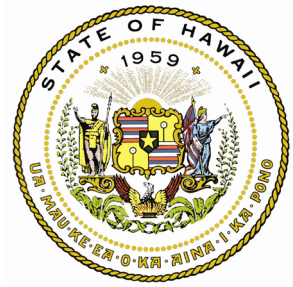


# SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

We have continued to navigate our new normal after a challenging few weeks. We have seen the devastating impact the delta variant has had here in Hawai‘i, and particularly on O‘ahu, where case numbers have peaked and overwhelmed our hospitals. Healthcare workers have done everything possible to manage this crisis by setting up triage tents and flying in additional nurses to support their staff, but it will not be enough if we do not continue to do our part to mitigate the spread. Cases have thankfully declined in recent weeks, but covid fatalities have reached heartbreaking new highs in the last month, particularly within younger demographics.

Since restrictions were heightened last month, the additions of the new **Safe Access Oahu** and **SMART Health** programs were implemented to continue keeping our community safe. Thus far, they have seemed effective in dissuading gatherings and reducing the rate of covid infections which is critically important, especially as we enter flu season. I’d encourage you and your ‘ohana to give yourselves additional immune support by getting your annual flu vaccine as well. The more safeguards you can give yourself and your loved ones at this time will prove to be extremely important in the months to come. I’m glad to see the expansion of DOH’s **Operation Expanded Testing** program, which includes over 100 public schools registered for the weekly voluntary testing program that is administered on campus for DOE students, teachers and staff. To find out if your child’s school is offering this service, please click [HERE](#) for a complete list of participating schools throughout the state. The more accessible these services are for all members of our community, the safer and healthier we will be.

The good news is that while our infections rates have been decreasing, the state’s vaccination rates have continued to increase throughout September as well. Be sure to log into your [Safe Travels](#) account and upload a photo of your vaccination card under the “SMART Health” section. Once your vaccination status has been verified, it will populate a QR code that can be scanned by local businesses requiring proof of vaccination upon entry, so you won’t need to worry about carrying a hard copy of your card! I know these restrictions and policies have been taxing in the last year and a half, but we aren’t out of the woods yet! As flu season begins we must continue to keep the health of our keiki and our community as our #1 priority.



## SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chair:  
Committee on Education

Vice Chair:  
Committee on  
Higher Education

Member:  
Committee on  
Ways and Means

Member:  
Special Committee on  
COVID-19

Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 228  
(808) 586-7100

[senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov)

### HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Stay home and take a COVID-19 test if you feel sick
- Keep exposed individuals home and isolated until receiving a negative COVID-19
- Report a positive test to your Primary Care Physician and employer

*Remember: While fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste or smell are usual signs of COVID-19, mild symptoms may include fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose.*



I was thrilled and honored to congratulate **Carissa Moore** on her historic gold medal win at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics! The first Olympic women’s surfing champion in history, she represented Hawai‘i and the US with incredible pride and is a phenomenal role model for generations to aspire to. In addition to her gold medal, this month she also earned her 5th World Surfing League title! Congratulations on these incredible and deserving honors, **Carissa!**

Head to [My Official Capitol Web Page](#) for a complete archive of my monthly newsletters

## MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINIC

Mahalo nui to Queens Health Systems for their ongoing efforts to expand access to vaccines in our communities by making it easy and convenient for residents to get their vaccinations. Senator Dela Cruz and I met with the public health workers at the recent Mililani High School clinic during a wonderful site visit. We are so grateful to these dedicated workers for keeping us safe and healthy, as well as to the MHS staff for generously allowing the gym to be used as a vaccination site.



Mililani High School Vice Principal Joy Matsukawa, myself and Senator Dela Cruz touring the MHS vaccination site with members of the Queens Health System.

## UH MANOA ATHLETICS SITE VISIT TO T.C. CHING FIELD

I had the opportunity to view the University of Hawaii at Manoa's TC Ching field ahead of the UH Warriors home game when the athletic program hosted members of the Ways and Means and Higher Education Committee. It was exciting to see the improvements that have been made and I'm sure their students will agree!



Senator Kim, Athletic Director Dave Matlin, myself, Senator Misalucha and Senator Dela Cruz visiting the T.C. Ching Field during a UH Warriors football practice.

## PINEAPPLE ACADEMY



I was thrilled to meet the teachers and staff of the Pineapple Academy during a virtual meeting. Their foresight and innovation gathered a dedicated group of educators who believe that distance learning can become an effective, permanent part of our students' curriculum. Mahalo nui to Kim Nakakura, Cara Tochiki, Heather Furutani, Natalie Daley, Esther Kwon, Bob Davis, CAO Dale Castro, Principal Yuuko Arikawa and Vice Principal Rachel Armstrong for your tireless efforts. I look forward to learning more from you all!

## MILILANI COVID TESTING

Receive a **FREE** covid test in Mililani at Rec 6 by appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays and throughout the weekend. Representative Yamane and I made a recent site visit to visit our wonderful organizers and am so thankful to Times Pharmacy for providing this testing opportunity for residents within our district! For a list of expanded COVID-19 testing sites in Mililani and Waipahu, please refer to the column on the right.



## DISTRICT 18 COVID TESTING SITES

### WALK-INS ACCEPTED

**Saturday 9/18: MILILANI**  
Mililani Town Center  
1:00pm-7:00pm

**Sunday 9/19: WAIPAHU**  
Servco Auto Waipahu  
11:00am-3:00pm

**Mililani YMCA**  
October 3rd & 24th  
10:00am-12:00pm

November 14th  
10:00am-12:00pm

<https://www.facebook.com/YMCAofHonolulu/>

### BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**FREE Mililani Rec 6 Drive-Thru Covid Testing**

Mililani Rec 6  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and weekends 9:00am-3:00pm  
[preventcovidhi.com](http://preventcovidhi.com)

**SAFeway WAIPAHU**

Register online for an appointment

<https://www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>