

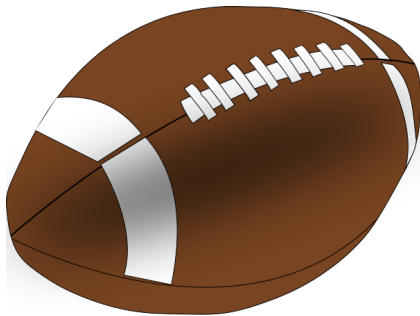


MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **CENTRAL VOICE** section on Wednesday, November 21, 2018.

Trojan teams at the top of their game

The fall sports season wraps up this month with football championships on the line. We are so proud of the Mililani Trojan Varsity Football Team as they head into the Open Division Championship game versus St. Louis later this week at Aloha Stadium.



Congratulations also go to the lady Trojan Volleyball Team that went undefeated through the OIA West Division One regular season. The girls made it to the State Championship Tournament where they recorded their only loss for the year – 15 wins and a single defeat, finishing on a winning note with a victory over Kahuku for 3rd place.

Mahalo to Head Football Coach Rod York and Head Girls Volleyball Coach Val Crabbe

and all of the players and their supportive families for giving us lots to cheer about through these last few months of 2018.

EMS station becomes a reality

Final preparations are under way for the grand opening of the city's new emergency services ambulance station in Waipio. EMS administration says that interior and exterior finishing touches are just about complete and furnishings, equipment and appliances were expected to be moved in by the end of November. We can look forward to beginning operations from the station in mid-December.



This is a City & County of Honolulu facility, but funding for this critical health services program on all islands comes from the state. To say that this has been a long

time coming is an understatement. One priority I focused on when first elected to the Senate ten years ago was necessary upgrades to emergency health services, knowing that major housing developments for Central and West Oahu were moving through the planning process. We broke ground for the project in early 2016, and now that design changes and contractor delays have finally been resolved, emergency response from the new center can begin.



We are about to begin year-end holiday celebrations with Thanksgiving this week and Christmas and New Year's just a few weeks away. My fondest hope is that you have much to be thankful for, and that you can enjoy the sentiments of the season among family and friends. At the same time, it is important that we remember those who for one reason or another have little to celebrate, and for whom we can do something through the gift of time as volunteers or donations to service organizations that do offer shelter and solace.

Happy Thanksgiving!