

SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

MARCH 2022 – *Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

It been a busy month here at the Capitol as we entered the second half of the legislative session. March is significant as it celebrates Womens History Month, as well as our annual Education Week celebration, where we recognize some of the Hawai'i's outstanding teachers, administrators, staff and students. While this year maintained the same safety protocols as 2021 by mailing certificates to these deserving awardees, we are hopeful that 2023 will welcome the return of in-person festivities to commemorate Education Week in all its glory. I have also been heartened by the progress of significant bills this year, several of which I was proud to introduce. They will have a tremendous impact on our community. Here are some of the bills that have passed out of the Senate as we approach the final stages of the 2022 session:

-- **[SB2018: Relating to Minimum Wage](#)**

As the cost of living continues to rise in our state, it is important that we continue to look at meaningful ways to address it. While this bill passed out from the Senate in January, it is our hope that the House will consider it for Hawai'i's working families. The current minimum wage stands at \$10.10 per hour, and this bill denotes increases as follows: \$12.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2022; \$15.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2024; and \$18.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2026.

-- **[SB2172 SD1: Relating to Underground Fuel Storage Tanks](#)**

The current Red Hill crisis has demonstrated the catastrophic risk these fuel storage tanks present for O'ahu residents. While other bills are also moving that seek to address the Red Hill Fuel Tank issue, I am pleased with the Senate's work on moving this legislation forward. Although it is a difficult task to balance the military's defense needs with the need for clean water for our residents, there is absolutely no substitute for pure water.

-- **[SB2185: Relating to Fireworks](#)**

This measure I introduced seeks to have counties report to the legislature the results of their annual audits for inventories, sales, and permit holders for all firework sales.

-- **[SB2640: Relating to Incarcerated Women](#)**

This measure provides transition services for women who are currently incarcerated but preparing to leave prison as they reenter society. It requires DPS to ready them for release by providing IDs, donated clothing, etc.

-- **[SB2819/SB2820: Relating to Teacher Compensation](#)**

I introduced these bills to address the long-standing issues of pay disparities and teacher shortages within our DOE system. Now, more than ever, we need to invest in the backbone of our education system. I truly appreciate being able to work with a strong advocate for teachers like Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi.

-- **[SB2821: Relating to Menstrual Equality](#)**

Menstrual equity is a nationwide issue many legislators have been educated about within the past year, as we had been unaware of the dire impacts menstrual inequality has had on our students. I am so grateful to advocates like Ma'i Movement's Nikki Ann-Yee, Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin and her Ilima Intermediate students for championing this issue and educating myself and others on the importance of providing basic hygiene products for our students, who would otherwise miss many days of school. I look forward to continuing to support our keiki as this bill moves through the House.

*with much aloha,
Senator Kidani*



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newsletters

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE



On March 4th, I delivered the following remarks in support of Ukraine: “In the face of Russia’s unbridled and totally unwarranted aggression, my colleagues and I stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. The heartbreaking images of displaced Ukrainians, seeking nothing more than the opportunities available as a democracy, will forever tarnish the legacy of Russia’s current leadership in the eyes of people around the globe. In Hawai‘i, the aloha spirit has guided us during the most challenging times.” In that same spirit of aloha, it was my honor to share a few words at the Capitol joined by legislators and staff wearing blue and yellow to show our collective support for the people of Ukraine. Mahalo nui to all who joined us, including beloved members of our local Ukranian community, some of whom are also Mililani residents. In addition to this demonstration, Mike Gangloff and the Show Aloha Challenge spearheaded a special art installation with lights being donated by Hawai‘i Stage and Lighting. As a show of Hawai‘i’s solidarity with Ukraine, the Capitol will be lit in blue and yellow from 7:00 p.m.--10:00 p.m. for 30 days. Drive past the Hawai‘i State Capitol in the evenings before April 8th to see it aglow in support of Ukraine!

HONORING PATSY MINK FOR WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

Each year we celebrate March as Women’s History Month, recognizing the extraordinary contributions and accomplishments made by women. As a female legislator, I am especially inspired by one such leader, esteemed Hawaii Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

In honor of this occasion, I visited her statue on the grounds of the Hawai‘i State Library, which memorializes her life and legacy. Patsy Mink was the first woman elected to the Hawaii State Senate in 1963 and served as the Chair of the Education Committee, a role that I am proud to hold today. I am humbled and honored to further her efforts by supporting our educators and keiki. Inscribed on plaques at the base of Paty’s memorial are several quotes, including one of my favorites that guides my work at the Capitol: **“I as an individual, and you as an individual, can make the difference.”**
--Congresswoman Patsy Mink

Head to my Senate Facebook page to watch the full length video honoring Congresswoman Mink for Womens History Month!



2022 EDUCATION WEEK

Each year, the chairs of the Education Committees recognize well-deserving educators, administrators, staff and students in our annual Education Week program. The House and Senate are celebrating these extraordinary individuals and their contributions to educational excellence by mailing certificates and a small makana to each honoree. While we are missing our traditional Education Week festivities and the opportunity to congratulate awardees in person again this year, we are thrilled to recognize their achievements and look forward to hosting celebrations here at the Capitol next year. Here are a few of the inspiring honorees from Senate District 18 who are being honored in our 2022 Education Week program:



ASHLEY MIKA ITO-MACION

Leeward District's Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Teacher of the Year

Ashley Mika Ito-Macion is a second grade teacher at Kanoelani Elementary School. Certified in AVID, International Baccalaureate, Project Lead The Way and Orton-Gillingham/MSL programs, her expertise has helped to facilitate and host professional development opportunities in school and online through 808Eduate. Ito-Macion established the Hawaii Distance Forum, an educational platform where over 1,200 teachers shared lesson plans and participated in collegial training programs. She became a Hawaii State Teacher Fellow and alongside her fellow teachers, helped support the Choose Love national online conference with over 400 participants. A dedicated leader, she helped develop a statewide 'Grow With Us' conference three months into the pandemic, helping educators navigate new methods of learning and educational challenges.

DR. JENI NISHIMURA MIYAHARA

Central District's Leilehua-Mililani-Waiialua Complex Teacher of the Year

Dr. Jeni Nishimura Miyahira has been teaching at Mililani High School for 14 years. As a curriculum coordinator of a large high school, she has offered personalized professional development courses for her colleagues and, most recently, the state. Dr. Miyahira earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and a Masters of Arts in English at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She received her Educational Doctorate from the University of Southern California. Dr. Miyahira is also affiliated with Leeward Community College as a lecturer for early college opportunities for the "Journey to Leeward" early college program. To her, this award reflects the hard work of her colleagues who have put their time and collaborative efforts to improve student learning and to create a culture of meaningful and personalized experiences despite the recent obstacles they have faced.



JENNA OSKEY

2021 Teacher of Promise Milken Educator Award

Jenna Oskey is a special education teacher (SPED) at Kanoelani Elementary School whose incredible leadership, unwavering dedication, innovation, and desire to cultivate student learning in a digital environment helped guide veteran colleagues through the pandemic challenges. Her ability to adapt and desire to learn helped her in her new role to develop digital learning platforms quickly, hire new SPED teachers and navigate a team of ten teachers, ten educational assistants, and support staff back to in-person learning. Oskey has more than proven herself to be an invaluable asset to the Kanoelani community.

JACOB THOMAS KARDASH
National Association of Secondary Principals
2021 State Assistant Principal

Jacob Thomas Kardash is the technology/STEM coordinator and assistant principal at Mililani Middle School, where he has served in various capacities over the last 17 years. He started as a substitute Educational Assistant which inspired him to become a teacher. He went on to teach seventh and eighth-grade science and technology. Kardash also worked with Hawai'i Global Education Foundation over the last six years, allowing students from Japan to visit schools in Hawaii and vice versa. This opportunity immerses students in another culture, teaching them to develop a global perspective. Kardash was also recognized as the HSTA Teacher of the Year in 2012.



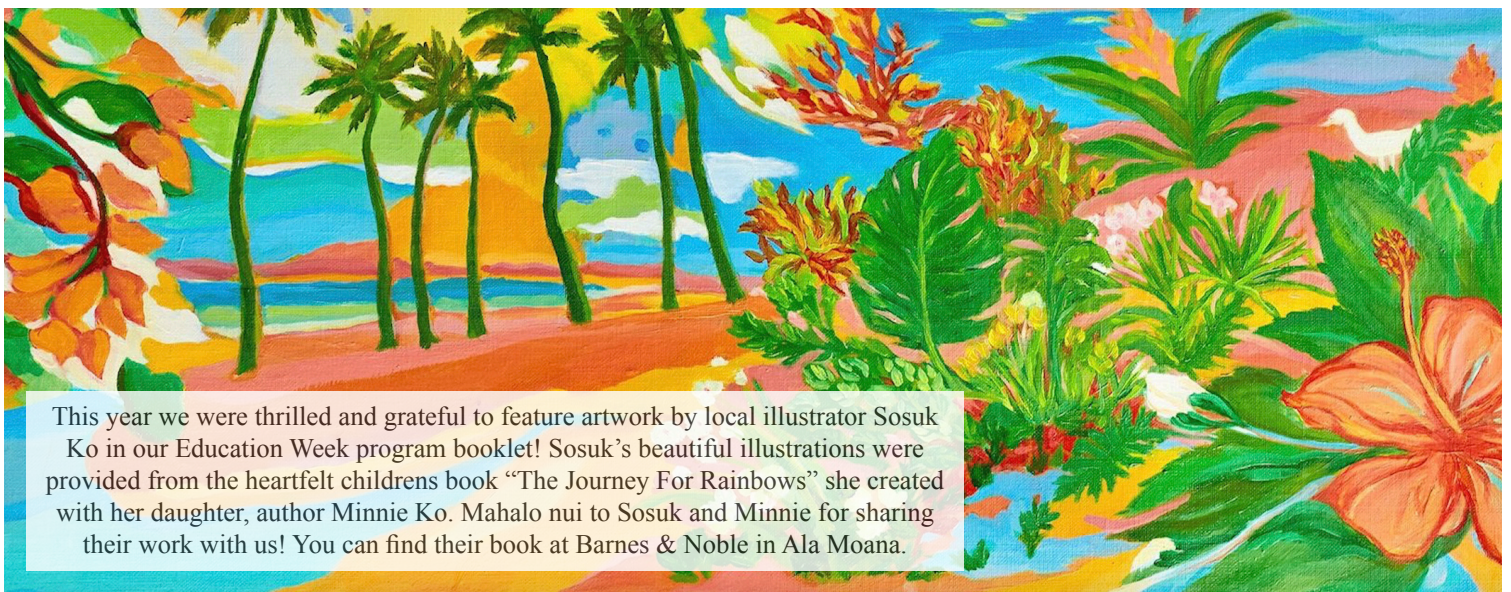
LIFESMARTS 1st Place
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL TEAM 1

Congratulations to team members Keziah Ancheta, Ross Cadelina, Estefany Bayudan, Isabella Delos Santos, and coach Cindy Takara on their 1st place victory at the annual LifeSmarts Consumer Education Contest and best wishes in the National LifeSmarts competition!



LIFESMARTS 2nd Place
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL TEAM 3

Congratulations to team members Vianne Jazmine Acdal, Colby Macapagal, Serenity Kalai, Hunter Von Tungeln & coach Cindy Takara on their 2nd place win.



This year we were thrilled and grateful to feature artwork by local illustrator Sosuk Ko in our Education Week program booklet! Sosuk's beautiful illustrations were provided from the heartfelt childrens book "The Journey For Rainbows" she created with her daughter, author Minnie Ko. Mahalo nui to Sosuk and Minnie for sharing their work with us! You can find their book at Barnes & Noble in Ala Moana.

VISIT WITH MICHELLE & ANYA MAGA

I was thrilled to receive a surprise visit from Michelle and Anya Maga, the wonderful mother-daughter duo who were instrumental in establishing “Anya’s Bill” in 2015. At the time, 6-year-old Anya and her parents testified for the measure, requesting support for families that include children born with cleft palates or other facial abnormalities. It was wonderful to visit with Michelle and Anya, now a teenager, to see how she is thriving.



CELEBRATING MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Congratulations to players, coaches & staff, friends, fans & families for a great 2021-2022 winter sports season! Mililani’s boys and girls soccer and basketball teams all earned playoff spots in their respective State Championship tournaments this year. The Trojan boys basketball team won the OIA Championship, undefeated against OIA opponents. In the State tournament, they advanced to the Championship finals, losing to St. Louis, the only team to beat them this year.



Photo by Andrew Lee for the Honolulu Star Advertiser

It has been a momentous year for the Trojans athletics, with several teams advancing to the championships in their respective sports. The Mililani girls basketball team finished their OIA regular season at 11-2, seeded #2 in the West Division. They won in the State tournament opening round, then lost in the quarterfinals, eventually finishing 6th overall.

The boys soccer team was undefeated in OIA play, winning their 17th D-1 championship. In the State tournament, a quarterfinal loss was followed by two wins for a 5th place overall finish.

In girls soccer, the Trojans team outscored opponents 96-1 to win their 19th OIA Division one title. Mililani began the State Championship tournament with a quarterfinal win, recorded a loss in the semifinals, and then finished with a win for third place overall. I send my heartfelt aloha and congratulations to all of the talented student athletes, coaches and families on an exciting athletic year!

How to Participate in the Legislative Process


WAYS TO FOLLOW ALONG


- 1. Livestreams:** All Senate and House committee hearings and floor sessions will be streamed live on YouTube.
- 2. Cable TV Broadcasts:** Selected committee hearings and floor sessions will be broadcast on public access cable television.
- 3. Testimony:** The House and Senate standing committees will be accepting both written and remote testimony via Zoom.

REMOTE TESTIMONY

- 1.** To submit remote testimony, you must also submit written testimony at least 24 hours in advance at capitol.hawaii.gov.
- 2.** There may be limits to the amount of testifiers and/or time allotted to each. If we can't accommodate your request to testify, you will be notified via email.
- 3.** If we can accommodate your request, you will receive access three hours before the hearing begins.

BEFORE THE HEARING BEGINS:

-  The Zoom meeting will begin 20-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the hearing.

-  Be sure to join the Zoom meeting using the first and last name you provided when submitting your written testimony via the Legislature's website so we can identify you in the waiting room.