



SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

JULY 2022 – *Serving Mililani Town, Waipio Gentry, Waikele, Village Park & Royal Kunia*

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

In the weeks since the close of the 2022 Legislative Session, I have been proud to see the fruits of our labor set into action with the official signing of significant bills by the Governor in the past month. One in particular, of course, has been a historic milestone for our keiki. On June 20, 2022, I joined fellow legislators and advocates to witness the official signing of the [Menstrual Equity Bill](#). It was a powerful example of democracy to see the hard work of our advocates, some of whom were teachers and students themselves, relish in their success. Thanks to the efforts of these community leaders, their advocacy also provided an invaluable experience for students to learn about their state government.

Other important bills that the Governor signed into law this month were several education-related bills, including [HB2000](#) appropriating funds to the school facilities authority, expanding access to Pre-K for eligible keiki, [SB2182](#) establishing a school garden coordinator position within the DOE, [SB2818](#) establishing a summer learning coordinator position within the DOE, [SB2862](#) appropriating funds to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms, and [HB1561](#) establishing a workforce readiness program which will provide students with opportunities to earn associate degrees, workforce development diplomas, pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates. These bills mark remarkable strides within education that will bring necessary changes to the DOE on behalf of our keiki and local families.

Support for women and keiki continued throughout the month with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Passed on June 23, 1972, this landmark legislation for gender equity transformed our schools and universities throughout the country by prohibiting educational institutions from receiving federal funds if they discriminated on the basis of sex in admissions, recruitment, financial aid, housing, or athletics. Joined by honored speakers First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker and Associate Justice Sabrina S. McKenna and co-sponsored by the Hawai'i Women's Legislative Caucus, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Zonta Club of Leilehua & University of Hawai'i, we celebrated 50 years since the passage of the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. I have been personally impacted by Patsy's life and legacy, and I know that the world is truly a better, more just place because of her dedication to the rights of women and pursuit of gender equality.

Legislators returned to the State Capitol for a short, Special Session for the confirmation of several judicial nominees, at which time we welcomed new district judges to the bench. Since then, I have been engaged within the district. It is wonderful to welcome summer with my constituents, attending community events and seeing local families enjoying the break to the fullest! I wish you all a safe, relaxing and wonderful summer season!



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Holly Young and I celebrating the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX. Holly is the talented artist who created this incredible bronze statue of Patsy T. Mink, which stands proudly in front of the Hawaii State Library as a tribute to her tremendous contributions to women and education.

Head to [My Official Capitol Web Page](#) for a complete archive of my monthly newsletters

SIGNING THE MENSTRUAL EQUITY BILL

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our advocates, supporters and fellow lawmakers, the health and future of Hawai'i's students will never again be negatively impacted by menstrual inequity. With the signing of [SB2821](#), we ensured \$2M in our State budget to pay for well-needed menstrual products (provided free of charge) for students in all DOE schools throughout the state, beginning August 1st. I am so grateful for the tireless efforts of Ilima Intermediate School teacher Sarah "Mili" Milianta-Laffin, her passionate students, and Ma'i Movement leaders, (sisters) Nikki-Ann Yee, Jamie Kapana, and Brandy-Lee Yee, as well as all who have supported this bill for their hard work and commitment! Here are a few captures from this historic day:



SIGNING WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS BILLS

On July 6th, Governor Ige joined the members of the Women's Legislative Caucus, as well as members of the Judiciary and Hawaii Prison Project at YWCA Laniakea, to sign five critical new bills focused on gender equity in education and the criminal justice system into law. Of these bills, [SB2637](#) gained tremendous support, appropriating \$1M to the Department of Public Safety and ensuring the continuation of the State's community-based work furlough program, Fernhurst, which helps women reenter society after incarceration. Additionally, the following bills were signed into law: [HB1775](#) which requires annual reporting to the Legislature regarding Title IX cases and providing \$350K for employee equity training for DOE schools; [SB2641](#) appropriating \$200K for residential programs allowing minors to remain with mothers while participating in community-based furlough programs, drug treatment, therapeutic community, and mental health programs, to reduce the risk of trauma and multigenerational incarceration; [HB2312](#) appropriating \$10K for the establishment of a Women's Corrections Implementation Commission in the Judiciary; and [HB2421](#) creating a three-year pilot program for a Women's Court in the First Circuit and appropriating over \$695K for Judiciary implementation and positions.

