

Senator Michelle Kidani
Thirtieth Hawaii State Legislature

(D) Senate District 18 - Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia
Ph: (808) 586-7100 Email: senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov



SENATE
VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:
Committee on
Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
Committee on
Ways and Means

Hawaii State Capitol
Room 228
(808) 586-7100

senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

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 Hawai'i 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 nostalgic 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. These cherished items reminded us of a simpler time before technology and the age of cell phones.

We also celebrated the extraordinary achievements of educators during Education Week who inspired us all by their immense leadership and commitment to Hawai'i's keiki. It is because of the efforts of their efforts that students continue to strive, and their success is indicative of the impact these educators have upon their lives. 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.

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.

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.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE CAPITOL



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. Government officials are asking for community suggestions as to what items should be included in the new capsule which is set to be opened in 2069; 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.



BILL STATUS UPDATE

SB1515 SD1 HD1 - HAWAII THREE TO SIX OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM (KIDANI)

DOE to establish the Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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. Scheduled for a hearing by House Finance for Thursday, 03/28 at 3:00pm.

SB966 SD1 HD1 – MILILANI TECHNOLOGY PARK (KIDANI)

Requires the Hawaii 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. Scheduled for a hearing by House Finance for Friday, 03/29 at 2:00pm.

HB89 HD2 SD1 – FIREWORKS BILL

HB89, also relating to fireworks, was amended in committee to insert the language found in my SB1305. I am greatly appreciative to the support from HPD, Fire departments from all the counties, and the many other testifiers who took time to make their voices heard on this important measure. Scheduled for a hearing by House Judiciary 03/29 at 9:30am.

SB1009 SD2 HD2 – BANNING FLAVORED E-CIGS

I've heard from many about the growing number of underage youth using e-cigarettes. 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

Requires 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 the interest of preserving the integrity of our elections process the Legislature is moving SB216 that would require recounts in close races. As we saw this last election cycle there were a number of closely contested races and it is our intention on ensuring that everyone's vote is appropriately counted. Scheduled for a hearing by House Finance for Thursday, 03/28 at 3:00pm.

HB1383 HD2 SD1 – MARIJUANA DECRIM OF 3 GRAMS

Bill decriminalizes the possession of 3 grams or less and establishes possession as a violation punishable by \$30. Prior records expunged. Creates task force to make recommendations on marijuana use penalties for the State. Awaiting hearing in WAM.

EDUCATION WEEK

Congratulations to Waipahu High School, who were recognized as 2019 Hawaii Life Smarts State Preliminary Competition Finalists!

Of the four school finalists selected for the Hawaii LifeSmarts competition, Waipahu High School was recognized as the only public school finalist in the program. Coach Cindy Takara led the dedicated team of five to the finals, including Mariarisa Nucum and fellow students Linnea Tucker, Lindsey Millerd, Kylie Sylva and Nicole Aguinaldo.

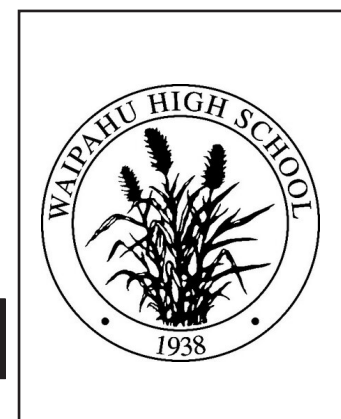


Photo Captions (L-R): Congratulations to Waipahu High School's Meryl Matsumura, the 2019 State Assistant Principal of the Year whose incredible leadership and dedication to students and staff has created a nurturing environment for all to thrive!; Kipapa Elementary's 2018 Central District Hawaii National 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; Senator Kidani offers well wishes and mahalo to Sara Kamibayashi, the beloved librarian of Na'alehu Library in Hilo who was awarded the 2019 Librarian of the Year honor for her exceptional commitment to education and the youth of Hawai'i. Congratulations to all the awardees and mahalo for all that you do for our keiki and community!

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 gathered on March 19th to recognize teachers from each district including the 2019 Leeward District Teacher of the Year, Gail Izumigawa of Waipahu High School. Izumigawa has demonstrated leadership on both local and national levels by providing opportunities for schools throughout the country to visit Waipahu High School to observe and learn about effective career academy design and school innovation.

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!



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.