

Senator Michelle Kidani

(D) Senate District 18 – Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Aloha friends and neighbors,

It's always gratifying to see projects funded by the Legislature move from concept to reality. The State has released funds and awarded contracts for the following work that will proceed over the next several months:

Release of funds:

- **\$355,000** - to add an additional left-turn lane from Lumiaina Street in **Waikele** onto Kamehameha Highway

- **\$550,000** - **Waipahu Elementary School** - for construction of a paved overflow parking lot and to refurbish the school's play court which has deteriorated because it's been used for overflow parking
- **\$300,000** - **Mililani Middle School** - for resurfacing the parking lot

Award of contracts:

- **\$782,000** to MJ Construction for upgrades to science facilities at **Mililani Middle School**
- **\$470,000** to MJ Construction for a classroom adapted to special needs students at **Mililani High School**
- **\$227,777** to HSI Mechanical to replace the library air conditioning system at **Kaleiopuu Elementary School**
- **\$289,568** to Allied Pacific Builders for covered walkways at **Kanoelani Elementary School**

Update: Little Fire Ant Eradication

The Department of Agriculture has been aggressively treating properties in Mililani Mauka where the invasive little fire ant has become established. In spite of storm-related foul weather, 100 percent of the residential lots and the gulch/greenway area were treated with pesticides, including some taller trees at residences. Ant bait has also been scattered, and the DOA advises that the ant population should continue to decline significantly. DOA has extended thanks to Mililani Town Association for keeping the grass trimmed in the affected areas, especially to provide access paths for department work crews, for making meeting rooms available and for assistance in passing along information to help with eradication and containment efforts.

In collaboration with the DOA control program, residents who have ant samples they wish to submit or identify may drop them off at Rec Center 6 - no live ants, please - just frozen ants in a zip lock or other sealed container. This is a true whole-community commitment to make sure these pests don't spread any further.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Oahu residents have an opportunity learn more about reading disabilities and how to cope with them at a series of three Saturday morning workshops in September and October. They are being conducted by the Hawaii Branch of the International Dyslexia Association in collaboration with the Mililani campus of Wayland Baptist University on Ainamauka Drive.

Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects about 15 percent of Americans in all walks of life. Strategies have been developed to help children, teens and adults overcome struggles in school or in the workplace; the coming workshops will provide valuable tools and information about coping.

- **September 6** – **When Children Struggle to Read:** An overview of language-based reading difficulties and what works best to deal with them.
- **September 20** – **Dyslexia Simulations (Interactive Workshops):** Hands-on learning stations to demonstrate challenge with which dyslexic people deal everyday.
- **October 4** – **Help & Support for Struggling Readers:** Strategies, tips and resources from community experts.

All sessions begin at 9 a.m. For additional information and registration call Margaret Higa at 538-7007 or email: mhiga@dyslexia-hawaii.org.



Contact: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 Phone: (808) 586-7100; e-mail: SenKidani@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
Visit Senator Kidani's Legislative Web site : <http://capitol.hawaii.gov> - click on Senate and then Members

In Our Communities . . .



Students and faculty at **Leeward Community College** are beginning the fall semester with a spectacular new addition to the campus. The LCC Education Building was officially dedicated last week to complete nearly 20 years of moving the concept to reality.

Addressing a critical teacher shortage - especially in Hawaii's West Oahu and Leeward public schools - was identified as a priority in the LCC Long Range Development Plan in the 1990s. The addition of this new 24,000 square foot classroom, office and student resource center provides LCC with vastly expanded capability to help meet that need. Funding for construction in the amount of \$20 million was appropriated in the 2011 Legislative session, and *Ka `Imi `Ike* now stands as a model for future UH projects in the use of environment-friendly design elements, qualifying it for LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. (Photos courtesy of LCC)



Congratulations to the newest Eagle Scouts from Mililani's Troop 664. From Left, **Scoutmaster Mark Matsuo** with Eagle Scouts **Kendall Hamasaki, Mason Matsuo and Ben Takami**.



A new permanent office for the Waikēle Community Association opened last month on Pakela Street. *At left*, I presented the Senate's congratulations to the Association's President **Malcolm Ching** at the open house event.



Senator David Ige joined members of the Japanese Women's Society Foundation at the celebration of the service organization's 60th anniversary. Standing in the back row with me, *from left*, current JWSF President **Ann Kobayashi** and **Senator Ige**. Seated in the front row are three of the original JWSF founders: *from left*, **Elizabeth Russell, Rose Kamuri Shigemura** and **Lillian Yajima**. A fourth Founding Member – **Mariko Sumida** – was also honored, but was unable to attend the program.

Mililani High Valedictorian awarded Hispanic Caucus National Scholarship

Isis Usborne – a proud member of the Mililani Class of 2014 – has been named one of only eleven students nationwide to receive the John S. Martinez Scholarship from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislatures (NHCSL). Isis compiled an extraordinary academic and public service record during her years at MHS; her hard work and dedication has been rewarded. The scholarship is awarded to students of Hispanic descent who attend schools in the districts of legislators who are also of Hispanic ethnicity – in this case Mililani High in districts represented by myself and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz. We are both of Puerto Rican heritage and are both active members of the National Hispanic Caucus. Isis will use her \$3,000 award to help cover expenses as she enrolls at UH Manoa this fall.

