

**Senator Michelle Kidani**  
**Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature**

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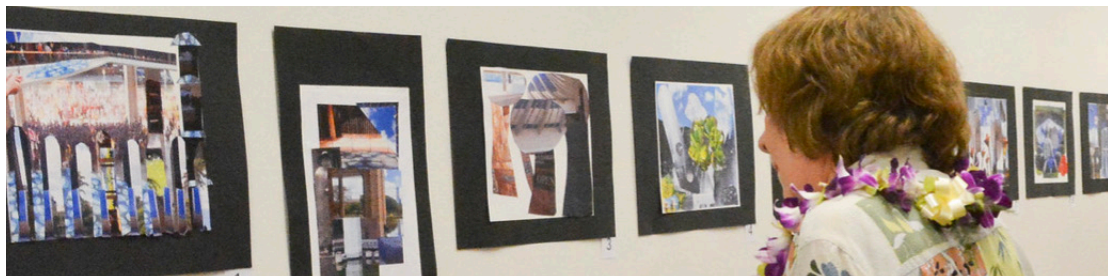


Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Easter! The arrival of the spring season celebrates the closing of one chapter and beginning of another. It is a time for renewal, reflection and clarity. Spring also represents an exciting time for creative expression here in Hawai'i as students and state prepare for upcoming May Day celebrations where art, hula and music shine. The pinnacle of this artistic excellence will be seen this week on the world stage in Hilo with the arrival of the Merrie Monarch Festival competition, deemed the "Olympics of Hula" and garnering global spectators who watch captivated online.

Spring transitions one cycle to the next, as graduations and the end of the legislative session draws near. It is with great pride that we continue to work together as leaders to represent the voice of the people and honor the needs of our community. We are eager to share the recent status updates on bills intended to positively impact local families throughout the state to create a safe and nurturing environment for all to thrive.

**ART AT THE CAPITOL**



In celebration of the State Capitol's 50th anniversary, the 11th annual Art at the Capitol event on April 5 honored local artists as well as the momentous birthday of the the Capitol and it's historical significance in Hawai'i. Lawmakers opened their doors and welcomed community members who took pause to reflect upon the artful details of the building and connect over the talent in Hawai'i's art scene. Of the many beloved pieces featured, "Halawa Ruins" by Anthony Martie (pictured above) is noted as a fan favorite. Photos above include showcase community members enjoying the works of local artists at the event. Photos by Senate Majority

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## JACKIE YOUNG MEMORIAL SERVICE



A memorial service for former state lawmaker Jackie Young was held on March 31st to honor her life and legacy. Young was the first woman elected to the state House in 1992 and the first woman to hold the title of vice speaker for the House. She was known as a civil rights advocate and champion for women and Native Hawaiians. We are deeply grateful for her passion, service and the profound impact her leadership has had upon the state of Hawai'i.

## HSAA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Hawaii Student Activities Association is eager to partner with the 2019 Student Leadership Conference, offering a pre-conference networking event on June 12th for attending students and chaperones to connect with others as they prepare to lead their student body into the 2019 school year. For more information or to register for the event, visit: <http://hssc808.weebly.com/slc-2019-precon.html>

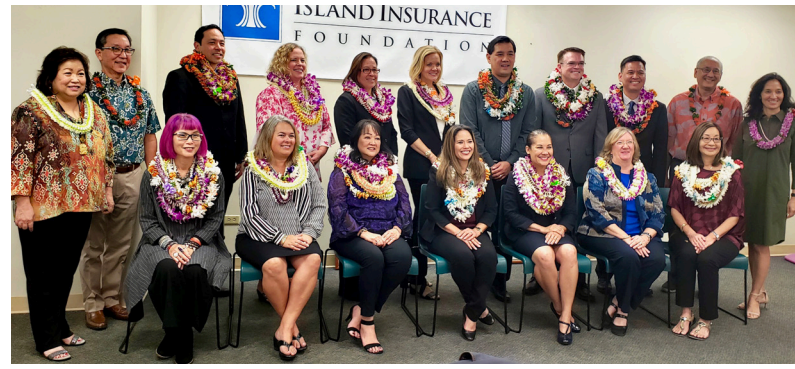
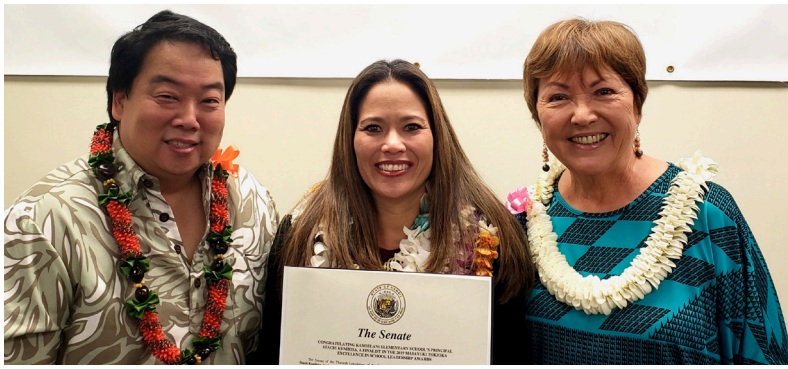
## FRIDAY NIGHT PRIME TIME



April 12th celebrated Friday Night Prime Time, the 4th annual high school basketball tournament for special needs and at-risk students. Waipahu High School hosted the momentous occasion this year, with the Waipahu High School cheerleaders and bleachers full of family and friends there to support the home team and Moanalua student athletes. Founded by Dean of the UH College of Education, Nathan Murata, the event serves as an opportunity for these students to participate in an interscholastic-sanctioned event to compete and win just like their peers. Photos by Cindy Ellen Russell for Star Advertiser



# MASAYUKI TOKIOKA EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARDS



The 2019 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership awards recognized some of Hawaii's finest educators on April 22nd. Principals and educators were recognized by the Island Insurance Foundation, including Kanoelani Elementary School principal Stacie Kunihisa, who earned the top honor and a grand prize of \$25,000. Kunihisa received high praise for providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as establishing a supportive, nurturing environment for students and staff to thrive. Congratulations to all of these inspiring educators for their leadership! Photos from Senator Kidani

## WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL GLAM JAM



April welcomed prom season for high school students throughout the state, and on April 18th Senator Kidani was excited to support students from Waipahu High School in the second annual Glam Jam event. Students were provided hair and makeup glam sponsored by Sephora makeup artists & hair stylists as they prepared for their senior prom. Mahalo nui to UH West O'ahu for providing a venue at the Naulu Center, Sephora for lending their talents and glam masters, the Village Park Association for their generous refreshments, Mona Tavares & Makeup Mafia for sponsoring picture perfect lashes, as well as to the Honolulu Chinese Jaycees volunteers who made this such a successful event and helped create special memories for these well-deserved seniors! Photos by Danicia Honda





*We are now in the month of April which means we have started Conference Committee. Conference is where bills that have passed in both the House and the Senate have the final details worked out and agreed upon. For more information on these bills, additional updates and more, visit the Senate website at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> Bills that are significant heading into conference are:*

### **SB1515 SD1 HD1 - HAWAI'I THREE TO SIX OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM (KIDANI)**

DOE to establish the Hawai'i three to six out-of-school program for grades kindergarten through twelve, to be conducted during after-school hours, on weekends, and during inter-sessions. All public schools, including charter schools, may participate in and be eligible for funding through the program. SB1515 will establish and fund Hawai'i three-to-six program through special funds. The bill aims to provide a single funding source for after school programs throughout the state as many programs that are offered by community organizations are very costly and inaccessible due to high demand and lack of available programs. After school programs can provide a safe, structured, and valuable learning environment for children while also helping working parents retain their jobs. SB1515 will be going to conference and Senator Kidani looks forward to moving this bill out.

### **SB966 SD1 HD1 – MILILANI TECHNOLOGY PARK (KIDANI)**

Requires the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation to enter into negotiations to acquire the properties identified as Tax Map Keys: (1) 9-5-046:041 and (1) 9-5-046:042, parcels that are within or near Mililani Technology Park, to facilitate the redevelopment of those parcels for community benefit. Mililani Tech Park parcel would be used to create a much needed creative and performing arts stage for the Central Oahu community. Parcel would also be of use to the neighboring First Responder Tech Park. Senator Kidani is hopeful that the House will assign conferees to this bill so that this parcel can be put to use for our central O'ahu community. The Senate has already named Senator Kidani and three other Senators as conferees.

### **HB89 HD2 SD1 – FIREWORKS BILL**

HB89 as it relates to fireworks, was amended in committee to insert the language found in Senator Kidani's SB1305. She had a great meeting with HPD Chief Susan Ballard and Deputy Police Chief John McCarthy on the importance of passing a bill to make a difference in the use of illegal fireworks in our community.

### **SB1009 SD2 HD2 – BANNING FLAVORED E-CIGS**

The growing number of underage youth using e-cigarettes has become a dire concern. This bill seeks to limit flavors that attract youth to starting a nicotine habit with flavors like gummy bear and cotton candy. This bill is awaiting a hearing by House finance.

### **SB216 SD2 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

In the interest of preserving the integrity of our elections process the Legislature is moving SB216 that would require recounts in close races. SB216 SD2 recalls a mandatory recount of votes when the margin of victory is less than 100 votes or one half of one percent of the votes cast, whichever is greater. In light of our most recent special election results this bill is especially important to ensure that everyone's vote is counted.

### **HB1383 HD2 SD1 – MARIJUANA DECRIM OF 3 GRAMS**

This bill aims to decriminalize the possession of 3 grams or less and establishes possession as a violation punishable by \$30 as well as ensuring prior records expunged. Creates task force to make recommendations on marijuana use penalties for the State. We'll be continuing the conversation around this bill as conference committee gets underway.