



Senator Michelle Kidani

District 17- Mililani/ Mililani Mauka/ Waipi'o/ Waipi'o Gentry

Committees: Vice Chair- Education and Housing
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Aloha,

The subject of teacher furloughs and its impact on Hawaii's children has certainly been the foremost issue this past month.

In response to the furlough situation and the resulting public outcry, the Senate convened two special informational briefings: a Special Task Force Committee meeting on October 30 and a Special Committee on Teacher Furloughs on November 9.

I have received many phone calls, letters and email from concerned constituents, who have provided me with insightful opinions and suggestions.

The Senate will be meeting in majority caucus this week to discuss a possible Special Session, now that the Governor is willing to use rainy day funds.

I appreciate hearing from my constituents, and welcome you to share your ideas on how we can make this situation better. Please feel free to contact my office if you would like to also weigh in on the furlough situation.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT



Senator Kidani was recently nominated and approved for the position of State Director for the Women in Government organization.

Women in Government (WIG) is a national, non-profit, bipartisan organization of women state legislators providing leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues.

As State Director, she will serve a two year term until December 2011, providing a link between Hawaii legislators and the national WIG headquarters in Washington, D.C. Senator Kidani is tasked to help identify key issues in Hawaii and help disseminate information about Women in Government programs.

Senator Kidani has also been invited to attend the 2010 State Directors' meeting in Laguna Niguel, California. Scholarships are provided for all State Directors to attend, which cover the cost of airfare, ground transportation, accommodations and meals.

WIG serves all of the approximately 1,700 female state legislators in the United States and hosts meetings, summits, and task forces on an annual basis.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

December 5	Mililani High School Athletic Department Christmas Tree Sale \$55 per tree, presale or walk-in
December 5	Mililani Christmas Parade, 9-10 am
December 12	Gentry Waipi'o Community Association Christmas Parade, 10-11:30 am
December 13	Mililani YMCA and Mililani Town Association's First Annual Reindeer Fun Run 5K, 7:30-9:30 am

GET OUT AND RIDE

Are you looking for an alternative to driving? The City and County of Honolulu is hosting a forum designed to inform people of alternatives to driving.

Where: Neil Blaisdell Center—Pikake Room
 When: Saturday, December 5, 2009
 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 How: Register: 768-7700 or online at
www.getoutandrideoahu.eventbrite.com

Featuring:

- TheBus: learn about how to find the route and schedule you need.
- The Handi-Van: Learn about the level of service provided, the new requirements for eligibility, and how much it costs.
- Van Pool Hawaii: Find out how you can save money and share rides to work.
- Bike Riding: Find out about classes you can take to improve your safety and confidence on the road.

Offered by AARP and the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu, in cooperation with Department of Transportation Services, Oahu Transit Service, VanPool, and Hawaii Bicycling League.

PERMANENT CENTRAL OAHU EMS FACILITY COMING SOON!

By: Patty Dukes, Chief of EMS for the City and County of Honolulu

Waipio Emergency Medical Services (EMS) unit serves Gentry-Waipio, Crestview, Lower Mililani and the Northeast portion of Waipahu, and as far west as Acacia Road in Pearl City.

Since January 2008, the Waipio EMS Station has been temporarily located in a small room at the Kaiser Permanente Waipio Clinic. If this facility was no longer available, the adjacent Wahiawa, Waipahu and Aiea ambulance units would be challenged by the additional 250 monthly emergency 9-1-1 calls the Waipio EMS Ambulance responds to. The absence of the Waipio EMS Unit may result in delays to emergency medical responses for Central Oahu and adjacent communities.

A permanent EMS facility in Central Oahu is needed to provide continued emergency medical response in the event of a disaster. The location for the planned permanent Waipio EMS Quarters is safe from inundation zones and flood plains. Moreover, because of its proximity to major roadways, the Waipio EMS proposed location will provide easy access to disaster supplies for all of the ambulance units in Leeward and Central Oahu.

The building will also serve as a coordination center for public safety and first responders in the event of a prolonged catastrophe. EMS personnel will respond 24 hours a day from a building situated in a secure and safe location.

CONGRATULATIONS SHAREEF WANG ADMITTED TO HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



Shareef Wang, member of Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu Neighborhood Board and son of MTA President Farouk Wang and Norene Wang, was admitted to the Hawaii State Bar Association in the Senate Chambers on November 6, 2009. Shareef is a proud graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH AGENCY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Wahiawa General Hospital Home Health Agency was recently recognized as one of the country's best home health agencies, with a national award from HomeCare Elite.

The HomeCare Elite Award of Excellence recognizes the top 100 performing home agencies in the nation. The Award of Excellence acknowledges Wahiawa General Hospital Home Health Agency's commitment to providing their patients with the best possible care while performing at the highest level.

Wahiawa General Hospital Home Health Agency has been a true asset Central Oahu by providing quality healthcare since 1996 to sick, disabled and recovering patients in their own homes.

LISA-ANNE TSURUDA RECEIVES MILKEN AWARD

Congratulations to Ms. Lisa-Anne Tsuruda on being named the Hawai'i recipient of the very prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award!

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award is presented annually to teachers, principals, and other education professionals who serve as models of excellence by exemplifying exceptional classroom practice, potential for professional and policy leadership, or inspirational presence that motivates and impacts students and the community.

Faculty and students of Mililani High School have long praised Ms. Tsuruda's exemplary passion and dedication. Senator Kidani extends her sincere congratulations to Ms. Tsuruda, as well as the rest of the Mililani High School staff for bringing such positive national attention to Mililani's schools!