

Senator Michelle Kidani

(D) Senate District 17– Serving Mililani Mauka, Mililani Town, Waipio Acres and Waipio Gentry



Aloha, friends and neighbors:

Two issues have attracted a good deal of public and media attention this summer. In each case, the Legislature is doing its due diligence and conducting reviews to assure that the expenditure of taxpayer dollars is not only legal, but appropriate and not wasteful.

First - and without repeating *all* of the details of this mis-adventure - someone at the University of Hawaii authorized the expenditure of \$200,000 to secure an on-campus concert to benefit UH Manoa Athletics. The money disappeared in what was apparently a scam. Athletic Director Jim Donovan was suspended then cleared of all wrong doing and brought back but assigned to another position in the Manoa Chancellor's office. At a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, an outside investigator reviewed the process by which the concert funds were expended and lost; the University asserted that the Donovan personnel action was not related to the concert fiasco; and the community remains in the dark about precisely how this all could have happened.

A Special Senate Committee on Accountability will conduct an inquiry on September 24 at 1:00 pm in Room 211 at the State Capitol. While the University enjoys a measure of autonomy, and operates under the direction of the Board of Regents, I believe taxpayers deserve answers and lawmakers should insist that these answers are given.

Second, the State Department of Education has been under fire for losing control of its student transportation program. As confirmed by the Legislative Auditor last month, not only does it appear that no one was paying attention to runaway costs for school bus services, but there was insufficient thought devoted to reviewing bus routes to make sure they were best serving the needs of our public school students. We directed that the audit be conducted when it became clear last session that we weren't getting the answers we sought about these matters in hearings before the Senate Ways & Means and Education Committees - two of the Committees on which I serve as Vice Chair.

In each of these cases, money has been spent without clear accountability from both the University and the Department of Education for the taxpayers' investments in our public institutions.

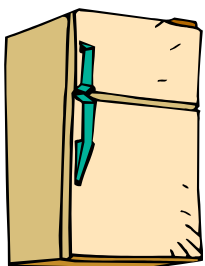
Me ke aloha,

Hawaii Energy recognizes Mililani's Allen Evans

Hawaii Energy, the conservation and efficiency program for Oahu, Maui and the Big Island, has presented its first-ever Hawaii Energy Conservation Award to **Allen Evans of Mililani**. Allen's company developed Hawaii's first recycling service that dismantles old refrigerators into bare components – including oil, scrap metals, refrigerants, etc.— and recycles them appropriately. No such program existed in Hawaii before Allen took the initiative. The program was funded in part by President Obama's economic stimulus program – the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2010. *Congratulations, Allen! We're proud to acknowledge you as one of our outstanding Mililani neighbors.*



Allen Evans, president of Refrigerant Recycling, Inc., and Hawaii Energy Program Manager Ray Starling



Did you know . . .

that if you purchase a new ENERGY STAR rated refrigerator to replace an older unit, you may be eligible for a \$125 rebate from Energy Hawaii? And if you have a working refrigerator or freezer that you simply want to dispose of, you may be eligible for a \$25 "bounty." Other incentives are available; details are on the Web at <http://hawaiienergy.com>.

Mililani High School projects underway

If you have visited or driven past the Mililani High School campus in the last few weeks, you know that there is lots of construction activity underway. It's always satisfying to see the Legislature's commitments for improving our campuses become a reality. Here's a relatively current rundown:

- ◆ Repaving of one parking lot and driveway (near the intersection) now complete; **contract awarded for paving the second parking lot beginning in October**, to be completed in early 2013.
- ◆ Contract awarded for **construction of the MHS Multipurpose Building** – a much-anticipated major addition for MHS.
- ◆ **Coming soon: improvements to the MHS tennis courts**, now in the design phase. *Note: Some MHS tennis team supporters have expressed concern that money for this project was diverted to the parking lot projects. That's not the case; funds are in place for this job, and the work will proceed soon as other projects near completion in a very busy year for campus improvements.*

We our Mililani Schools . . .



Now that school is back in session, I am enjoying my visits to campuses. This month there was a chance to meet with **Mililani Ike** 2nd graders who have been learning about our government.

We talked about what I do as a State Senator, and how I can help Mililani. *I'm always impressed with our youngsters' eagerness to learn, and their many really terrific questions!*

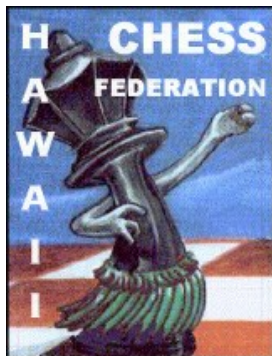


Speaking of Mililani Ike . . . Above are the school's cafeteria staff, Department of Education 2012 Team of the Year. Front: **Debbie Pa, Thelma Wilcher, Valerie Watanabe, Devie Nakamura**; back: **Hener Sison, Sharon Kim, Derek Kajihiro and Sherrie Balasbas**. *Congratulations!*



Roslyn Fujimoto

Honors also go to . . . **Mililani Mauka Elementary School** Administrative Services Assistant (SASA), who received a DOE 2012 Sustained Superior Performance Award! *Thanks, Roslyn, for your commitment!*



The 2012 Hawaii Chess Federation Blitz Champion is teen chess star **Stephen Mau**, captain of the State High School Champion **Mililani Trojans**. *Well done, Stephen!*

For Older Americans Month, the Honolulu Committee on Aging and the State Office on Aging honored **Myrtle Nanbara of Mililani** for her more than 10,000 hours of volunteer work over the past decade at Moiliili Community Center. *With her at right: Wesley Lum of the Office on Aging and the Governor's Chief of Staff Blake Oshiro.*



Check out these events happening on Oahu in the next few weeks

Friday, September 21 – Mililani High School Homecoming! Join the community for a Homecoming Parade on Friday afternoon beginning at Mililani Town Center at 1:00 p.m. Celebrate our school's 40th anniversary year under the theme of **Trojan Legacy!** Friday night kickoff times for the 2012 homecoming football games versus the Kapolei Hurricanes: **JV at 5:00 p.m., Varsity at 7:30 p.m. at John Kauinana Field.**

Saturday, September 29 – Jump Into Health Mililani! Head over to the Mililani High School Gym from 10am-2pm for a community health and wellness fair in cooperation with the American Heart Association. Includes a Jump Rope for Heart event, and a chance to meet community partners and vendors that promote all aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and social health in Mililani. More information on the Web at <http://jumpintohealth.tk/>.

Sunday, October 7 – Children and Youth Day at the State Capitol and civic center grounds– sponsored by the Hawaii State Legislature's Keiki Caucus and other organizations. Non-stop entertainment on six stages, along with games and rides, demonstrations and tours, lots of food and refreshments. More information at www.HawaiiCYD.org.