

# 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 expenditures of taxpayer dollars are legal, appropriate, and not wasteful.

*First*, the University of Hawaii has been under fire for its handling of what is apparently a scam in which a \$200,000 payment was authorized to secure an on-campus concert to benefit UH Manoa athletics. That money is missing, and in the somewhat clumsy efforts to investigate how that happened, UH has now expended tens of thousands of dollars on two law firms and for outside public relations counsel. More money was spent on attorneys' costs for falsely-implicated Athletic Director Jim Donovan.

This information was only part of what was revealed to a Special Senate Committee on Accountability at a six hour long hearing on Monday. The loss of the concert money and the mounting legal bills are serious enough. But it is also evident that the University has some grave flaws in the way its fiscal, personnel and legal procedures are carried out. Even the governing Board of Regents chair admitted that its own policies may have been misinterpreted, and the Board is doing its own review of these issues.

UH President M.R.C. Greenwood repeatedly apologized to the Committee and a statewide TV audience for all of this and assured legislators that policies and procedures will be put in place to prevent these kinds of things from happening again. Our job is to hold the university accountable for that and to assure that taxpayer dollars appropriated to UH are spent to further the institution's educational mission.

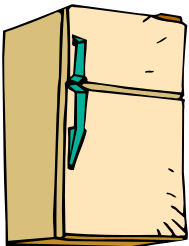
*Second*, the Legislative Auditor has found that the Department of Education has lost control of costs for its student transportation program. The Auditor also determined that in many cases, no one was evaluating school bus routes to make sure they were best serving the needs of our students. We directed 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 our public educational institutions. Both UH and the DOE must answer to the public; they will be the focus of considerable attention during the 2013 session.

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.***



### 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>.***



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

## Mililani school projects underway

If you have visited or driven past our Mililani schools in the last few weeks, you know that there is lots of construction activity underway. Here's a current rundown of some projects:

- ◆ Repaving of one parking lot and driveway (near the intersection) at Mililani High School now complete; **contract awarded for paving the second parking lot beginning in October**, to be completed in early 2013.
- ◆ Contract awarded for **construction of covered play court at Mililani Middle School**
- ◆ 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 . . .



With school back in session, I am enjoying my visits to campuses. This month there was an invitation 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!*

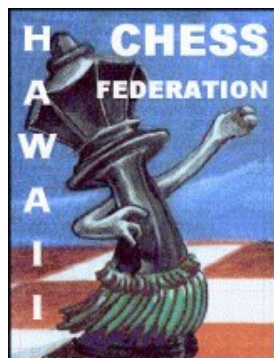


**Speaking of Mililani Ike . . .** Above are the school's cafeteria staff, Department of Education 2012 Team of the Year. Front: **Debbie Pa, Thelma Wilcher, Valerie Watanabe, Devie Nakamura**; back: **Hener Sison, Sharon Kim, Derek Kajihiro and Sherrie Balasbas**. *Congratulations!*



*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!*



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.*



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!*

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

**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/>.

**October 2-4 – 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Hawaiian Convention** at the Hawaii Convention Center. This year's meetings include participation by officials from President Obama's White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Registration information and a complete schedule of presentations are on the Web. Enter **Annual Native Hawaiian Convention** in your Web browser's search bar.

**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](http://www.HawaiiCYD.org).