

Senator Michelle Kidani

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Creating Jobs for Hawaii's Workers The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012

With unanimous, bi-partisan support from my colleagues, I introduced Senate Bill 2012 – The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012 – that has the potential to create anywhere from 4,000 to 6,000 jobs statewide in a fairly short time. The Senate passed the bill this week.

Senate Bill 2012 is designed to address the critical backlog of repair and maintenance work at state facilities that has been accumulating for many years. It does so by authorizing general obligation bonds totaling \$500-million dollars to fund the work. And it amends procurement laws to make sure the work can begin almost immediately once the bill becomes law. Most important, it will put people back on the job to stimulate the economy.

The effects of this legislation will be far-reaching. Repair and maintenance projects have been waiting for funding at virtually every public school, our public libraries, all of our UH campuses, at public health centers including our State hospital system, at parks, small boat harbors and many, many more state-owned facilities. The work will be underway in all of our communities.

As Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, with responsibility for the state's construction project budget, I presided at the initial hearing on SB 2012. There was universal support for the proposal from construction companies and other private sector businesses, and from more than a dozen trade union organizations representing workers who have been unemployed for too long, and who stand ready to kick-start our economic recovery. Aaron Fujioka, the State Procurement Officer, also supported SB 2012.

SB 2012 moved quickly in the Senate, so our colleagues in the House could also move forward quickly on this historic bill and send it to the Governor for his signature as this bill takes effect upon approval. The legislature, the administration and the private sector are unified in this effort – everyone will benefit from this initiative.



Hawaii workers – led by trade union organizations – rallied at the State Capitol prior to testifying on SB 2012. As the lead Senator for publicly-funded construction projects, Senator Kidani presided over the overwhelmingly supportive testimony. Pictured with her are fellow members of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland (l) and Committee Chair Senator David Ige (r).

Remembering Representative Sam Lee - A true public servant



The community lost the voice of a remarkable advocate earlier this month with the death of former State Representative Sam Sang Hoy Lee.

Everyone in Mililani owes Sam a debt of gratitude for his tireless work on behalf of our people, both as a Neighborhood Board member and chair, and as a member of the State House for five terms from 1986 until he stepped down in 1996. He was, of course, succeeded by his wife, Marilyn, who has served Mililani with equal commitment and distinction to this day.

Hawaii-born to immigrant parents and raised in Kalihi, Sam entered the U.S. Foreign Service after graduating from Yale with a degree in international relations. His tours of duty took him to posts in Europe and Asia. But when he retired, he settled in Mililani, much to the benefit of his family and the entire town.

As chair of the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board, Sam was the prime mover in the efforts that led to the cleanup of our pesticide-contaminated water system. He is also widely credited with the successful drive to have Mililani designated an All American City in 1986 – and we are still the only community in Hawaii ever to receive this distinction.

Sam was urged to run for the legislature by the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink. During a decade in the House, he was a passionate advocate for higher education, economic development, and stronger ties between Hawaii and Asia. Even in retirement, Sam was frequently seen at the Capitol, lending his good counsel to former colleagues and new members alike, with articulate good humor and passionate, thoughtful concern for Hawaii.

We will miss him, and extend our sincere condolences and warm wishes to Representative Marilyn Lee, daughter Kammy, and sons John, Thomas and Andrew. A most moving tribute was from his son Andrew during the eulogy: “My hope is that I can be the same kind of father to my children that dad was to us.”

Women’s Legislative Caucus Unveils 2012 Priorities

For more than two decades, women Senators and Representatives have worked together in bipartisan efforts to support legislation to improve the lives of Hawaii’s women and their families. Led by Rep. Marilyn Lee, the Women’s Legislative Caucus has this year dedicated its 2012 legislative package – entitled “Service and Sacrifice” – to women veterans.

The Caucus has introduced concurrent resolutions in both the House and the Senate (HCR 19 and SCR 5) that call on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of women veterans. The scope of services should include medical and mental healthcare, child care services, housing, and financial assistance.

As the Women’s Legislative Caucus seeks to improve the health and well-being of Hawaii’s women and their families, a host of other measures lie on the table for consideration. The entire package of bills and resolutions introduced in the 2011-2012 legislative session may be reviewed on the Web at:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/report.aspx?type=package&key=12&name=Women's+Legislative+Caucus>



Legislative update . . .

The Legislative session is heading into a mandatory recess period of five working days. But the work doesn't stop – there are no floor sessions, but hearings and committee meetings continue, and bills continue to be reviewed by House and Senate members and their staff.

To make sure that bills move forward in a timely manner, internal deadlines are established for the session calendar. Last week, at 'first lateral,' bills needed to be in their final committee for consideration if they are going to pass and 'cross over' from Senate to House and vice versa.

Here's a look at a few of the bills I introduced that are still moving toward passage:

- * **SB 2012** – “The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012” (see front page story)
- * **SB 2482** - The “move over” bill that requires motorists to move over and slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle parked on the shoulder or side of the road
- * **SB 2483** - Establishing a public schools science and technology fund, and making available a check-off box on tax returns to encourage public donations to the fund
- * **SB 2484** - Authorizes a tax credit of up to \$500 for public school teachers who spend personal funds to buy books, school supplies or equipment for their classrooms
- * **SB 2486** - Clarifying that terroristic threatening includes threats of serious harm to another person's pets or livestock
- * **SB 2487** - Making abusive conduct against an employee in the workplace a violation of occupational safety and health law
- * **SB 2489** - Relating to the National Guard, including, among other provisions, establishing a tax credit for employers of guard personnel who continue health coverage for guard member employees while they are on active duty
- * **SB 2950** - Appropriates funds to the department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu for the Honolulu family justice center.

You can check on the status of any bill at the legislature at the Capitol Web site:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov> – just enter the bill number – or by calling my office at 586-7100.

“Viaggio Sicuro!” Travel Safely, Trojan Marching Band!



Earlier this month, I enjoyed the Mililani Jazz Band as they took the stage during a Hawaiian Dinner fundraiser to help support the Trojan Marching Band tour of Italy in March.

About one hundred talented musicians, along with directors, chaperones and tag-alongs will depart Thursday, March 8, for a total of six nights in Rome, Florence and Venice.

They'll visit the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, enjoy the splendors of Vatican City and a host of other sights – and tastes – of all that is Italy. Congratulations to parent tour coordinator **Lori Sato** for her hard work in organizing the logistics, and, of course, to all of the travelling band members who will give us yet another reason to be proud of our MHS students.

Congratulations Mililani!



I was joined at Col. Keith Tamashiro's Change of Command ceremony last week by Representative Marcus Oshiro (l) and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz (r).

Congratulations to Colonel Keith Tamashiro, a Mililani Mauka resident and member of Neighborhood Board # 35 for completing a successful assignment as Commander of the Hawaii Army National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. At the change of command ceremony earlier this month, I was pleased to present a Senate certificate officially recognizing Colonel Tamashiro's service to country and our community as a longtime citizen soldier. During more than 27 years as an active duty, reserve and National Guard officer, Colonel Tamashiro has served with distinction, including a one-year deployment to Kuwait in 2005. As a civilian, he is a Supervisor in the First-to-Work Program in the Hawaii State Department of Social Services.

We are proud, too, that the new Combat Team Commander is a Mililani Mauka resident – Col. Ken Hara. Colonel Hara is the younger brother of Brigadier General Gary Hara, also a Mililani resident, whose spouse Dianne works for Mililani Town Association.

Congratulations to the Tamashiros and the Haras for a commitment to service!



New Commander, Hawaii Army National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Mililani residents Colonel Ken Hara and his wife Myoung.



I was pleased to honor Mililani resident Scott Kaneshiro at ceremonies in the Senate Chamber. From left, Mikki Fletcher and Lynne Kimoto Madden from The Madden Corporation (Scott's employers), and Scott Kaneshiro with his wife Renee.

The Senate Chamber was filled with SPAM earlier this month as my colleagues and I congratulated Scott Kaneshiro of Mililani for the winning design label for a Hawaii Special Edition SPAM can. Scott and his family are Mililani residents – they entered last summer's contest right on deadline, and came away with top honors – a small cash prize and a year's supply of the product itself. We are proud of Scott for his creativity, including his wonderful illustrations in the *Limu: The Blue Turtle* children's books, published by Island Heritage, a division of The Madden Corporation, where Scott is Art Director.

Congratulations!

Canned spiced ham, more commonly known as SPAM, was widely distributed among military troops in the Pacific and in remote Hawaii during World War II, because fresh meat was in short supply and difficult to preserve. Quick-thinking Island entrepreneurs made sure it would be on Hawaii grocery shelves when troops returned from the battlefield. The popularity of SPAM soared in the 1980s when someone concocted the uniquely island "delicacy" – SPAM musubi – to the extent that Hawaii residents now consume more than 8-million cans of SPAM each year.



An iconic Hawaii food product, with Scott's label design that includes iconic Hawaii images – the Hawaii flag on the reverse, and an outstretched hand in full shaka position, clutching a perfectly molded SPAM musubi.

Welcome Wayland Baptist University

Wayland Baptist University Mililani opened its doors to the community late last month, and I was pleased to join in the official dedication and open house. Wayland Baptist has been offering its educational programs in Hawaii for more than 30 years, and moved to Mililani from its previous headquarters in Aiea last fall. Its 550 students are mostly from a half-dozen military bases around Oahu. They enroll in a wide variety of classes with a focus on business and professional studies. Welcome to the neighborhood!



Wayland University Executive Director and Campus Dean David Howle was our host for the open house.



Untying the *maile* with HPD Chief Louis Kealoha to officially open the doors to Wayland's newly-renovated campus administration building – our new neighbors in Mililani.

Cub Scout Pack 564 Blue and Gold Banquet

Congratulations to Cub Scout Pack 564 of Mililani Mauka for a successful Blue & Gold Banquet celebration! It was my pleasure to meet family and friends, and to honor the six outstanding recipients of the Arrow of Light Award with Senate certificates recognizing this significant accomplishment.

Developing leadership skills is a hallmark of the Scouting program, and we can be proud of the commitment to family and community values these young men have demonstrated. Our best wishes for every success in the future to Noah Fujita, Cade Macayan, Jake Orimoto, Donovan Thomson, Cody Villegas and Evan Young. Our grateful thanks to their parents and scout leaders, too.



Friends and family honored recipients of Cub Scouting's highest Award – the Arrow of Light. Cub Scout Pack 564 celebrated the Pack's successful year at the annual Blue & Gold banquet.

GO WARRIORS!

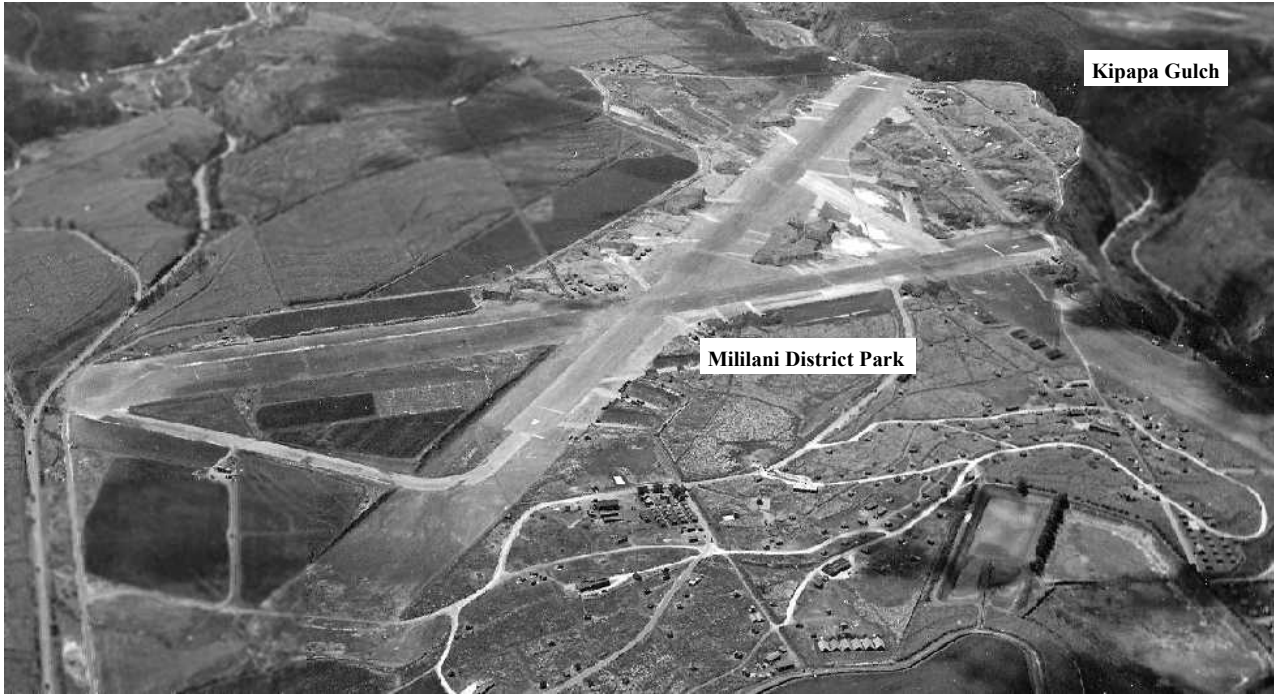
It was a real thrill to host new UH Manoa head football coach Norm Chow at my Capitol office this month. Coach Chow was paying a courtesy visit to let me know that he is optimistic about the future of the Warrior football program, and that he appreciates the Senate's initiative in including UH athletic facilities in this year's "Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012" – the bi-partisan legislation authorizing bond funding for hundreds of repair and maintenance projects at public facilities across the state.



Did you know this about Mililani?

Most residents of Mililani know that our town was built primarily on lands that were planted in pineapple and sugar cane. But I was recently referred to a Web site that offers information about another use for the land besides large-scale agriculture.

Back in the 1940s and 50s, part of this central Oahu plateau was the site of Naval Air Station Kipapa Field / Kipapa Army Airfield according to information compiled by Paul Freeman, and published at his Web site, “Abandoned and Little-Known Airfields of Hawaii.”



Here is a 1944 aerial photograph of the two 5,000-foot runways at Kipapa Field, the ends of which appear to run right to the edge of Kipapa Gulch. **The intersection of the runways is approximately where Mililani District Park is now located.**

Freeman says the field was originally a Naval Air Station for carrier aircraft training. But carrier crews and aircraft were constantly on deployment during the war, and so the field was turned over to the Army. After the military no longer used the runways, the field was used into the mid- and late 1950s by civilian aircraft. By the mid-60s, references to Kipapa Airfield were beginning to disappear from maps, and the development of Mililani Town was underway.

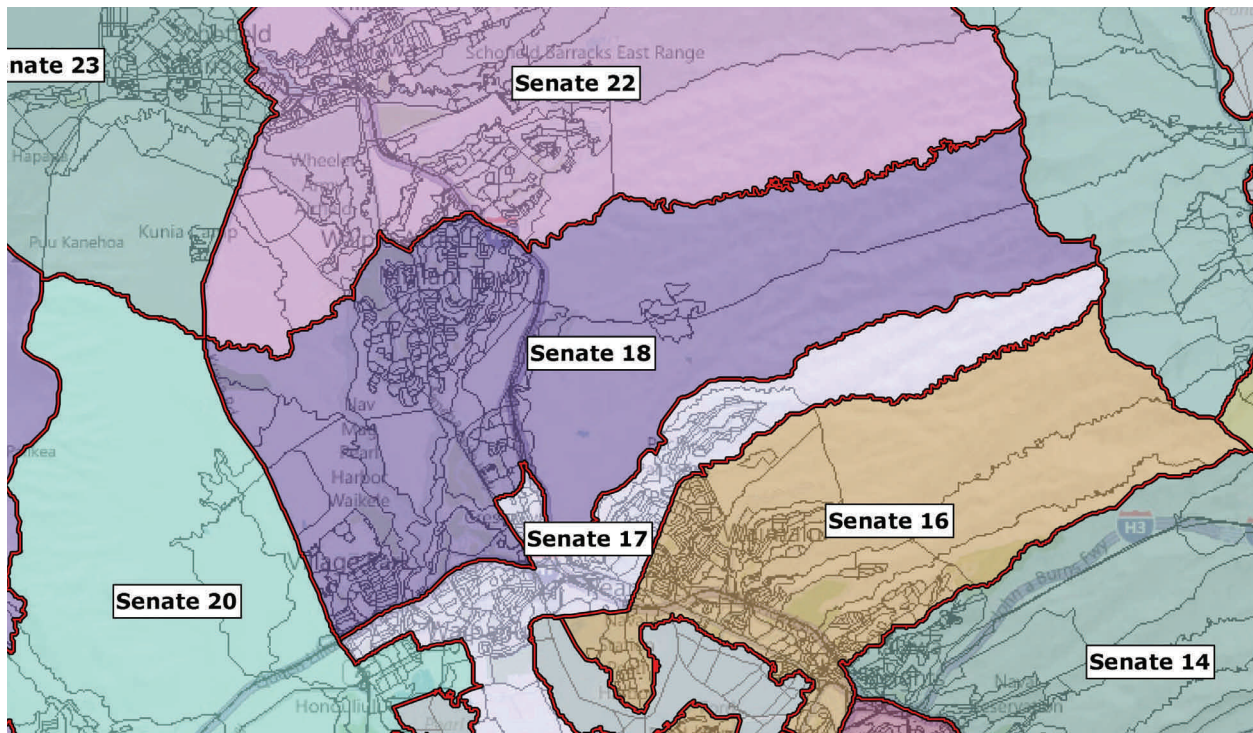
Our thanks to Paul Freeman, who allowed us to use information from his Web site. You can learn more by visiting http://www.airfields-freeman.com/HI/Airfields_HI_Oahu_S.htm.

EVENTS AT THE CAPITOL

The State Capitol is an active public building where everyone is welcome – especially during the legislative session from January through early May. Here are some events in March – open to the public – that you may wish to attend:

- * **Friday, March 2** – Art at the Capitol (see last page)
- * **Tuesday, March 27 – Friday, March 30** – Hawaiian Caucus Week, set aside each legislative session by Senators and Representatives of Hawaiian ethnicity to recognize and honor our host culture history and traditions. Displays will be set up around the Capitol, and on Friday, strolling musicians, and a variety of Hawaiian vendors and Hawaiian crafters will be on hand.
- * **Wednesday, March 28** – The legislature recognizes Hawaii service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice at ceremonies that include presentation of the State of Hawaii Medal of Honor.

Reapportionment



The State Supreme Court challenged the Hawaii Reapportionment Commission's original redrafting of district lines to accommodate population changes as reported in the 2000 census. The Commission's revised maps result in district boundaries for my Senatorial District as pictured above. Upon approval by the Legislature, the new boundaries will take effect with the 2012 election later this year.

My new election district would be designated Senatorial District 18. The district includes Mililani, Waikele, Royal Kunia and Village Park. It again does not include Mililani Mauka, a change to which I objected throughout the redrafting process.

For more information on changes proposed by the Reapportionment Commission, call the Office of Elections at (808) 453-8683, or visit their Web site at: <http://hawaii.gov/elections/reapportionment>

You are invited . . .

Art at the Capitol on display: First Friday, March 2



Art at the Capitol is an annual public open house event each spring during which House and Senate members open their doors after working hours for the public to view the hundreds of pieces of public art displayed in lawmakers' offices.

This year marks the program's fourth anniversary. Highlight of the evening will be the debut of a documentary about Ruthadell Anderson, the artist who created the huge tapestries in the Senate and House chambers. Also, Keiko Sato will be doing a presentation about her brother, Tadashi Sato, who designed the Aquarius mosaic in the Capitol's open courtyard.

Please stop by my office in room 228 where you can see the almost-life-sized – and very dramatic – digital photograph by Kaua'i artist Sally French, entitled *Fumiko: Keeper of the Meek*, and other public artwork on my walls.

