

Senator Michelle Kidani

Senatorial District 17 – Mililani Town, Mililani Mauka, Waipio Acres, Waipio Gentry
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Aloha Friends,

As I wrap up my third session of my first term, please accept my deepest gratitude for allowing me the privilege to represent our district in the Hawaii State Legislature. Your continued support and input has been very helpful as we moved through this most challenging session.

While continuing to serve as Vice Chair of both the Education and Public Safety/Military Affairs Committees, I was honored to also serve as Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, with complete oversight of the Senate's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). It was quite a daunting responsibility to determine which projects would be funded state-wide, but I was still able to include funding for needed projects in our district and projects our families need.

This newsletter includes highlights of some of the bills I introduced this session and bills passed to balance our fiscal budget. It also features some of our outstanding students and neighbors in our district. If you would like a more complete list of bills introduced by me, please visit my page in the Capitol Website. (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a safe summer.

Me ke aloha,

COLONEL BRADEN "MONGO" SAKAI

Assuming Command of the 154TH Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard in June, Colonel Sakai was raised in Mililani. He graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1983. He was commissioned in the HIANG in 1984 from the Academy Military Science in McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Tennessee. Colonel Sakai became the first HIANG pilot to reach 3,000 hours exclusively in a jet in November 2008. He now has over 3,700 total flying hours.

The 154th Wing is the single largest air Wing in the United States Air National Guard, supporting three separate flying units and other attendant units on four geographically separated Hawaiian Islands. The 154th Wing represent the major air component organization of the Hawaii National Guard, with a military complement of approximately 2,000 officers and enlisted personnel. Congrats, Mongo!



Hawaii National Guard Adjutant General, Major General Darryl D.M. Wong, and Senator Kidani congratulating Colonel Braden "Mongo" Sakai and wife Momi.



Brigadier General Gary Hara and wife, Diane, celebrated the 40th annual 4th of July at Schofield Barracks.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA! MAHALO NUI TO ALL OF OUR MILITARY TROOPS

It was a real treat to celebrate the 4th of July holiday at Sills Field on Schofield Barracks with our military men and women and their families who daily make sacrifices to assure that our United States of America remains a free country. I have immense respect and honor for all of our military troops, active and retired, including our Hawaii National Guard troops who also are called for active duty.

Trained to protect Hawaii's citizens and property, preserve peace and ensure public safety in response to natural disasters or acts of terrorism, the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) also has a federal mission to provide operationally-ready combat units and combat support units for active duty in the U.S. Air Force in time of war or national emergency.

The Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) has a similar federal mission to be fully manned and operationally ready to respond to any national contingency ranging from war and peace-keeping missions to nation building operations. The HIARNG Commander, **Brigadier General Gary M. Hara**, is a long-time Mililani resident.

Balancing the Budget

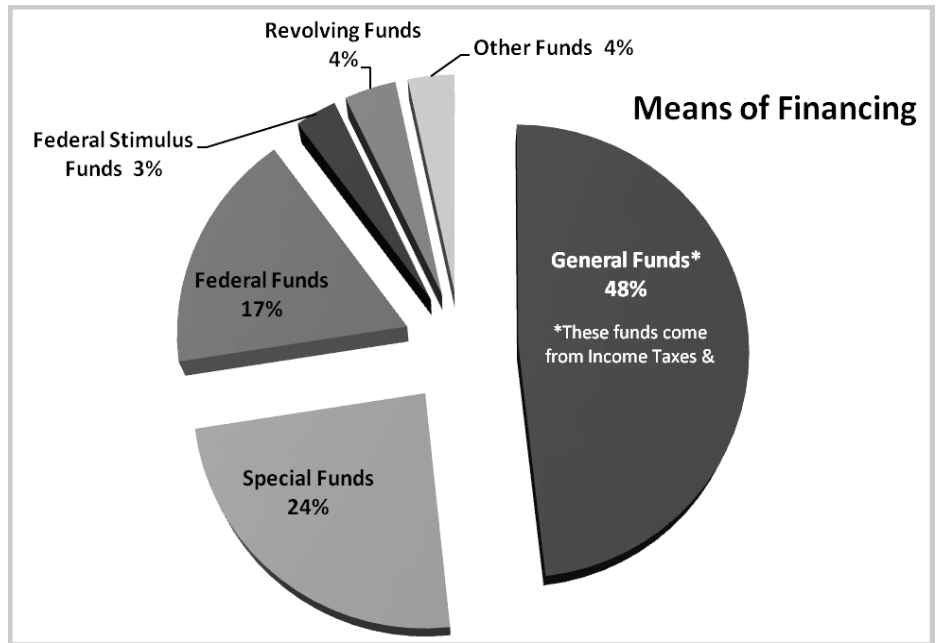
Like many other states during this bleak economy, Hawaii had a difficult task to balance a budget that would also enable the most essential government services to continue to operate, while minimizing the economic strain on our taxpayers. All state agencies were asked to cut budgets by ten percent for the coming year. Even with these cuts, a combination of bills to generate revenues were also necessary.

Revenue bills included a two year suspension of tax exemptions for two dozen businesses, repeal of state income tax exemptions and a cap on itemized deductions for higher income taxpayers, and delaying implementation of an increase in personal exemptions and standard deductions for all taxpayers.

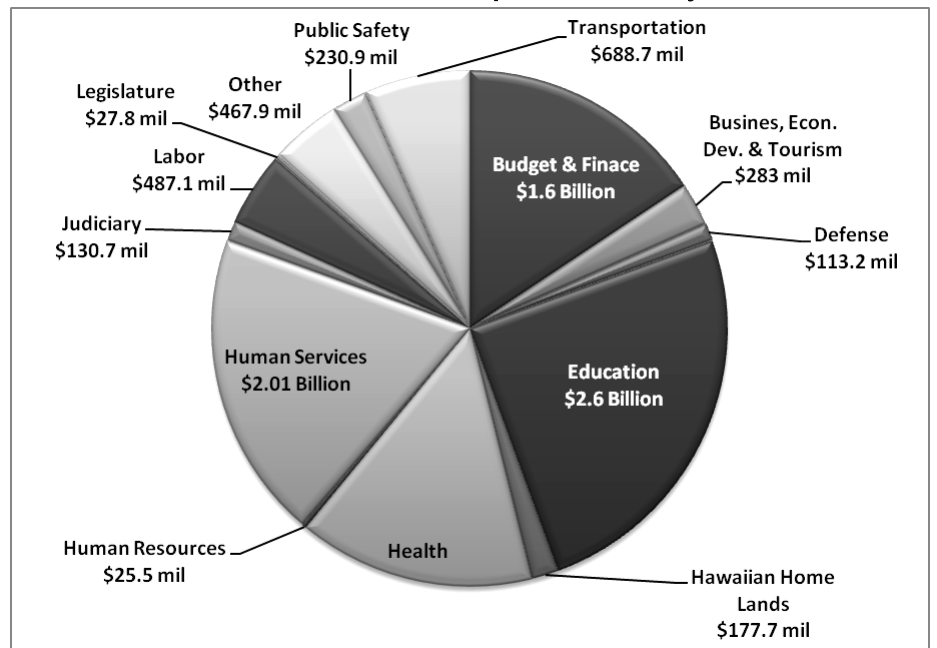
While there was some support, the Senate did not pass an increase in the State's General Excise Tax, the state's primary source of revenue which has not been raised since 1965. The Senate also held firm against a proposed tax on pensions or soda and alcohol. The Senate also signed off on a bill that will adjust rental car surcharges and another bill that capped the hotel room tax received by the counties.

Salaries of all Legislators, members of the State judiciary and appointed State Executives are reviewed and approved by the State Salary Commission. Four years ago, when annual legislative salaries were at \$36,000, the Commission recommended annual pay raises for that would have amounted to about \$2,000 additional per year until 2013. In 2009 and 2010 the legislature decided to not take the pay increase and passed *House Bill 575*, to extend the pay reduction.

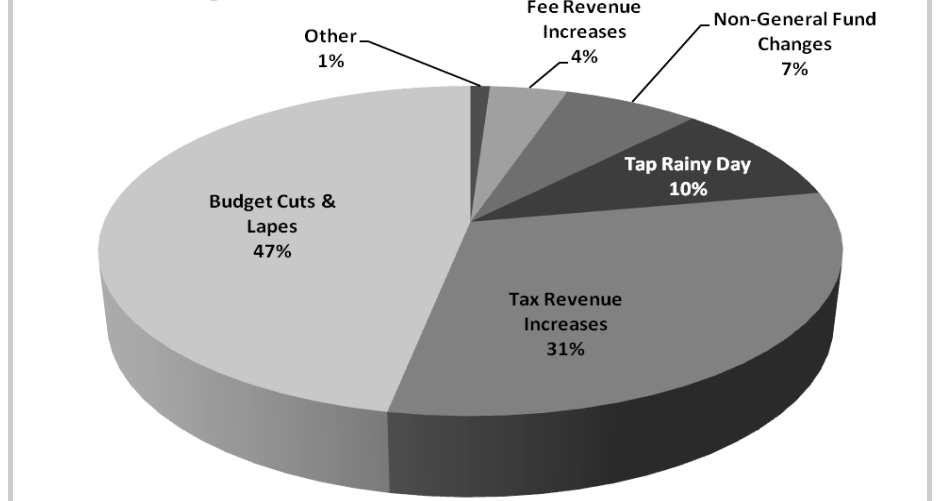
(All graphs below are using estimated fiscal year 2011 data.)



How the State Spent Its Money



How the Budget was Balanced



AYAME TALIA KIDANI

The newest edition to our Kidani Ohana.
 Born June 19, 2011
 7 lbs. 2 oz.
 What a wonderful Father's Day gift for my son.
 Congratulations to her parents, Shane and Shelly!



Capital Improvement Projects



The creation and maintenance of local construction jobs, as well as additional jobs associated with capital projects, will generate more disposable income, which in turn circulates back into our economy.

With that in mind the Legislature recommended almost \$3 Billion for projects deemed essential to health and safety and included many that were identified as "shovel-ready" for immediate implementation.

Some of the largest areas funded in this budget included:

1. \$816,166,000 for the Department of Transportation (airports, highways, and harbors);
2. \$328,009,000 for the Department of Education, Public Charter Schools, and Public Libraries;
3. \$174,195,000 for the University of Hawaii System; and
4. \$148,847,000 for the Department of Health and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

The Legislature was able to appropriate \$20,000,000 in FY12 for grants-in-aid to various non-profit organizations which will be used for improvement and expansion of their facilities. Continuing the various services provided by these non-profit organizations is vital to residents of our state, especially given that the State has been forced to reduce many of services previously provided due to the current economic climate.

| Education  | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Leeward Community College | Construction of a new Education and Innovation Facility. | \$19,000,013 |
| Mililani High School | Replace and upgrade network Resurface tennis courts, parking lot. | \$1,000,000 |
| Mililani Middle School | Covering for the outdoor play court Roof repair for Buildings G & F | \$470,000 |
| Kipapa Elementary | Replacement of A/C system | \$200,000 |
| Mililani Ike Elementary | Repair of covered athletic court | \$150,000 |
| Mililani Mauka | Installation of covered walkways | \$500,000 |
| Mililani Uka Elementary | Installation of playground equipment | \$75,000 |
| Kanoelani Elementary | School-wide electrical upgrade | \$950,000 |
| Pearl City Highlands | Renovate chorus classroom | \$480,000 |
| Roads and Highways  | | |
| Kamehameha Highway- Repair and Resurfacing. | Repair and resurfacing of Kamehameha Highway from Waikalani Drive to Ka Uka Blvd. | \$14,000,000 |
| Highway Lighting Replacement | Replace and upgrade existing highway lighting system on state highways. | \$8,950,000 |
|  Agriculture | | |
| Waiahole Water Systems & Irrigation Ditch | Improvements to the Waiahole Water System. | \$3,000,000 |
| State Agricultural Water Use Development Plan. | Plans for a state-wide water use plan for agricultural purposes. | \$7,700,000 |
| Community  | | |
| Special Olympics Hawaii | Funds to construct an athletic and sports facility in Kapolei. | \$1,500,000 |
| PBS Hawaii | Grant to assist in renovation of broadcast facility. | \$2,000,000 |
| St. Francis Healthcare Foundation | Grant to assist in the construction of an intergenerational center. | \$1,000,000 |
| Bishop Museum | Grant for renovation of Polynesian Hall and Planetarium | \$2,500,000 |
| Iolani Palace | Grant for restoration within palace complex | \$500,000 |

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Leeward Community College ~ The demand for highly-qualified teachers in Hawaii continues to grow. To meet that demand, the UH system has implemented more teacher education programs and UH-Manoa and UH-West Oahu have been working closely with the Community Colleges, in particular Leeward Community college, in order to focus encouragement of local students staying in Hawai'i and becoming teachers. Almost 25% of the student body at Leeward is from the Mililani and Waipio Gentry area. In support of our youth and the need for new teachers, I was successful in securing \$19 million for a new Education and Innovation facility which should break ground in early 2012.



University of Hawaii West Oahu ~ In 2010, the Legislature provided \$48 million to finally realize the dream of a second 4-year University on Oahu. This money is already being spent, and the first buildings are nearing completion. Construction has been quicker partly due to the larger type building blocks being used, the first of its kind in Hawaii. This campus will not only provide more educational opportunities, but will also provide relief on our freeways and streets as students may opt to travel to UHWO. This year we funded \$2.5 million to make the campus energy independent by installing the first Photovoltaic System on the campus.

Kamehameha Highway Resurfacing ~ For those who travel Kamehameha Highway on a daily basis, you have noticed firsthand the deterioration of the road surface, especially in Gentry Waipio and into Kipapa Gulch. Drivers are forced to swerve and even veer into the other lane to avoid the dangerous potholes. Concerned for the safety of our residents, I convinced the State Department of Transportation of the need to, at the very minimum, resurface Kamehameha Highway from Waikalani Drive to Ka Uka Boulevard. As a result, a \$14 million appropriation was made to complete this necessary project.



Pageant Winners Have Mililani Ties

Congratulations to Lauren Cheape, Miss Hawaii 2011, and Christie Liu Oclaray, our Mrs. Hawaii 2011! Both are graduates of Mililani High School. We will be rooting for you both as you go on to represent Hawaii in national pageants. Best Wishes.

On the left, Lauren eating dessert after lunching with Senator Pohai Ryan and Senator Kidani at the Capitol. Christie, a Vice President for Aloha United Way, is at right.





Waiahole Irrigation System

Not many people know this, but running through Mililani is one of the major irrigation systems on the island. The Waiahole Ditch transports water from the Koolaus to the Ewa plain, providing water for our island agriculture. To maintain and upgrade the system, \$3 million was set aside for needed repairs.

Mililani High School John Kauinana Stadium

Athletic Field Improvements ~ After many years of hard work, and with great persistence from the late “Big John” Kauinana, the former MHS Athletic Director, as well as our Mililani Representatives, we were able to get \$2.5 million released for much needed stadium and field improvements, for the John Kauinana Stadium. Work is estimated to be completed by January 2013.



Kanoelani Elementary School

Campus-wide Electrical Upgrades ~ Work has already begun on upgrading the Kanoelani Elementary School electrical system. However, more work is needed to completely upgrade the entire campus to allow for further enhancing the students’ learning environment. Therefore, an additional \$950,000 was included to upgrade technological capabilities.

Mililani Middle School

Covered Play Court & Roof Replacement ~ As you are no doubt aware, it rains quite often in Mililani Mauka. When this happens, the children are forced to either stand outside underneath the roof eaves or stay inside altogether. With the appropriation of \$500,000, the students will be able to play outside rain or shine. An additional \$750K was appropriated to replace the roofs on two of the buildings.



Public Employees Retirement System Bill Highlight (SB1265/HB1038)

To address the mounting unfunded liability of the State’s Employees’ Retirement System (ERS), these bills were passed to make various revisions which will reduce our future liability and result in cost savings to the ERS. The following cost savings estimated by the ERS Actuary for the next 5 fiscal years are anticipated if all of the benefit changes are implemented for all new State and County employees.

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Fiscal Year 2012 | \$54 Million |
| Fiscal Year 2013 | \$92 Million |
| Fiscal Year 2014 | \$95 Million |
| Fiscal Year 2015 | \$98 Million |
| Fiscal Year 2016 | \$101 Million |

2011 Session Bills

Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Harassment. (SB934)

For many years, I have been a strong advocate of having cyber-bullying laws in place to protect our youth. Research has shown that bullying and cyberbullying among students has a detrimental effect on academic achievement, as well as the psychological, social, and physical well-being of students from kindergarten thru high school, and in some cases into adulthood. Although, my original bill did not pass I was able to get some of the language adopted into HB688 during conference. Next year I will work to strengthen this law even more to protect our keiki.

Student instructional Time. (SB1375)

This bill and its companion HB945 were introduced to address the needs of Mililani Middle School and other multi-track schools in our state. During the 2010 Legislature, Act 167 was passed to increase the number of instructional days and hours of all of the public schools in the state. However, Act 167 did not address the unique situation multi-track schools face in being unable to physically accommodate all students having the same number of instructional days as traditional schools. SB1365/HB945 was able to address these limitations in facilities, while mandating an increase in instructional time and a longer school day. We all value the education of our children and the important role that teachers have in their lives. Though we are now experiencing tough economic times, when things improve, it is imperative our teachers be compensated for their increased instructional days and time.

Taxation; General Excise Tax and Use Tax Exemptions; Temporary Suspension (SB754)

Although I personally feel that there are better ways to increase revenues, the lowered revenue projections and decreased tourism from Japan required the legislature to make very difficult choices for budget cuts as well as how to generate enough revenue to keep the state running, while limiting the impact of any increases. The final draft of SB754, raised additional revenues by suspending from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, the general excise and use tax exemptions for certain areas of business. However, I was able to convince my colleagues to keep in place the exemption on dues paid to all condominium and planned community associations. Mililani Town Association saves hundreds of thousands of dollars each year which would otherwise be passed on to homeowners.

Elections; Uniformed Services and Overseas Absentee voters. (SB636)

President Barack Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010. It required states to transmit absentee ballots to uniformed and overseas voters no later than 45 days prior to a federal election. Although our current laws would comply with the 2012 General election, I feel that our uniformed and overseas residents should have the same opportunity for a 45 day time frame for state and county **primary** elections as well. I will continue to pursue this in the next legislative session.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. (HB4)

Growing up in a military family, I experienced having to move to new places many times. I know first-hand the difficulties that our military families face during long deployments and transfers. I co-introduced a companion bill (SB813) to HB4 to ensure the educational stability and transferability of school records for children of military personnel who transfer to Hawaii.

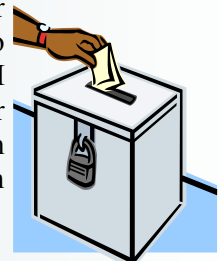


By making the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children a state law, we were also able to have a military representative on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children within the Board of Education. Our military families have enough to deal with without having to worry about their child's education.

Permanent Absentee Voter Registration (HB1613)

For many years, even before I was elected to office, I shared the concern with many others regarding Hawaii's decline in voter turnout. Many voters working in town or Waikiki were not always able to make it back to their Leeward and Central Oahu communities to cast their ballots before polls closed.

I introduced SB665 to make Absentee Voter Registration permanent. After working with House colleagues to incorporate my language, HB1613 I voted for this bill which gives our residents an alternative to vote each election by casting their vote with an absentee ballot.





At the end of each year (and almost all schools in one day) Senator Kidani is honored to present her Awards to graduating elementary students selected from each of six elementary public schools in Senate District 17. Students are selected by their teachers for overall outstanding performance throughout the school year. In addition to a Senate Certificate, students receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from Senator Kidani.

Congratulations to all the students and their parents for a job well done!



Cole Mayeshiro



Kori Muranaka & Kerri-Ann Kamei



Riley Sodetani



Katie Hashimoto



Sarah Yokota & Michelle Wagner



Kailani Torres



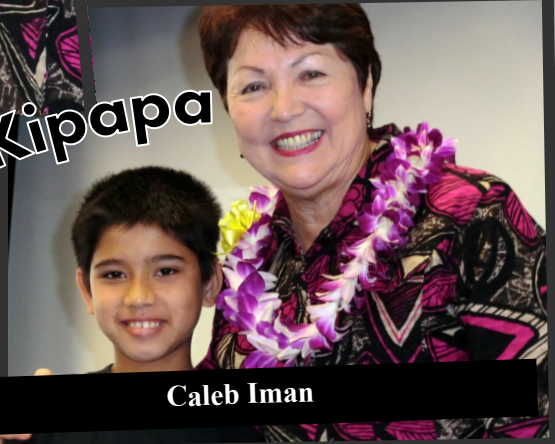
Putri Prakoso



Roger Sanchez



Sydney Aea



Caleb Iman



**Congratulations
Mililani High School
“Best Public High School of 2011”**

Of their 590 seniors, 27 have a 4.0 or higher grade-point average. More than \$6 million in scholarships were received by these graduates. Their 13 Valedictorians received a grade-point average of 4.0 or better during all four years in high school. Congratulations to Mililani High School Principal Dr. John Brummel and staff.

John Renken Kaha’i Topolinski Honored

“Holomua Me Ka Lokahi” (Moving forward in unity) - The Hawai’i State Senate on March 14, 2011 celebrated the 5th annual Hawaiian Caucus Day to honor, preserve and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture. The highlight of the day was the recognition of John Renken Kaha’i Topolinski as one of the outstanding Native Hawaiian leaders across the state. Senator Kidani, one of seven part-Hawaiian members in the Hawaii State Senate, nominated Mililani High School teacher, "Kaha'i" Topolinski, a long time resident of Waipio Gentry. A renown Kumu Hula, composer, historian and master feather worker, he graduated in a traditional uniki from noted Kumu Hula Maiki Aiu Lake in 1973 before founding his own hula halau, Ka Pa Hula Hawai’i. Mahalo Kaha’i!



\$25,000 Rotary Scholarships

The **Mililani Sunrise Rotary Club** has been a vital part of the Mililani community for many years. Members devote long hours doing community service including donating their professional and personal resources.

And, they don’t stop there. They also give out many scholarships each year to selected Mililani High School students. During their annual Membership Dinner and scholarship banquet, these Rotarians gave out 11 scholarships

totaling \$25,000 to deserving students: Brittney Acoba, Kayla Balasbas, William Gaul, Melissa Hamada, Mallory Hayase, Kiara Kealoha, Clarissa Kenui, Grace Kim, Kara Nyuha, Kimberly Pugliese, and Emi Takeuchi. **Congratulations MHS students, Rotarians and Out-going President Karena Yee and new President, Wendall Nekota!**

During their Annual Conference in San Diego, Senator Kidani was appointed a Hawaii State Director for Women in Government.



This is a national, non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators. WIG serves all of the approximately 1,700 female state legislators in the United States.

WIG provided Senator Kidani a full scholarship to attend this annual meeting.



Having a Real Tea Party!

Our Japanese Women’s Society Foundation Directors having tea after our monthly board meeting.