddaughter, who shared handshakes and high fives after the ceremony; Senator Kidani enjoys some of the new books she picked up at the Friends of the Library of Hawai'i's annual Book Fair including selects she purchased with her grandchildren in mind; Congratulations to all the awardees and mahalo for all that you do!

HOUR OF CODE



An inspired group of computer science high school students from HawaiiKidsCAN hosted Hour of Code at the Capitol on March 21. The global movement hopes to spark students' interests in coding education as it continues to gain momentum within the educational system.

Led by Aisha Heredia, Justin Delos Reyes, Kekoa McClellan and Executive Director David Miyashiro, Senator Kidani had the pleasure of meeting with enthusiastic students Garrett Pascual-Folster, Gianni Domingo, Jasmine Sadang, Jefferson Peralta, Maxie Machado, Noah Patana Paiboon, Rafaela Domingo, Talia Rios and Colin Shimizu at her office.

MANUFACTURERS DAY

On March 19 Senator Kidani visited with Mililani Town Association president Bob Barrett who is the owner of Coastal Windows. It was a wonderful opportunity for the two friends to catch up and to see the amazing windows his company recently installed in the Senate office as part of manufacturing day.

It was another example of the great work happening in the local community!



MILILANI BOYS SOCCER BANQUET



On March 30, 2019 the Mililani boys varsity and junior varsity soccer teams gathered in celebration of their exciting season. Led by head coach Steve McGehee, assistant coaches Marc Hasegawa, Alike Cosner, Blane Ogawa and Tyler Matas, the boys had an inspiring season with the varsity team earning 2nd place in the OIA league and 4th place overall in the 2019 state championships and junior varsity tying for 3rd place in the OIA league championships. Congratulations to all of the talented student-athletes and coaches on a spectacular season! Photo from Mililani High School website

ART AT THE CAPITOL



In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the 11th annual Art at the Capitol event on April 5 honored local artists and the momentous birthday of the the Capitol, Lawmakers welcomed the public who took pause to reflect upon the artful details of the building and connect over the talent in Hawai'i's art scene. Of the many beloved pieces featured, "Halawa Ruins" by Anthony Martie (pictured right) is noted as a fan favorite. Guests like those pictured above enjoyed the works of local artists at the Capitol during this event. Photos from Senate Majority



JACKIE YOUNG MEMORIAL SERVICE



A memorial service for former state lawmaker Jackie Young was held on March 31st to honor her life and legacy. Young was the first woman elected to the state House in 1992 and the first woman to hold the title of vice speaker for the House. She was known as a civil rights advocate and champion for women and Native Hawaiians. We are deeply grateful for her passion, service and the profound impact her leadership has had upon the state of Hawai'i.

HSAA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Hawai'i Student Activities Association is eager to partner with the 2019 Student Leadership Conference, offering a pre-conference networking opportunity on Wednesday June 12th for students and chaperones attending the SLC to connect with others as they prepare to lead their student body into the 2019 school year. For more information or to register for the event, visit: <http://hssc808.weebly.com/slc-2019-precon.html>

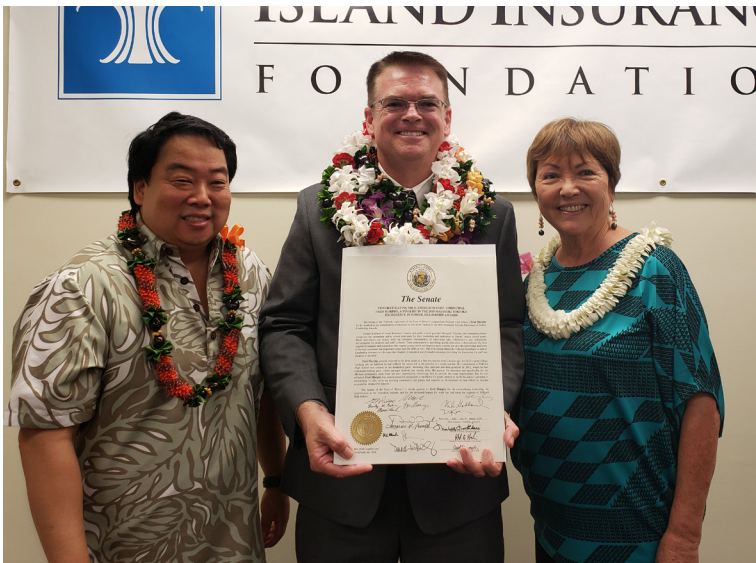
MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

On April 13 Governor Ige, Senator Kidani, and Senator Dela Cruz gathered with are representatives and lawmakers to break ground on the new classroom building project beginning construction at Mililani Middle School. The three-story structure is expected to serve roughly 1,900 students, housing 15 classrooms to offer new resources. Senator Kidani spoke at the ceremony, sharing enthusiastic words of support: “The new classroom facilities will expand students’ academic opportunities here at the state’s largest middle school and help them to achieve their potential.”



Photo Captions (L-R): Representatives and lawmakers breaking ground at Mililani Middle School during the ceremony; Senator Kidani addressing the crowd and sharing her excitement for the building to come. Photos by Senate Majority

MASAYUKI TOKIOKA EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARDS



The 2019 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership awards recognized some of Hawai'i's finest educators on April 22nd. Principals and educators were recognized by the Island Insurance Foundation, including Mililani High School principal Fred Murphy, who was first honored as semifinalist before he was recognized as first runner up and awarded a \$1,000 prize.

Murphy has received high praise for providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as establishing a supportive, nurturing environment for students and staff to thrive. Congratulations and mahalo nui to all of these inspiring educators for their leadership and dedication to educating the youth of Hawai'i!





We are now in the month of April which means we have started Conference Committee. Conference is where bills that have passed in both the House and the Senate have the final details worked out and agreed upon. For more information on these bills, additional updates and more, visit the Senate website at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> Bills that are significant heading into conference are:

SB1515 SD1 HD1 - HAWAI'I THREE TO SIX OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM (KIDANI)

DOE to establish the Hawai'i three to six out-of-school program for grades kindergarten through twelve, to be conducted during after-school hours, on weekends, and during inter-sessions. All public schools, including charter schools, may participate in and be eligible for funding through the program. SB1515 will establish and fund Hawai'i three-to-six program through special funds. The bill aims to provide a single funding source for after school programs throughout the state as many programs that are offered by community organizations are very costly and inaccessible due to high demand and lack of available programs. After school programs can provide a safe, structured, and valuable learning environment for children while also helping working parents retain their jobs. SB1515 will be going to conference and Senator Kidani looks forward to moving this bill out.

SB966 SD1 HD1 – MILILANI TECHNOLOGY PARK (KIDANI)

Requires the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation to enter into negotiations to acquire the properties identified as Tax Map Keys: (1) 9-5-046:041 and (1) 9-5-046:042, parcels that are within or near Mililani Technology Park, to facilitate the redevelopment of those parcels for community benefit. Mililani Tech Park parcel would be used to create a much needed creative and performing arts stage for the Central Oahu community. Parcel would also be of use to the neighboring First Responder Tech Park. Senator Kidani is hopeful that the House will assign conferees to this bill so that this parcel can be put to use for our central O'ahu community. The Senate has already named Senator Kidani and three other Senators as conferees.

HB89 HD2 SD1 – FIREWORKS BILL

HB89 as it relates to fireworks, was amended in committee to insert the language found in Senator Kidani's SB1305. She had a great meeting with HPD Chief Susan Ballard and Deputy Police Chief John McCarthy on the importance of passing a bill to make a difference in the use of illegal fireworks in our community.

SB1009 SD2 HD2 – BANNING FLAVORED E-CIGS

The growing number of underage youth using e-cigarettes has become a dire concern. This bill seeks to limit flavors that attract youth to starting a nicotine habit with flavors like gummy bear and cotton candy. This bill is awaiting a hearing by House finance.

SB216 SD2 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS

In the interest of preserving the integrity of our elections process the Legislature is moving SB216 that would require recounts in close races. SB216 SD2 recalls a mandatory recount of votes when the margin of victory is less than 100 votes or one half of one percent of the votes cast, whichever is greater. In light of our most recent special election results this bill is especially important to ensure that everyone's vote is counted.

HB1383 HD2 SD1 – MARIJUANA DECRIM OF 3 GRAMS

This bill aims to decriminalize the possession of 3 grams or less and establishes possession as a violation punishable by \$30 as well as ensuring prior records expunged. Creates task force to make recommendations on marijuana use penalties for the State. We'll be continuing the conversation around this bill as conference committee gets underway.