

# Senator Michelle Kidani

Senatorial District 17 – Mililani Town, Mililani Mauka, Waipio Acres, Waipio Gentry  
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Aloha, friends and neighbors:

As I conclude the fourth session of my first term as your Senator, I want to express my deepest gratitude for allowing me to serve you in the Hawaii State Legislature. Over the course of these four years, I have advocated for development of successful strategies to cope with a slumping economy, brought on here in Hawaii by factors beyond our shores and beyond our control.

In the past year, we have seen some signs of economic vitality begin to emerge, especially in the visitor industry. Yet to fully recover, however, is the construction industry, where unemployment remains at unacceptably high levels. As Vice Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I led the Senate's focused approach to programs that would accelerate and diversify our recovery by funding work on the tremendous backlog of repair and maintenance projects at public facilities that have been put aside for too long.

By session's end, with collaboration from our colleagues in the House, we were able to include more than \$400 million in construction work. Getting people off the bench and onto contractor and subcontractor payrolls means dollars flowing back into our economy...and that's good for everyone. Our allocations were for repair and maintenance projects that were requested by the State departments who were able to determine their own priorities. They include:

**\$136 million for our public elementary, middle and high schools statewide**

**\$49.2 million for state health facilities, including the State Hospital in Kaneohe and the several hospitals operated by the State Healthcare System**

**\$70 million for the University of Hawaii's four-year campuses; \$12.5 million for UH Manoa Athletics; and another \$20 million for the UH Community Colleges**

**\$60 million for State public housing projects statewide**

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find information about other legislation we've passed to support our schools, improve our roads, and protect our environment. We have funded increased availability of emergency ambulance service in our region, and supported additional emergency health care resources at Wahiawa General Hospital. To promote agriculture, the budget includes \$1 million in improvements to the Kunia Agricultural Park, and development of an agriculture processing and packing plant at the former Dole facilities near Whitmore Village. That includes \$3.6 million to purchase the land as well as to upgrade infrastructure to support the facility. Another \$2.5 million was included for the upgrade of the Waiahole water system which is used by our Mililani and Kunia farmers.

Our needs are many, and our resources are not without limits. We have, in my assessment, done a good job of crafting a balanced strategy of investing in public, private sector and non-profit service organizations. By doing that, we are building a solid base upon which the economy can continue to grow and stabilize.

Me ke aloha,

# District 17 Highlights

I was successful in my efforts to include funding for projects in next year's budget that will improve facilities at several Mililani and Pearl City schools that serve the residents in our Senatorial district. Together they represent a State investment of \$5.805 million in our schools, with another \$15.2 million authorized for highway improvements and an additional \$875,000 in community facilities.

We'll soon see major improvements in the athletic facilities at both **Mililani and Pearl City High Schools**. I am especially pleased that significant funding is in the budget for renovation or replacement of the aging **Roosevelt (Kipapa Gulch) Bridge**, with consideration of expanding it from two to four lanes.

This budget also responds to community requests for energy saving photovoltaic panels for the **Filipino Community Center** and improvements at the **Hawaii Okinawa Center**, and a well-deserved and much needed batting cage in **Waipio Neighborhood Park** to support our championship caliber teams.

## Area Schools

### *Highlands Intermediate*

- \* Chorus Classroom asbestos removal and renovation - \$480,000



### *Kanoelani Elementary*

- \* Covered walkways - \$750,000

### *Kipapa Elementary*

- \* Air conditioning replacement - \$200,000

### *Mililani High School*

- \* Reconstruction and resurfacing of tennis courts - \$900,000
- \* Resurfacing of lower parking lot and driveway - \$350,000
- \* Construction and equipment for



additional restrooms and upgrade of athletic field concession stand - \$1.1-million

### *Mililani Ike Elementary*

- \* Renovation of covered play court - \$150,000

### *Mililani Mauka Elementary*

- \* Covered walkways - \$500,000

### *Mililani Middle School*

- \* Repair and Replace Roofs - \$750,000

### *Mililani Uka Elementary*

- \* New Playground Equipment - \$75,000

### *Pearl City High School*

- \* Plans and Design for synthetic track and field at Bino Neves Stadium - \$550,000

## Other Area Projects

### *Filipino Community Center*

- \* Installation of photovoltaic panels - \$450,000

### *Hawaii Okinawa Center*

- \* Renovation and upgrades - \$400,000

### *Waipio Neighborhood Park*

- Construction of batting cage - \$25,000



### *Kamehameha Highway*

- \* Replacement or renovation of Kipapa Gulch Bridge from two to four lanes - \$7.2-million
- \* Sidewalks along both sides from Meheula Parkway to Lanikuhana Avenue - \$3-million
- \* Graffiti resistant wall material from Waipahu Street to Waipio Uka Boulevard - \$5-million



## Legislature Funds Private, Non-profit Health, Welfare, and Education Organizations

After examining applications for grants-in-aid from literally dozens of community-based non-profit organizations, the Legislature allocated \$20 million that provide services to residents statewide.

Among them are **Adult Friends for Youth, Alzheimer's Association, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Child and Family Service, Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii, Domestic Violence Action Center, Hawaii 3Rs, Kalihi Palama Health Center, and Palama Settlement**. Grants totaling \$1.75 million to **Wahiawa General Hospital** will help to finance hospital operations and alleviate added health care emergency needs that developed with the sudden closure of Hawaii Medical Center – West in Ewa.

*For a listing of agencies and their operating budget allocations, visit the State capitol Web site at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> and enter HB304 in the "Bill Status" block.*

# Mahalo For Serving the Public

Citizen participation in government is a sign of a healthy democracy, and we are grateful that these residents of Mililani and Waipahu have stepped forward to serve on State boards and commissions. I was pleased to vote for confirmation of their appointments during our sessions in April.

**Ben Villafior** – State Boxing Commission

**Roy Amemiya** – Tax Review Commission

**Randy Iwase** – Tax Review Commission

**Nathan Chang** – Hawaii Health Authority

**Marion Poirier** – Hawaii Health Authority

**Leonard Licina** - Statewide Health Coordinating Council

**Darrin Sato** – Commission on Fatherhood

**Darryl Salvador** – Medical Education Council

**Sandra Simms** – State Council on Mental Health

**Dominic Inocelda** – Language Access Advisory Council

**Glenn Nakamura** – Disability and Communication  
Access Board



We did not have to go far to congratulate **Ben Villafior** on his appointment to the State Boxing Commission. One of my favorite people at the Capitol, Ben is the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, directing the support staff responsible for maintaining order in the Senate Chamber. He's also extremely well-qualified to serve on the Commission as he is a former World Boxing Association Junior Lightweight Champion. His long and very successful career as a boxer was a major factor in a surge in popularity of boxing, and he brings great enthusiasm and total dedication to his work at the Senate



on behalf of the public. **Ben** and wife **Denise** are Mililani residents *At right, that's Ben in action in the ring early in his career.*

## Enhancing Teacher Education at LCC



Joining me at the ceremony, from left: Leeward CC Chancellor Manuel Cabral; Michael Unebasami, UH Community Colleges Associate Vice President for Administrative Affairs; and Rep. Mark Takai.

One of the most satisfying things about being the Senator who works on the State construction budget is seeing the results of our work translated from numbers on a spreadsheet to shovels in the ground. I was honored to join campus and community leaders as we broke ground in April for the first new building on the Leeward Community College Campus in 35 years. The Education Building and Innovation Center – depicted here in an artist's view from the parking lot side – will allow expansion and enhancement of the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) program.

I was pleased to have been able to include in last year's construction budget an appropriation of \$19 million dollars to get this long-awaited project underway. Enrollment at LCC is at an all time high – about 8,000 students in the fall semester – and a quarter of which come from the Mililani-Waipio Gentry-Waipahu area. The AAT program now

includes about 450 students who have declared for this major.

Not only will students in this program benefit, but beginning this summer, construction will put a substantial number of workers on contractor and sub-contractor payrolls for most of the next two years. And that's good for all of us.

Congratulations and *mahalo* to everyone who worked so hard to bring this project to this point. I look forward to being back on this site in a couple of years when the building welcomes its first students.



# 2012 Legislative Report

*The Legislature voted on funding for a number of programs that position the State for continued growth and economic development, promote agriculture, and enhance health and human services. I served as conference co-chair and voted to support these bills:*

## Agriculture

-**House Bills 1943 and 283** provide additional resources to the **pest inspection and plant quarantine programs**, and allocate funds to eradicate a pest that poses a serious threat to Hawaii's coffee crops

-**Senate Bill 2695** creates a pilot program that may lead to a viable **livestock feed production and processing** industry in Hawaii.

## Economic Development

-**SB 2236** authorizes special purpose bond funding in the amount of \$100,000 to significantly enhance the State's **broadband infrastructure capacity**, enabling Hawaii to compete more effectively in the global economy.

## Heritage Preservation

-**SB 2678** establishes an advisory group to begin serious work on **preserving the internment camp site at Honouliuli** in West Oahu where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

## Education

-**SB 2545** establishes an **Executive Office on Early Learning**, recognizing that high quality early programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are

critically important to ensure the success of future generations of Hawaii's *keiki*.

-**SB 304** appropriates nearly \$11 million from general funds to provide grants for public health, welfare and education.

## Elderly and Health Care

-**SB 2320** appropriates nearly \$5-million to establish the **Kupuna Program** of home and community based programs to serve the needs of the elderly.

-**SB 2779** allocates \$1.4-million to establish **aging and disability resource centers** in each county to provide services for older adults, persons with disabilities and family caregivers.

-**SB 2939** authorizes issuance of \$80-million in special purpose bonds for the St. Francis Health Care System to **renovate and re-equip the Hawaii Medical Center** in Liliha to operate as a long-term care facility.

-**HB 1953** provides \$1 million to **increase emergency medical and ambulance services** in Leeward Oahu and emergency room services at **Wahiawa General Hospital**.

-**HB304** adds over \$11 million to maintain funding levels for programs in public health, welfare and education.

## Public Safety

-**SB 2261** funds expansion of the **Weed & Seed crime prevention** program, already active in the Waipahu community, to other areas of the state with an appropriation of \$336,000.

## Senator Kidani's Committees . . . Some Bills of Note

### Education: Charter School Reforms; Office on Early Learning

Last year, the legislature established a Charter School Task Force to take a look at **Hawaii's charter school system** and make recommendations for improvements. This year, many of the Task Force recommendations were incorporated into **SB2115**, to create a new charter school law that establishes a solid governance structure, with clear lines of authority and accountability that will create a much improved environment for student achievement.

**SB2545** eliminates junior kindergarten at the end of the 2013-14 school year but creates an Executive Office on Early Learning that will oversee the state's system and *create a publicly funded early-learning program*.

### Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs: Justice Reinvention

The Council State of Governments conducted a data-driven study of **Hawaii's criminal justice system** to identify inefficiencies, ways in which to correct them, and proposals to use the resulting savings to fund programs reduce repeat offenses. **SB 2776** implements these recommendations with the goal of relieving our prisons of overcrowding, and thereby making it possible eventually to bring Hawaii prisoners back from facilities on the mainland.

### Hawaiian Affairs: Settling Native Hawaiian Land Claims

The State Supreme Court years ago required the Legislature to formulate a plan to compensate Native Hawaiians for **disputed land claims**. **SB 2783** – already signed into law by the Governor – transfers title to about 200 acres of land in Kakaako to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). The property is *makai* of Ala Moana Boulevard and is valued at \$200 million. OHA will now have the right to master plan and develop the property, subject to zoning and permitting conditions of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

# At the Capitol—Photo Gallery



## Everyone's a VIP when you visit the State Capitol!

My door is always open . . . I've welcomed visitors from my Senate district—and a number of other places as well. From top left, **Mililani High School art students** check out their photos which were on display in the Capitol corridors. Teacher and coach **Tim Pregana** brought the **MHS robotics** team to visit.

Center row, new UH head football coach **Norm Chow** stopped by, as did soon-to-retire **U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka** and his wife **Millie**. The Senate honored **Kaui Hart Hemmings** (center) with her mother **Suzy Hemmings**. **Kaui** is the *kama'aina* author of the book *The Descendants* from which the Academy Award winning movie was made. And at right, 2011 **Miss Hawaii Lauren Cheape** and **Mrs. Hawaii US Christie Oclaray**—both proud **Mililani High School** alums.



## Celebrating an Important Anniversary

The Senate marked the anniversary of **Title IX – the Patsy T. Mink Equality in Education Act** – that became law 40 years ago to assure gender equity in all educational institutions that receive federal support. We honored five outstanding Hawaii women who have benefited from and advocated for equality of opportunity and social justice.



From left, UH Assistant Athletic Director **Marilyn Moniz-Kahooohanoho**; Associate Supreme Court Justice **Sabrina McKenna**; Senator **Kidani**; **Jill Nunokawa**, UH Civil Rights Specialist; **Jennifer Rose**, UH Gender Equity Specialist; **Catherine Betts**, Executive Director, State Commission on the Status of Women.

# Pride in Our Communities



The topic of bullying received a lot of focus at Waipahu's **Kaleiopu`u Elementary** this year. At a **Read Across America** event, I read a book on that theme—*Hooway for Wodney Wabbit*—to a sixth grade class. Earlier in the year, sixth grade students were on stage acting out strategies for dealing with bullies as a final event in their **Artists in the Schools** program funded through a legislative grant. A **Read Aloud America** event at **Waipahu Elementary** in April featured an evening program with President Obama's sister—Maya Soetoro-Ng—doing a reading from her own book *Ladder to the Moon* to an audience that included several hundred enthusiastic students and parents. **I'm pleased that the Legislature voted to support Read Aloud America with an appropriation of over \$450,000 to continue this program for our students.**



## Good Luck, Tevita!

I honored Waipahu's own Tevita Apina, with a Senate certificate at the Waipahu Neighborhood Board. He is the youngest ever KZOO Radio Karaoke Grand Champion, this spring. Tevita is a super singer who will be off to Japan later in May for NHK's Nippon Amateur Kaio-sai Grand Prix song contest.



Community service projects are a great way to meet new friends who enjoy giving back to our neighbors. I was invited to join **Mililani Sunrise Rotarians** and other volunteers from **Epiphany Episcopal Church** to help out on a Sunday afternoon in the kitchen at **Institute for Human Services** temporary housing shelter. Lending a helping hand provides life lessons for all of us.



I am an active Board member of the **Japanese Women's Society Foundation**—a good-fun social group that enjoys getting together for a good cause. We staged a *Hanafuda Fun Day* at the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission—as a fundraiser for the benefit of **Hale Pulama Mau Long-Term Care Program** at **Kuakini Medical Center**—and, of course, learn the finer points of the long-popular game.



**We remember with sorrow; we give thanks for survival**—The Consulate General of Japan hosted an event to mark the one year anniversary of the **Great East Japan Earthquake** that claimed almost 20,000 lives. The theme was *Mahalo Hawaii for your Support*. With teary eyes, these Japanese high school students took the stage to offer their personal thanks to all of those in Hawaii who supported and continue to support the relief efforts.

From among the many pictures drawn by elementary school students on display, this one (above, right) touched my heart. Nanami Ogata from Fukushima wrote: “This is a picture of people holding hands so that no matter how hard or painful things get, we can find the strength we need as long as we stay connected.” A great message to remember in times of turmoil.



**Kids make the world go ‘round**—hard to resist a hug from a real cutie pie. Two year old **Ava Whitaker**, had a good time with parents **Jamie** and **Kai** at the very successful *Eat the Street* extravaganza by Mililani Town Association where I have volunteered as a Director since 1999.



**Scout’s Honor!** I was so happy to join proud parents and families to celebrate their sons achievements in earning the Pack 564 Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award. Congratulations to **Noah Fujita, Cade Macayan, Jake Orimoto, Donnovan Thomson, Cody Villegas** and **Jake Orimoto**.

## Senator Kidani Makes DNA/Fingerprint Kits Available

As parents and grandparents, I know you are committed to keeping your Keiki safe.

I would, however, like to provide complementary DNA and fingerprint kits for your child. Should your child should ever go missing, call 911 immediately and give the completed kit to the police. I pray you will never, ever have to use the DNA kit; but by having the DNA and fingerprint kit available, vital information can be provided to law enforcement quickly, and can be extremely crucial in helping to bring a child home safely.

Please contact me should you want this kit. I only ask that if you request a kit, please follow the instructions to complete the kit as soon as possible so you don’t misplace it. Contact me at:

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Right: Celebrating a special event with one of my grandchildren.

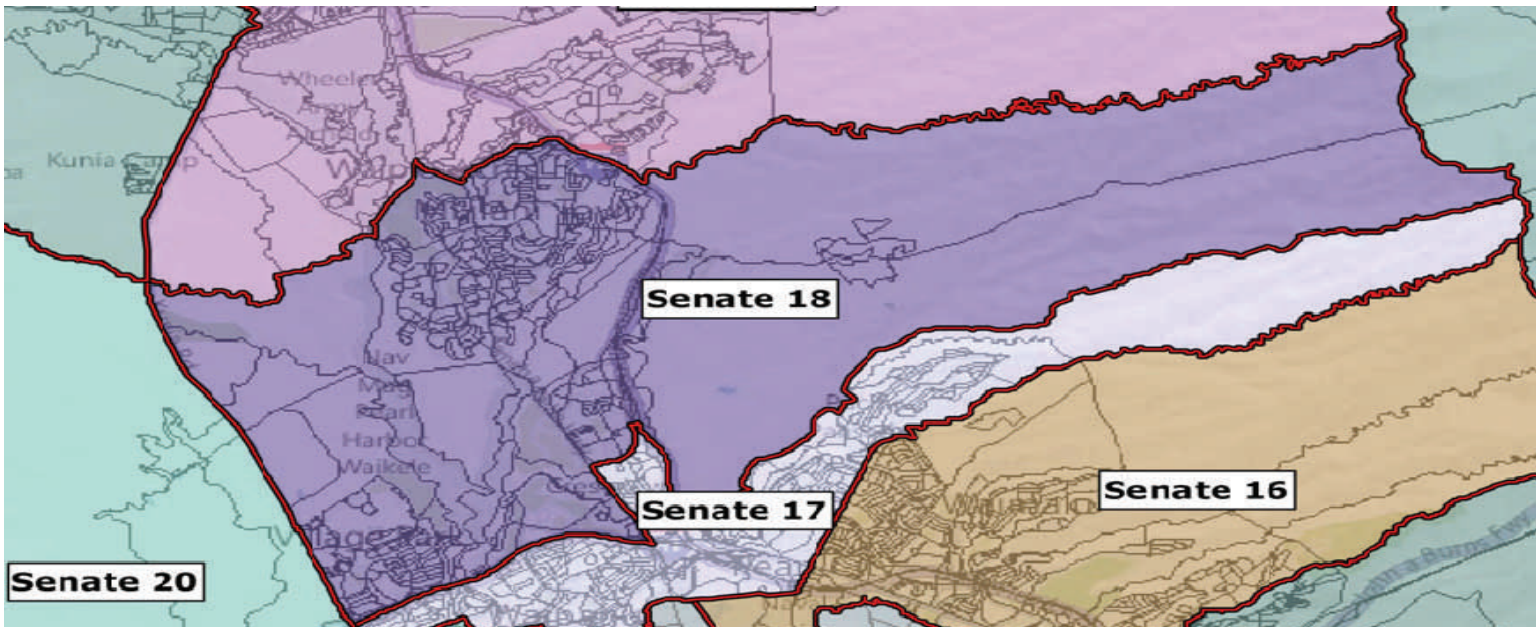


# Reapportionment = New Senate Boundaries

Senate and House district boundaries are redrawn every ten years based on population figures as determined by the U.S. Census. The State Reapportionment Commission proposed a plan in September of 2011. A lawsuit was filed by Big Island residents and the Hawaii Supreme Court in January ruled that the inclusion of nonpermanent residents favored Oahu and denied shifting of a state Senate seat to Hawaii island.

A revised plan was redrawn in March and another lawsuit is currently pending challenging the exclusion of military residents and others. A panel of three federal court judges will hear the case in mid-May.

Depending on what the court rules, it is possible that there may be further changes to the map below. However, as currently drawn, the new district would be designated **Senate District 18**, and would include **Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry**, and adds the communities of **Waikele, Village Park** and **Royal Kunia**. Waipio Acres and Mililani Mauka were not included, a change to which I testified in opposition as I maintained that it was not a good idea to divide the Mililani community this way. The new district lines will apply beginning with the August 11th primary election unless the courts rule otherwise. I look forward to meeting and being of service to new friends and neighbors in the reconstituted Senate District 18.



**Senator Michelle Kidani, Assistant Majority Leader**

Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means, with Senate leadership responsibility for all state-funded construction projects.

Vice Chair, Committee on Education, including public elementary, middle and high schools, charter schools and the University of Hawaii, including community colleges.

Vice Chair, Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations & Military Affairs, including public safety and corrections, military and veterans affairs.

Member, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, including Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaiian Home Lands.

## Brigadier General Brad Sakai

Congratulations to my cousin, Braden Sakai, part of the first Mililani High School graduating class of 1977 and University of Hawaii alumnae. On May 8, 2012, in the Governor's ceremonial room, Hawaii's newest **Brigadier General Braden "Mongo" Sakai** was pinned by his wife, **Momi**, and Governor Neil Abercrombie. General Sakai commands the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard at Hickam Air Force Base.

Parents are **Gerald** and **Lois Sakai**, also of Mililani (pictured to Brad's right). To his left are his children **Dawn**, **Michelle** and **Brandon**. His sister **Shawn** and **General Joseph Kim** are pictured at far left. Awesome, cuz—so proud of you! Thank you for your many years of service to our state and country.

