

Senator Michelle Kidani

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Aloha, friends and neighbors:

The legislature has passed the half-way mark in the 60-day session; the Senate has passed its bills to the House and vice versa. Many bills considered at the beginning of the session have not survived as we narrow our focus and clarify our priorities.

The State Council on Revenues earlier this month had a bit of good news when it said its calculations show we may have more tax revenues this year than anticipated earlier. But it's not exactly a windfall, and the challenge will be to spend wisely to meet our obligations that have gone UN-funded for the past few years.

The Senate remains focused on generating jobs as quickly as possible through funding the huge backlog of repair and maintenance projects at our schools, libraries and other heavily-used public facilities. Our **Senate Bill 2012** - The Invest in Hawaii Act of 2012 - is now before the House Finance Committee, and we are urging serious and swift consideration of our approach so that we can get our workforce back to full employment

Meanwhile, my bill that would give our teachers a tax break for out-of-pocket purchases of classroom materials - **SB 2484** - was adopted in the House Education Committee and passed to the Finance Committee. Likewise, my bill that would give a tax break to employers who maintain insurance coverage for workers called to National Guard service - **SB 2489** - is also moving through its hearings process. I believe these kinds of "grass roots" bills can make a real difference for our families, our neighbors - and the business community - as we all try to make ends meet.

I welcome your thoughts on these and other matters, and encourage you to pay us a visit at the Capitol next time you're in town.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Celebrating An Important Anniversary

Earlier this month, the Senate marked the 40th anniversary of Title IX – the Patsy T. Mink Equality in Education Act – enacted into law in 1972 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. *(For more on the ceremony and our honorees, please turn to page three.)*



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

Leeward District Science and Engineering Fair

Waipahu High School well-represented at Leeward Science Fair

The best and brightest science students put their research projects on display at the 27th Leeward District Science and Engineering Fair in late February. All together, 96 students submitted 68 projects for review by judges, displaying a wide variety of interests from animal and plant sciences to biochemistry and environmental management. Teams from Waipahu, Pearl City, Kapolei and James Campbell High Schools demonstrated that science education deserves our full support. Our thanks to dedicated teachers and our students' families for encouragement and *kokua* through the school year.

Congratulations to Waipahu team members:

Kriztel Agpoon, Maryfer Bayudan, Hannah Beltran, Delzie Calucag, Krystyn Fernando, Taylor Fujiuchi, Renz-James Gay-Ya, Danten Inouye, Tyler Kriedler, Lorie Mangay-ayam, Alisha Manongdo, Brianna Martin, Kathrine Martin, Charmaine Ocampo, Kristel Rodillas, Kahealani Uehara, Richard Ugalde, Lauren Uson, Raychelle Valiente and Sheryl Anne Vermudez.



Richard Ugalde and Sheryl Anne Vermudez won the award for Top Team Research Project, and came away with a Grand Award—Third Place Overall for their biochemistry project. They won the Fair Director's Perpetual Trophy Award.

Earlier this month, I was invited to **Kaleiopu`u Elementary School** to read to sixth graders on **Read Across America Day**. I read the book *Hooway for Wodney Wat*, by Helen Lester, about someone who was being bullied in school. The story made an important point about respect and how we treat others in our daily lives.



Waipahu High School Remembers Milton Shishido



Friends, family and former co-workers of the late longtime Waipahu High School Principal **Milton S. Shishido** gathered at his former campus for a very special ceremony this week. They dedicated the WHS Administration and Counseling Building to his memory – recalling his service to the school from 1974-1997. When Mr. Shishido came to Waipahu High School just a few years after it relocated to the present campus, there were challenges with youth gang conflicts and racial tensions. Quickly, Mr.

Shishido worked with staff and the multi-cultural Waipahu community at large to open a dialog and create a positive learning environment for students – and the school has thrived.

I was pleased to be invited to the ceremony, along with Senator Mike Gabbard, and we joined Mrs. Jean Shishido and their son Cy for the photo at right. Although Mr. Shishido left WHS in 1997 for another assignment, there are still many people on the Waipahu campus who remember him with great respect and fondness. His legacy of leadership and public service will live on in the building that now bears his name.



At the Capitol...

Celebrating Title IX: Patsy Mink's Legacy

This year is the 40th anniversary of Title IX – the historic law that has impacted millions of lives since its enactment in 1972. In just 37 words, the law says:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Title IX succeeded in opening the doors to educational institutions for women who previously had few opportunities to study law, medicine, the sciences or other disciplines, sometimes even at the undergraduate level. The new law was also interpreted to include participation in intercollegiate athletics. And so if you have a sister, or niece, or daughter or granddaughter who is involved in organized sports at whatever level, you can thank Title IX. If you are a fan of the Wahine volleyball, softball or basketball teams – or any of the nine other women's sports teams at the University of Hawaii – you can thank Title IX.

Our commemoration of this anniversary in the Senate Chamber was part of Education Week activities at the Capitol. March is also Women's History Month, and we cannot, of course, talk about Title IX without remembering that it was authored by one of Hawaii's truly historic women leaders – the late Hawaii Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink. She represented our state's 2nd Congressional District for nearly a quarter century in Washington, DC, and just a few weeks after her sudden passing a decade ago, Title IX was renamed in her honor – The Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

I should note also that in subsequent years, the 270 acre sports complex bordered by Mililani, Waipio Gentry and Waikele – in my Senatorial District – was renamed the Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park as a tribute to the sports legacy of Title IX.



I authored certificates and coordinated the Title IX anniversary commemoration. All nine women members of the Senate posed with our five women honorees (identified on the front page) around a portrait of the late Congresswoman Mink, and members of her family joined us: Mrs. Mink's brother, Eugene Takemoto, to the right of the portrait; his daughter, Jo Ann Kagawa, the second person over to his left; and, at the far right in this picture, Eugene's wife, Frances Takemoto.

Capitol Visitors



Katrina Jimenez and Chaz Mihara from Waipio Gentry visited for Education Week and Government Day. These Pearl City High School students are part of a premiere youth leadership program in Hawaii for high school juniors and seniors, the Center for Tomorrow's

Leaders (CTL). Each year, CTL accepts about two dozen students from among hundreds of applicants. The focus is on emerging young leaders who can influence their generation and society for the highest good. As part of their state-of-the-art leadership training, Center participants have the opportunity to interact with leaders at the highest levels of government, business and the professions. You can find more information on the Web at www.centerfortomorrowleaders.org



Congratulations to the **Mililani High School Robotics Team** for their achievements in competitive events through November and December. The Team was at the Capitol during Education Week, and I was pleased to introduce them in the Senate Gallery during our regular session. After having won events in various categories, four MHS teams will go to a world championship competition in California.

Congratulations, Al Nishigaya - 2012 Kunia Orchid Show 2nd place display



The **58th Kunia Orchid Society Show** was staged at Leilehua High School's Kobayashi Gymnasium. I was pleased to donate a trophy that was awarded to **Al Nishigaya** for his elaborate Mini Japanese Teahouse Retreat—2nd place winner in the display category.



Photographs and an oil painting created by **Mililani High School students** are on display on the Chamber level of the State Capitol. This is a photo by senior **Amanda Olinger**, entitled *Misery*, inspired by scenes from the film *Moulin Rouge*. The display is for Youth Art Month and the 2nd Congressional District 2012 Kaha Ki'i Art Competition.



Offices in the State Capitol display artwork from the State-owned collection. At our annual Art at the Capitol evening open house, I was pleased to meet **Vicki Penny-Rohner**, the Big Island artist who created the picture that hangs in my personal office – her depiction of a rugged fence line in an area near Hawi – painted in oils on linen.