

SENATE DISTRICT 18 COMMUNITY REPORT

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

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The past few weeks have been filled with wonderful community events that have kept me busy within the district and so grateful for these opportunities we have to reconnect in-person. One of my favorite highlights was an event I attended last month, where I joined our proud Mililani educators for the first annual Mililani Complex Planning & Collaboration Day. Hosted on-site by Principal Fred Murphy and the staff of Mililani High School, the event united educators within the district for a day long gathering offering a wealth of informational and strategic sessions focused on all aspects of education and student interests.

Approximately 650 teachers came together for professional development and collaboration. Dr. Tracey Tokuhama-Espinosa, who researches Neuroscience in education, was the featured keynote speaker. A total of 113 sessions were offered by 93 educators with a variety of content areas, strategies, and techniques. From topics such as Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health to Educational Resources and Leadership Talk Story Sessions, the day provided invaluable professional development opportunities. I attended a session by retired educator and author Jan Iwase, which focused on growing one's professional learning community. It was a powerful discussion on how collaboration and community can provide teachers with inspiration to enhance their connections with students, staff and fellow educators. I also took in the Healthy Eating session with teachers Joyce Kong, Shannon Marxen as well as Matt Calica, where we prepared a healthy pizza with veggies from the school's gardens. The pizza was 'ono, the class was fun, and it was awesome to see these dedicated teachers in action.

Mahalo Principal Murphy and staff for hosting the inaugural Mililani Complex Planning & Collaboration Day, as well as Complex Area Superintendent Bob Davis, and fellow Mililani Complex Principals Elyne Chung, Corinne Yogi, Troy Tamura, Steve Nakasato, Lynne Ajifu, and Kyle Shimabukuro for leading this exceptional educational experience. Investing in our educators and providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff makes them better equipped to guide our keiki towards their bright futures. It is my hope that this event can become a helpful template to guide other complex areas in organizing such opportunities and to continue nurturing our educators and our students.

I wish you and your 'ohana a fantastic Halloween and the beginning of an exciting holiday season! Please note details below on additional precautions you can take to ensure that your keiki can enjoy in all of the festivities safely!



Photo (L-R): teachers Joyce Kong (MHS), Heather Armbruster (Mililani Waena), Shannon Marxen (MHS) and myself during the Healthy Eating session. I have a long history with these wonderful teachers as their softball coach decades ago. I'm thrilled they chose to be educators!



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Committee on Education

Vice Chair:
Committee on
Higher Education

Member:
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Ways and Means

Member:
Special Committee on
COVID-19

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newsletters

MARTY BURKE TREE DEDICATION

Fellow legislators and community leaders gathered to honor the life and legacy of Martin “Marty” Burke with a special tree dedication ceremony last month. A proud district resident, Marty was a dedicated member of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board for 28 years, as well as served as Director of the Waipahu Community Foundation, co-chair of the Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park Advisory Committee and Director of the Gentry-Waipu’o Community Association. In honor of his incredible life and contributions to our community, a Rainbow Shower Tree was planted in his name at the Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We're giving \$20,000 college scholarships to 150 change agents across the country.

Apply Online
CokeURL.com/Apply2022
August 1 - October 31, 5pm EDT

Coca-Cola is offering scholarships to 150 high school seniors throughout the country, totaling \$3M in college scholarships. Previous Hawai'i student winners include students from Punahou, Kamehameha Kapālama, Konawaena High School, Moloka'i High School and Kalaheo High School. Applications are open now through October 31st. Head online to coca-colascholars.org for more information or to submit an application.

HAWAII STATE TAX REBATES



By the end of this month, you should receive the Tax Rebate passed by the Legislature this session. This bill was the product of the State's billion dollar surplus, providing a one-time refund of \$300 or \$100 (dependent upon adjusted gross income) for individuals who filed a state tax return for 2021. That entitles a family of four a one-time tax refund of up to \$1,200 from the State if their adjusted gross income is below \$100,000 per year.

For many local families, this refund will provide significant relief, especially at a time in which we are navigating the economic challenges of inflation. For those who filed their tax return between January 1 and July 31, rebates should have been sent via a paper check or direct deposit, with those who filed after July 2022 anticipating their returns between September and October. For those wishing to claim their tax refund who did not already file a tax return for 2021, they may still do so by December 31, 2022 and be eligible for the tax refund. For more information or to check on the status of your return, head to the Hawai'i Department of Taxation's new Act 115 web page at <https://tax.hawaii.gov/act-115-ref/>.

FREE NALOXONE OFFERED FOR FENTANYL PRECAUTIONS



With the start of the holiday season on the horizon marked by the arrival of Halloween, please, please, please note the additional safety precautions families are urged to be mindful of this year. In an effort to combat the recent rise of fentanyl poisoning and overdoses, the Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) distributed more than 11,000 doses of naloxone (a drug used to reverse opioid overdoses), more than double the amount they distributed in 2021. The Hawaii Department of Health is partnering with the HHHRC to offer naloxone, commonly known as “Narcan,” to local residents free of charge in an effort to ensure public safety especially through the Halloween weekend. Go online to www.hhhrc.org/naloxone to request a kit of two doses to be mailed to your home and be sure to carefully inspect your children’s candy before they enjoy their sweets on Halloween.

CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAY AT ALOHA STADIUM

I was thrilled to offer opening remarks at the annual Hawaii Construction Career Day (HICCD) event, hosted by the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Transportation. Founded in 2007, it offers incredible insight to middle and high school students interested in the construction industry. From equipment operation and engineering to inspection and administration, it invites student curiosity and encourages exploration into all aspects of the construction industry. I was eager to experience the event alongside students, getting a chance to test the equipment firsthand alongside Representative Sylvia Luke and my dear friend Melanie Martin. In their inaugural event in 2007, they welcomed 500 students at the Honolulu Community College. Now, 15 years later, the event hosted 1,200 middle and high school students across 20 Oahu schools, (the first time middle school students were also invited). Students and teachers each received a backpack, hard hat, safety glasses, earplugs and pens, as well as provided lunch. It was an exciting chance for all to test their skills with over 40 pieces of equipment to operate and approximately 28 exhibitors and trades participating. Mahalo nui to Melanie and the HICCD for providing this amazing educational event for students and teachers.



LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

I enjoyed an exuberant afternoon for the Lights On Afterschool celebration at the Capitol, when we were joined by the amazing students, parents and dedicated teachers of afterschool programs throughout the island. From cultural programming to performing arts and more, these organizations provide an invaluable service to local families by ensuring our students have a safe, supportive and nurturing environment to go once the final school bell rings. I remember all too well the difficulties I faced as a working parent, with children in the DOE. These reminders have been instrumental as they have helped me focus on the causes near and dear to my heart. I was thrilled to hear the experience of Mililani Middle School's own London Silva (pictured below), the 2022 Preteen American Scholar who recalled heartfelt memories of afterschool support through hula. Seeing and hearing such experiences affirms why these programs are an invaluable resource for students, parents and local families, which I am truly proud to support. Mahalo Paula Adams, Sheryll-Ihna Famularcano and to the incredible Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance team for all that you do for our keiki!

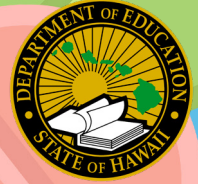


KRISTI YAMAGUCHI'S ALWAYS DREAM ORGANIZATION



I had the pleasure of meeting with Olympic gold medalist figure skater, author and philanthropist, Kristi Yamaguchi, as an introduction to her Always Dream organization, a nonprofit she founded in 1996. It was inspiring to hear from Kristi, executive director Aarika Riddle, and director of programs Lori Yamaguchi, who shared about Always Dream's partnership with the DOE since 2014, which provides early literacy and family engagement programming to kindergarten students and families. Thanks to their support, all students in the program receive a digital tablet, a data connection for those without internet at home, a family literacy book coach to provide ongoing training, a digital children's library subscription, as well as hard copy books to keep. I am so proud and grateful for their dedication to Hawai'i's keiki and their continued goals to serve 4,000 students across the state by 2027. This year alone, Always Dream will support children's literacy for 900 individuals across 31 pre-K and kindergarten classrooms for 11 schools and teachers! I am so grateful to Kristi, Lori and Aarika for their amazing support for our keiki and local families.

FACTSHEET ON OPIOIDS: MISUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

Opioids, sometimes called narcotics, are a class of drugs that include prescription pain relievers and illegal substances.

Oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, fentanyl and heroin are all examples of opioids and there are many more.



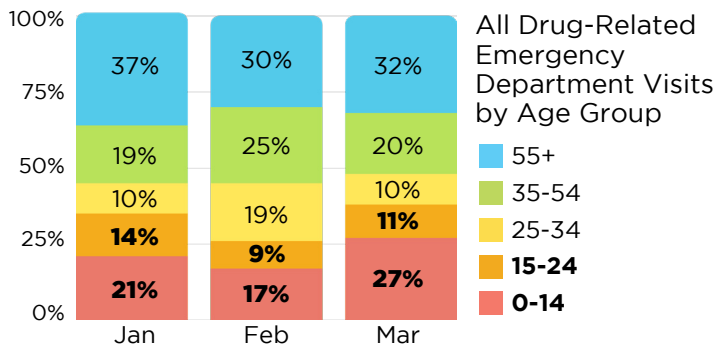
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to

50x 100x

stronger than
heroin

stronger than
morphine

2022 HAWAII DATA



Waller, V. (2022, October 5). Hawaii Drug Overdose Surveillance & Epidemiology (DOSE) Statewide Annual Report – CY 2021 & Q1 2022. Laulima Data Alliance. [PowerPoint presentation]. Opioid and Methamphetamine Overdose Prevention, Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, United States (remote).

SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

- Non-responsive or unconscious
- Slow, weak, or no breathing or heartbeat
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Blue, gray or white lips or fingernails
- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”

PREVENT OPIOID MISUSE

- Store medicine in secure places.
- Dispose of unused medicine properly. See hawaiiopioid.org to find a take-back location. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day offers even more locations and occurs every spring and fall, visit dea.gov/takebackday for more information.
- Take medicine as prescribed. Do not share prescriptions with others.
- Create a safe space to talk about the risks of drugs and other substances.

RESOURCES

- **Seek help** by calling Hawaii CARES at 1-800-753-6879 or go to findtreatment.gov/.
- Get opioid overdose reversal medication, such as naloxone. Anyone can carry naloxone in Hawaii.
 - Find naloxone at: hawaiiopioid.org/prevent-overdose/ or hhrc.org/naloxone.
- More information at cdc.gov/opioids/index.html.

IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING

1

Call 911 immediately.

2

If available, administer naloxone.

3

Try to keep the person awake and breathing. If there is no pulse or breathing, begin CPR.

4

Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.

5

Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.