



SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI



2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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

Aloha friends and neighbors,

I am pleased to provide you with this comprehensive summary of our 2016 legislative session that adjourned in early May. This was the second year in the Legislature's 2-year budget cycle, so the focus was not so much on new programs as it was on review of budgets for possible adjustments in the second fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016.

One major exception, of course, was the major commitment of \$100 million we have made to provide air conditioning and other heat abatement systems for as many as 1,000 public school classrooms across the state. **Mililani Ike and Mililani Mauka Elementary and Mililani Middle Schools** are fortunate to already have central air conditioning systems, and because Leeward and West Oahu have much warmer classrooms, these are the high-priority schools. **Waipahu High School and Waipahu Intermediate** will be among the campuses for new a/c and energy systems from the funding we approved last month. As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, with oversight of public schools statewide, my Senate colleagues and I acted decisively to make sure this critical issue was given our full support. We are assured that the DOE is working quickly to follow through on our commitment to cool our classrooms.

As a strong advocate for early education, I am pleased that the budget includes the sum of **\$10 million for the Pre-school Open Doors program**, and that additional support positions for the Executive Office on Early Learning were approved as well. We must make good on the Legislature's promise to establish pre-K programs for as many youngsters as we can, as so many other states have done as an investment in the future of Hawaii's *keiki*.

The Education Committee reviewed dozens of bills that seek to improve our schools and address issues of concern among students, teachers and administrators. The overall education budget for this year totals \$2 billion - 15 percent of state expenditures - the second largest commitment of state funds behind the \$3.3 billion for the Department of Human Services.

One issue that we all worked very hard to address would have amended the state's ethics laws to resolve issues for teachers who accompany students on educational trips. My Senate colleagues and I were ready to pass this important bill, but House conferees killed it by not showing up to vote. One House member expressed hope that the Ethics Commission would re-examine their earlier position on this matter. I duly noted my disappointment that we must continue to rely on 'opinion' rather than statute. In an effort to support student travel, we did include \$400,000 in the education budget to establish a fund that teachers can use for travel for these important off-campus education experiences.

Aside from the education bills that I focused on, the Legislature approved funds to help address the growing challenge of **affordable housing and Hawaii's homeless** population – identified as the top concern of Hawaii residents in the widely publicized Hawaii Poll as our session began. The budget includes \$91 million to subsidize development of affordable rental homes, and \$12 million in unrestricted funds that the Governor may use for such things as the Housing First initiative, repairs to public housing units that are currently vacant, homeless outreach services, rent subsidies and a possible new shelter facility in Kakaako.

My colleagues agreed with me that there is public interest in an **inter and intra-island ferry system**. **SB 2618** provides funding to look at a state-funded system or whether public-private partnerships might be created to resolve this issue once and for all. We'll hear back from the Department of Transportation about this in time for the next legislative session.

Funds have also been allocated for a number of construction projects in Senate District 18 and surrounding neighborhoods. These include our schools and a community nonprofit organization that is a source of pride and an important reminder of our plantation heritage:

- ◇ **\$500,000** for a new portable classroom at **Waipio's Kanoelani Elementary**
- ◇ **\$5.5 million** for campus improvements at **Waipahu High School**, including planning and design for a new building
- ◇ **\$35 million** for a Creative Media facility at **UH West Oahu**
- ◇ **\$11.5 million** for plans and design for a 15 classroom building to allow **Mililani Middle School** to transition from the current multi-track schedule to the conventional school year calendar
- ◇ **\$2 million** for parking lot and improved handicap access at **Mililani High School**
- ◇ **\$760,000** for erosion control at **Mililani Uka Elementary**
- ◇ **\$200,000** for renovation of plantation structures at **Waipahu's Hawaii Plantation Village**

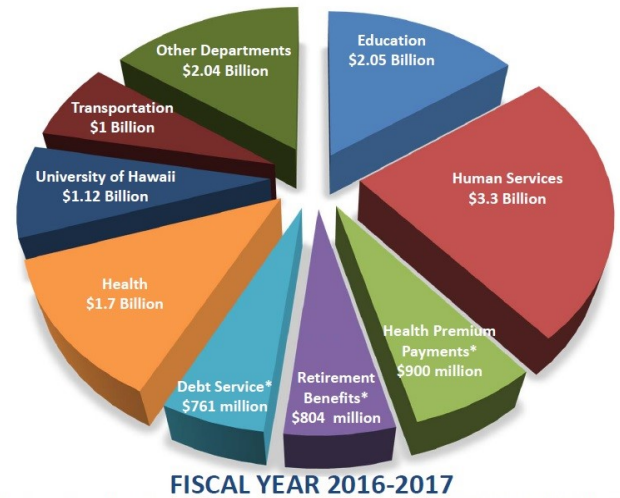
Finally, look for a photo gallery on the back page that includes highlights from the Capitol and the first half of the year in our schools and communities. My staff and I look forward to opportunities to serve your needs as we prepare for the 2017 session. I hope that you and your families are able to enjoy some leisure time during the summer months, and I wish you good health and a warm Aloha.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

2016 Legislative Session in Review

State lawmakers passed more than 270 bills that address the wide range of needs and concerns of Hawaii residents during the 2016 Session of the 28th Legislature. They cover issues from education and homelessness, to housing and health care, and bills that help to grow our economy. Below is a summary of some of the bills passed this session. To view the full text of bills, go to the Legislative website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

STATE BUDGET - HB 1700 adjusts the 2017 budget funding for operations and capital improvement projects to \$13.7 billion in State spending. Includes \$31.5 million provided for the state to purchase prime agricultural lands between Wahiawa and Waiialua from Dole Foods to lease to farmers for local food production; \$12 million for homeless programs which provide the opportunity to change ways the State deals with homelessness; \$23.9 million for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; \$81.9 million to pay down the unfunded liability for public workers and retiree health benefits that the state must pay in the years ahead; \$10 million for the Preschool Open Doors program; and \$150 million for the State's "Rainy Day" budget reserve fund. The budget also eliminated vacant positions in a number of departments for savings of \$1.5 million in general funds.



*Debt service, retirement benefits, and health premium payments are budgeted under the Department of Budget and Finance.

EDUCATION

Cool the Schools - SB 3126 appropriates \$100 million to install air conditioning and other heat abatement measures in public school classrooms to promote the health and safety of students and teachers, and to provide a more comfortable and productive learning environment. This was a priority for the Education Committee.

Digital learning resources - SB 2607 establishes limits on the ways in which DOE and its contractors may use student data collected as part of online services; HB 2267 amends current laws regarding funding for textbooks to include digital instructional materials such as e-books and other documents that are supplementing or replacing physical textbooks.

American Sign Language - SB 2981 recognizes ASL as a world language and would allow public school students who successfully complete ASL instruction courses to receive credit toward language requirements.

Insulin Assistance - HB 2494 authorizes Department of Education employees to volunteer to administer or assist a student with blood glucose monitoring.

Teacher training - HB 1814 provides funding for one position to train teachers on student restraint or seclusion, the result of several highly publicized incidents at schools including Kipapa Elementary.

Impact fees - SB 2731 clarifies that even affordable housing projects must pay school impact fees, and expands permitted uses of impact fee funds for the urban Honolulu impact fee district to include purchasing/renovating existing structures and leasing land or facilities.

Sexual Harassment - HB 2772 adopts the preliminary recommendation of the affirmative consent task force including requiring the University of Hawaii to train employees and students on sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking policies.

COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Disciplining Doctors - SB 2675 authorizes the Board of Dental Examiners, Hawaii Medical Board, Board of Nursing, and Board of Pharmacy to deny a license to an applicant or impose disciplinary action against licensees disciplined by another state or federal agency.

Jury Duty - SB 2315 exempts from jury duty a woman who is breastfeeding for a period of two years from the birth of the child.

Voter Registration - HB 1055 requires on an application to register to vote, a Hawaii driver's license number or a Hawaii state identification card number or, if no license or identification card has been issued, the last four digits of the applicant's social

security number. If the applicant does not have a social security number, the bill requires an election official or county clerk to assign the applicant a unique number for voter registration purposes. Takes effect on January 1, 2018.

Organic Food Production Credit - HB 1689 establishes an organic foods production tax credit of up to \$50,000 for farmers, ranchers, and producers seeking to obtain organic certification starting on January 1, 2017.

HEALTH

STD Screenings - HB 1897 ensures that all insurers in the State provide insurance coverage for sexually transmitted disease screenings, including HIV and AIDS.

Health Department Inspections - SB 2384 requires the Department of Health to conduct unannounced visits and inspections for state-licensed or state-certified care facilities beginning July 1, 2019, and medical marijuana production centers and dispensaries beginning July 1, 2016.

Medical Marijuana - HB 2707 amends Hawaii's medical marijuana law to ensure the efficient and responsible operation of medical marijuana dispensaries and to better clarify dispensary provisions including data, dispensary tax exemptions, transport and testing. The bill also allows advanced practice registered nurses to certify patients for medical marijuana use.

HEALTH (continued)

Drug Overdose – SB 2392 takes steps to reduce opioid-related drug overdoses in the State by encouraging the use of opioid antagonists to assist individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

Birth Control - SB 2319 requires health insurers in the State, including health benefits plans under the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund and Medicaid managed care programs, to cover reimbursement for contraceptive supplies intended to last for up to a twelve-month period for an insured person.

Homeless Mental Health - SB 2560 requires and appropriates \$500,000 for the Department of Health to provide treatment and care for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges as a part of its comprehensive mental health system.

TRANSPORTATION

Ferry System - SB 2618 provides funding to study whether it is feasible to establish inter- and intra-island ferry systems.

Highways - HB 2086 reluctantly appropriates and deposits \$37 million into the state highway fund as a subsidy to continue certain highway maintenance and capital improvement projects and ensure funding for emergency repairs. The bill addresses recent past practices and unsound budgetary practices by requiring the Governor to provide a plan to sustain the state highway fund.

Mopeds - HB 1753 requires registration, inspections, and number plates for all mopeds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sex Assault Kits - HB 1907 requires all law enforcement all agencies and departments charged with maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault evidence collection kits to conduct an inventory of all stored kits and report to the Attorney General. It requires the Attorney General to report to the Legislature on the number of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits being stored, and on plans and procedures for the disposition of new and untested kits, and related information.

Stalking - HB 625 specifies that harassment by stalking and sexual assault are among the offenses that disqualify a person from owning, possessing, or controlling any firearm or ammunition.

Release Offenders - HB 2391 addresses the problem of overcrowding of jails by authorizing the Director of Public Safety to release pretrial or convicted misdemeanor offenders to relieve overcrowding in Hawaii jails. People who have been arrested for a violent crime or whose bail is set at more than \$5,000 are not eligible for release.

Sex Trafficking - HB 1902 creates the offense of sex trafficking where a person advances prostitution by the use of force, threat, fraud, or intimidation or where a minor is prostituted. Sex Trafficking is classified as a violent crime and a class A felony.

Homeless Shelters – SB 2559 makes available more emergency and transitional shelter space by establishing minimum requirements for emergency shelters and transitional shelter space and establishing positions and funds to assist in the operation of the homeless program.

Gun Checks – SB 2954 authorizes county police departments to enroll firearms applicants and individuals who are registering their firearms into a criminal record monitoring service used to alert police when an owner of a firearm is arrested for a criminal offense anywhere in the country.

ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife Protection - SB 2647 addresses the trafficking of animals facing extinction by prohibiting the sale, purchase, trade, possession with intent to sell, or barter any part or product from various animal and marine species.

Water Rights - HB 2501 requires that where an application has been made for a lease to continue a previously authorized disposition of water rights, a holdover may be authorized annually until the pending application for the disposition of water rights is finally resolved or for a total of three consecutive one-year holdovers, whichever occurs sooner.

Rapid `Ohi`a Death - HB 2675 provides \$300,000 for research to combat rapid `ohi`a death.

Water Pollution - HB 2030 prohibits the discharge of treated or raw sewage into state waters after 2026 except when used for a beneficial purpose as provided by law.

Cesspools – SB 3084 amends the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection income tax credit by making it available for cesspools within a tax map key area in which more than one residence is connected to a large-capacity cesspool.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Manufacturing - SB 3109 appropriates \$1 million for the High Technology Development Corporation manufacturing development program to assist companies with qualified manufacturing expenses.

Technology - SB 3110 appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide \$2 million in grants to assist small businesses conducting innovative research with their efforts toward commercialization and promoting manufacturing.

VETERANS

Korean Conflict Veterans - SB 2256 authorizes issuance of driver's licenses with the notation of "veteran" for persons who are veterans of the Korean conflict and who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Korea, who fought under the command of the United Nations led by the United States during the Korean conflict and are currently U.S. citizens.

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Committee on Education

Vice Chair, Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health

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2016 Photo Gallery

2016 Teachers of the Year



During the legislative session, *Education Week at the Capitol* recognizes administrators, teachers, and outstanding public school students. We are so proud that our schools in Senate District 18 are among the state's finest.



Waipahu High science teacher **Michael Sana**, Hawaii's 2016 Milken Educator; **Lynn Yoshioka**, Mililani Middle School – Central District Teacher of the Year.

Waipahu High Principal **Keith Hayashi** was recognized for his leadership and initiatives – named as one of Hawaii's leaders to watch in the next 20 years by *Hawaii Business Magazine*. Waipahu High students from the **Culinary Arts and Hospitality and Tourism Academies** (at right) helped us observe Tourism Day at the Capitol. The Marauder Class of 2016 (below right) included more valedictorians than ever before, and dozens and dozens of grads who have already earned college credits in the Early College program.



Mahalo to all those people in the Trojan Nation for support through the years . . . Mililani High School Class of 2016



Facing forward . . . Waipahu High School Class of 2016

For the third year in a row, *US News & World Report* named Mililani the **number one public high school in Hawaii**. This year's senior class lists 56 valedictorians who maintained a 4.0 grade point average or better. **Waipahu High School** had a record high 18 valedictorians on stage at commencement ceremonies, with 143 seniors - more than a quarter of the class - receiving diplomas who also earned early college credits. Such successes would not be possible without a team of committed teachers and administrators, all dedicated to their students, along with family support from our wonderfully diverse communities.

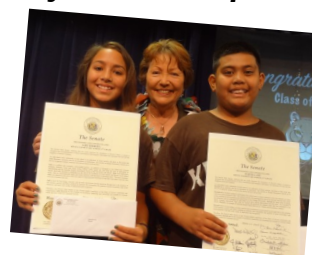
Saluting our Elementary School Super Students



Alan Carrillo-Cobian
Kanoelani: Sara Kaneshige



Kaleiopu`u: Amber O'Neal and Mia Elin Herradura



Kipapa: Jade Herrera and Darnell Joe



Mililani Uka: Haylie Paige Olivas and Jada Hoopii



Mililani Waena: Audrey Auna and Ty Wakahiro

As the school year ends, I ask that elementary schools in my district identify two outstanding 5th or 6th graders. Each honoree receives a certificate of congratulations from the Senate and a gift card to use as she or he wishes. Here are the **Super Students** recognized at honors assemblies this year. **Great work, everyone!**