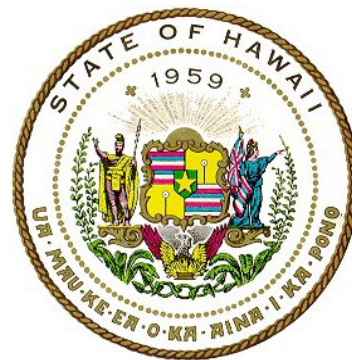




# SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI



## 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Serving Senate District 18 - Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Royal Kunia and Village Park*

Aloha friends and neighbors,

The legislative session just adjourned was especially productive, with bills passed and budget allocations approved to address critical state needs. This midyear newsletter, includes a list of measures that will affect virtually all Hawaii residents.

Budget discussions focused on adjustments to the second year of the two-year spending plan we adopted last year – the budget year that begins July 1, 2018. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, my priority has been on ways to support our students, teachers and principals to assure public schools provide a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for our *keiki*.

### Here are some highlights:

This year's budget includes more than \$900,000 for incentive bonuses for teachers who commit to hard-to-staff campuses; an additional \$400,000 in scholarship stipends for the UH College of Education/DOE **Grow Our Own** partnership that supports DOE substitute teachers, Education Assistants and emergency hires who wish to earn their teacher licenses; and \$1.1 million for an Alternative Teacher Certification Program for contract hire teachers, primarily from Teach For America. **Alternative Learning Centers** for at-risk students - like the Storefront school in Wahiawa under Director Colette Kajiwara and the program at Olomana School in Windward Oahu - will receive \$4.5 million, with a new Center to be built to serve the Nanakuli/Waianae area.

In addition, \$500,000 is allocated for **Early College** programs for high school students statewide and another \$500,000 will go to support English Language Learners. An additional \$850,000 will assist school athletic teams when they travel for competitive events.

### Here are some education bills that passed:

◇ **SB 2377** proposes transfer of City and County of Honolulu lands on which public elementary and middle schools are located to the Department of Education. This would allow schools greater flexibility to build or renovate and redesign facilities in creative ways. We have made sure to work closely with the Parks Department to ensure that schools adjacent to or containing park lands are addressed specifically in this bill for subdivision between DOE and Parks. It has never been the Senate's intention to take park lands from any community.

◇ **SB 2382** asks the State to survey vacant or underutilized facilities to determine if they might be available for use by public charter schools.

◇ **SB 2919** creates a pilot program to allow state libraries to lease their lands with revenues available to support the libraries' mission.

◇ **SB 3002** allows libraries to offer notary services with fees going to the libraries special fund.

◇ **HB 2354** increases the amounts for tax return check-off donation boxes to \$5 for individuals and \$10 for joint returns with proceeds going to the libraries special fund.

### **Will real property taxes be able to fully-fund our public schools?**

Both the Senate and the House overwhelmingly approved a measure that will offer Hawaii voters the opportunity to decide on an innovative way to create a source of significant new funding for public education. With the passage of **Senate Bill 2922**, a question on the ballot in November will ask if the State Constitution should be amended to create a tax surcharge on residential investment properties with proceeds going to our schools.

All other states nationwide fund their schools through property taxes; Hawaii property tax revenues currently go to the counties. If Hawaii voters approve the question on the ballot, lawmakers will return to the Capitol in January to work on details of the tax plan.

### **The Senate's intent is clear:**

◆ The homes that you own and live in will not be taxed; the focus will be only on residential *investment* properties.

◆ The Senate will not allow taxes on residential investment properties valued at *less* than \$1 million; the threshold could be even higher.

◆ Further, the amendment is not intended to tax any *commercial* properties – just residential properties.

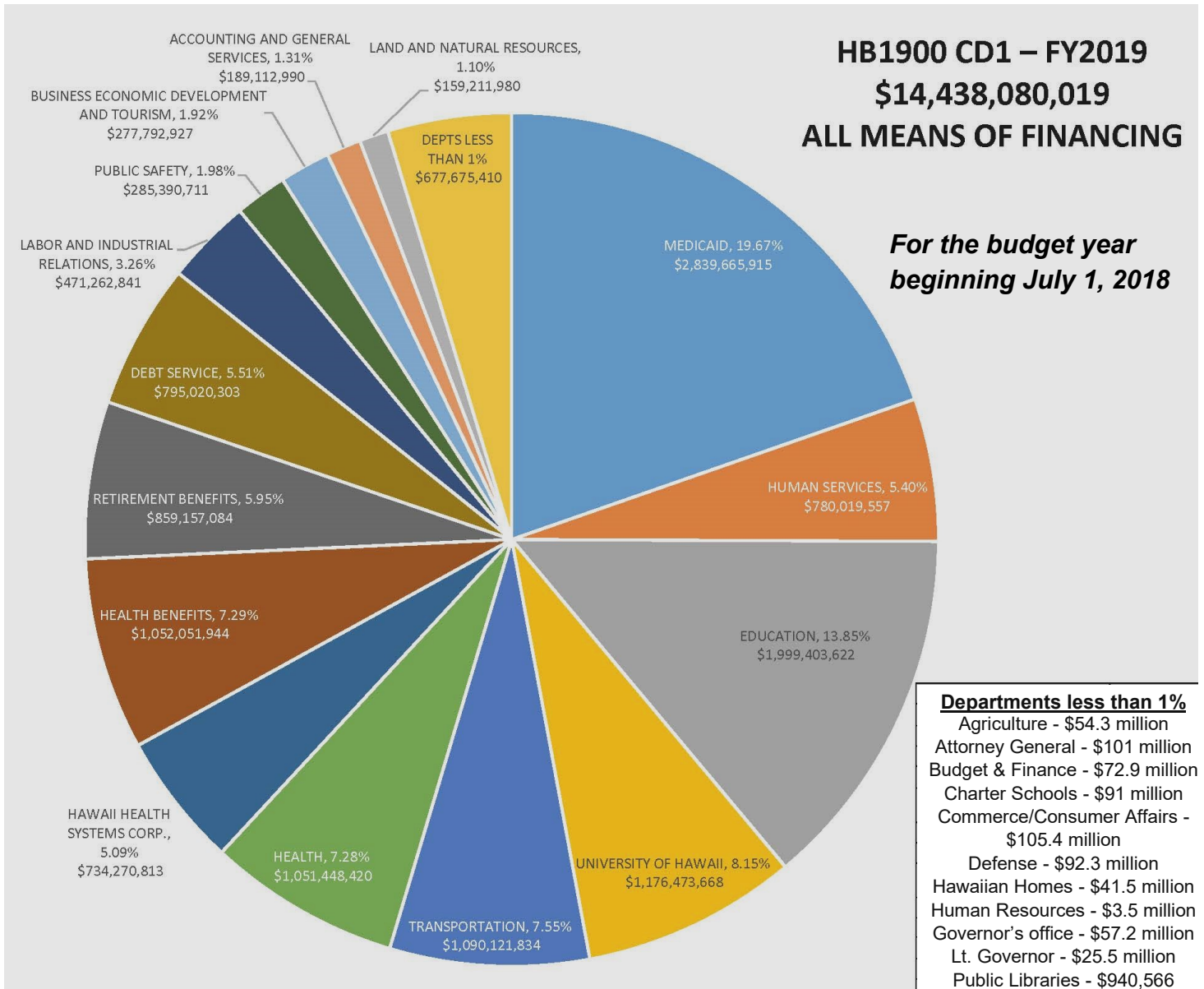
**Over the next several months, you will hear a lot more about this issue. Step one in the process is to vote yes on the State Constitutional amendment question that will be on the November ballot.**

Mahalo for your support over the past ten years. I look forward to working on your behalf in the years ahead.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

# 2018 Legislative Session in Review

The Legislature's budget for the year beginning July 1, 2018 authorizes spending of \$14.4 billion to fund state operating costs, including nearly \$2 billion for public education. The construction budget includes about \$800 million for DOE projects, several of which are in Senate District 18 as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Funds allocated for public schools remain the second largest category in the state budget, after programs in Human Services.



## Hawaii Farm to School lunches expand to Mililani schools



The Legislature supported the 'Aina Pono Farm to School lunch program with additional staff positions in the DOE and the Department of Agriculture. Meals prepared at Mililani High School with locally-produced fresh foods feed MHS students and are also transported to Mililani Uka and Mililani Waena elementary schools. The program buys foods from local farms to create healthy-choice menus. *It's a win for the farmers and for students!*

*At left, with MHS Student Body President Alyssa Yamada-Barretto at an 'Aina Pono kickoff event*



## Landmark Legislation from the 2018 session

### END-OF-LIFE CHOICES

**SB 2739** allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the freedom to make their own end-of-life decisions after consulting medical professionals.

### HOMELESSNESS

**SB 2041 & SB 2027** provide \$34.7 million for *ʻohana* zone homeless living areas, medical services to the homeless and for statewide coordination of these and other programs.

A \$200,000 **grant-in-aid** was approved for **Alea Bridge**, the non-profit organization based in Wahiawa that provides services to the homeless in Central Oahu (Mililani-Wahiawa-North Shore).

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\$200 million is allocated in the budget for the rental housing trust fund and an additional \$10 million for the dwelling unit revolving fund.

**HB 2748** provides certain tax exemptions for developers of affordable rental projects.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**SB 2571** is a first-in-the-nation ban on those sunscreens that contain ingredients harmful to coral reefs.

**SB 3095** bans the pesticide chlorpyrifos, a chemical said to have negative effects on the nervous system, and establishes 100-foot buffer zones around schools for use of some pesticides during school hours.

**HB 2182** reaffirms the state's commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change and expands the scope of a previous working group to develop detailed recommendations and plans for meeting environmental challenges.

### OTHER BILLS AND BUDGET ITEMS

**HB 1401** establishes a pilot program to test voting by mail on Kauai for the 2020 elections.

**HB 1489** is the “**Hawaii Title IX**” bill that bans discrimination in any state educational program or activity that receives state funds.

The budget includes \$850,000 for the DOE to expand training in **Title IX gender equity** issues.

**SB 2046** bans the import and sale of “bumpstock” rapid fire automatic weapon devices.

**SB 270** prohibits therapists from offering “conversion therapy” to gay youth in an attempt to change their sexual orientation.

**HB 1911** authorizes the State Department of Health (DOH) to investigate care facilities that appear to be operating without an appropriate license from the DOH.

The budget authorizes \$3.8 million for **Kupuna Care** programs and \$1.2 million for the **Kupuna Caregivers** fund.

Another \$7.1 million is allocated to increase payments to **foster caregivers**.

Review bills and testimony at: <http://capitol.hawaii.gov>



*The Senate of the Twenty-ninth Hawaii State Legislature*

**2018 Legislative Report**

**Here are some construction projects in the budget that affect families in Senate District 18:**

- ◇ **Mililani High School - \$5 million** for planning, design, construction and equipment for a girls athletics locker room
- ◇ **Waipahu High School - \$20.5 million** for a new classroom building
- ◇ **Kaleiopu`u Elementary - \$650,000** for renovation and expansion of the school cafeteria
- ◇ **Kanoelani Elementary - \$300,000** to increase the capacity of the cafeteria
- ◇ **Mililani Uka Elementary - \$1.5 million** for a portable restroom building for first graders
- ◇ **UH West Oahu - \$5 million** for renovation and other construction at the campus center and library

I am also pleased to note that just this month, the state has released funds for the new classroom building at **Mililani Middle School**. The \$21.4 million allocation will allow construction to begin for a 15-classroom building to accommodate the large student enrollment at MMS. This will make it possible for the school to transition away from the current multi-track instructional calendar to the more manageable traditional calendar with a summer break.

The plan has involved a land transaction with the City and County of Honolulu, a complex multi-year transition timetable, and agreements among several state and city agencies. Mahalo to **Mayor Caldwell** and the City Parks Department, my colleague **Senator Donovan Dela Cruz**, and especially **MMS Principal Elynne Chung**, her staff and the Mililani Middle `Ohana for their hard work to make this plan a reality.

**2018 Photo Gallery**



Smiling faces & jubilant families – all building hopes and dreams. Scenes from the Spring UH West Oahu commencement ceremony when more than 300 graduates received diplomas & certificates. The campus continues to grow as a point of pride for our central and leeward Oahu communities.



A huge turnout at a town hall meeting heard emergency management leaders discuss the January false missile alert. We continue to monitor warning system plans and upgrades.

The Friends of the Library of Hawaii selected me as their Legislator of the Year for my support of public library improvements. My Committee on Education approved added support for these important community resources.



The remarkable success of Waipahu High School's Early College program allowed a dozen members of the Marauder Class of 2018 to receive their Associate in Arts degrees from Leeward Community College BEFORE they received their high school diplomas. Great work, everyone!



**Waipahu High School Early College 'Olympians'**

From left, Crezel Alegado, Shuntle Maneja, Edna Mae Felix, Elisha Ramones, Leanne Villanueva, Sharmaine Allas, Jillian Panganiban, David Ballesteros-Brown, Rovy Dipaysa, Lorainne Hernandez, Jaylynn Subia and WHS Principal Keith Hayashi. Not pictured: Kristine Acosta. In back at left, WHS Early College director Mark Siliman.