

COMMUNITY REPORT

SENATE DISTRICT 18 | JULY 2025



Serving Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, Crestview, Waikele, portion of Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia



Michelle
KIDANI

**Senate Vice
President**

Chair
Committee on
Education

Vice Chair
Committee on
Higher Education

Member
Committee on
Ways and Means

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digital mailing list!**

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Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

With summer in full swing, I want to take a moment to wish you and your 'ohana a season of sunshine, rest and relaxation. Whether you are exploring the outdoors, or simply taking a pause to recharge, I hope this time brings you meaningful moments of peace and adventure.

Even during the summer season, my focus continues to be on uplifting public education and supporting the success of our keiki. I recently visited the Queen Lili'uokalani Building to admire an amazing hand-crafted mural painted and created by Mililani High School students. It was a breathtaking example of art and storytelling. I also had the chance to get a sneak peak at the Hawai'i State Public Library System's new logo, which thoughtfully honors our islands' cultural heritage and sense of community.

In this newsletter, you will also find information on free summer meal programs, grocery support for families, upcoming events at Mililani Public Library, a list of 50 new Pre-K classrooms opening up in August, and more. I wish you and your 'ohana a safe, relaxing, and joy-filled summer!



Mahalo,
Michelle

Wishing all students and staff a safe and healthy summer!



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FREE Summer Meals and Grocery Support Available for Hawai'i's Keiki

Summer time has arrived! Here are some key programs offering FREE summer meals and support for you and your keiki:

- Summer EBT (SUN Bucks): Receive \$177 per eligible child to help stretch your grocery budget. Apply by August 3.
- Kaukau 4 Keiki: Nutritious meal kits featuring locally sourced fruits, vegetables, proteins, starches, and milk. Applications available online.
- Free On-Site Meals: Access free, nutritious meals for children at various locations across the state. Use the interactive map to find a site near you.



For full details and to apply, visit: hawaiifoodhelp.com/seasonal-programs

SUN BUCKS

Receive \$177 per child for groceries during the summer!

APPLY BY AUG 3, 2025!

Check if your child is eligible by visiting hawaiifoodhelp.com/summer_ebt

For more information on Summer EBT or SUN Bucks, visit the Department of Human Service's SUN Bucks FAQs page: sunbucks.dhs.hawaii.gov

HCAN

It's SUMMER TIME!

Here's how you and your keiki can get FREE summer meals or kokua:

Swipe right! →

Visit hawaiifoodhelp.com/seasonal-programs for more detailed information and resources.

HCAN

Find **FREE** eat-on-site keiki meals across the state!

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance provides a map of all 2025 Summer Programs + Meals, visit hawaiifoodhelp.com/seasonal-programs to view the map and browse programs.

- Eat-On-Site: These sites are listed on the map with yellow icons.
- Kaukau for Keiki (K4K): All K4K sites are indicated by a brown icon.

HCAN

KauKau 4 Keiki

Get a **FREE** nutritious meal kit during the summer months with Kaukau 4 Keiki!

Check if your child is eligible and apply by visiting www.kaukau4keiki.org

For eligible locations visit www.fns.usda.gov/cn/area-eligibility
*Main summer feeding program is separate from Kaukau 4 Keiki, for Maui summer programs, visit www.mauifoodbank.org

HCAN

HMSA Kaimana Awards

On June 1st, I had the pleasure of attending the 20th anniversary of the HMSA Kaimana Awards & Scholarship Program. For two decades, this program has recognized excellence among Hawai'i's high school seniors and schools, celebrating achievement in academics, athletics, community service, healthy activities, and sportsmanship. This year, 20 outstanding students, each awarded a \$5,000 Kaimana Scholarship were recognized, including Mililani's own Malia Wagatsuma. Additionally, 9 high schools statewide received the \$1,500 Kaimana Award and a trophy in recognition of their exceptional contributions. A big mahalo to HMSA for its longstanding dedication to supporting Hawai'i's students and schools. Programs like this are essential in recognizing well-rounded individuals who will lead and strengthen our community's future. Congratulations to all of this year's outstanding awardees on their well-deserved recognition!



[L-R]: Student awardees, Senator Glenn Wakai, and myself honoring the many students across multiple schools in Hawai'i that were awarded Kaimana Scholarships

Mililani High School 'Āina Aloha Project

I took a walk over to the DOE Administrative Building, where I had the chance to view a beautiful quilt being displayed that was researched, designed and painted by students from Mililani High School, as part of their 'Āina Aloha science project. Inspired by Queen Lili'uokalani and a quilt she made while imprisoned at 'Iolani Palace, this student-crafted piece beautifully weaves together themes of marine science, Hawaiian history, and political storytelling. Each block in the quilt tells its own mo'olelo (story), highlighting themes such as a celebration of the sea, pivotal historical moments, and the vital ecosystem services our ocean provides. Designed and painted collaboratively by students across class periods, the quilt stands as a powerful, Hawai'i-centric tribute to resilience, unity, and aloha 'āina. I truly enjoyed experiencing this inspiring example of student creativity and collaboration! Mahalo to Superintendent Hayashi for sharing and showcasing student artwork!



The quilt designed by MHS students



Admiring the hand-painted quilt created by students



[L-R] Myself, my sister Leilani, and Superintendent Hayashi

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT: Upcoming Improvements to Kamehameha Highway

I am pleased to share about the Hawai'i Department of Transportation as they move forward with a much-needed resurfacing, repaving, and rehabilitation project along Kamehameha Highway, from Waipahu Street to Ka Uka Boulevard. This project is currently in the design phase and is anticipated to go out to bid in February 2026. I was able to support the additional funding for this project through House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget, ensuring that we continue to invest in safer and more reliable infrastructure for our communities.

50 New Public Pre-K Classrooms to Open!

Opening August 2025

New EOEL Public Pre-K Classrooms

<p>O'ahu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbers Point Elementary Hāha'ione Elementary Hau'ula Elementary ** He'eia Elementary Helemano Elementary Ka'ala Elementary Kāhala Elementary ** Ka'iulani Elementary Kalihi Elementary 	<p>Kaua'i</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaumuali'i Elementary 	<p>Maui</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hāna High and Elementary * 	<p>Hawai'i Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kalani'ana'ole Elementary & Intermediate Kea'au Elementary Keaukaha Elementary
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*Hawaiian language classroom
**Multiple classrooms opening

A New Logo For The Hawai'i State Public Library System

The Hawai'i State Public Library System has unveiled a new visual identity inspired by the natural beauty, rich history, and cultural traditions of our islands. Rooted in the spirit of 'ohana, the new design celebrates our state libraries as welcoming, inclusive spaces that connect community, knowledge, and tradition. The logo incorporates traditional Hawaiian patterns and forms the letter "H" to represent both Hawai'i and the library system. The blue shape on the left symbolizes the statewide network that links all branches, much like the ocean connects our islands. The colorful triangles on the right represent the six main islands with libraries, each reflecting its island's official flower or plant. Accent colors pay tribute to Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe. This new design honors Hawai'i's past while embracing its future, just like our public libraries!

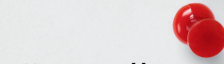


Hawai'i State Public Library System

This new look, the first in 30 years, is a visual invitation for people to visit our states libraries

Hawai'i State Public Library Link to July 2025 eNews:

<https://hspls.patronpoint.com/email/view/68643825dfa20913978470>



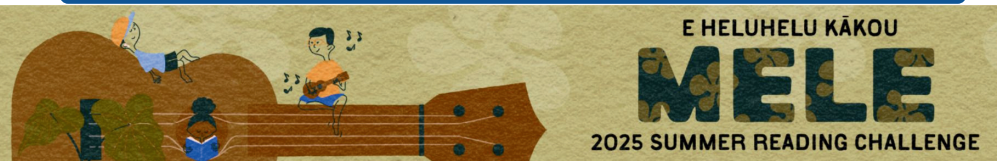
Have a card but want the new one?

Visit your local library to trade it in at no cost! Just note that doing so will come with a new account number.

Like the new look but want to keep your current library card?

While supplies last, the libraries will have paper card sleeves featuring the new design that you can use to protect your current card.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILILANI PUBLIC LIBRARY!



July 7
Moana 2
Rated PG
Runtime: 100 min



July 14
Captain America: Brave New World
Rated PG-13
Runtime: 118 min



July 21
One Love
Rated PG-13
Runtime: 107 min



July 28
Mufasa
Rated PG
Runtime: 118 min

MOVIE MONDAYS

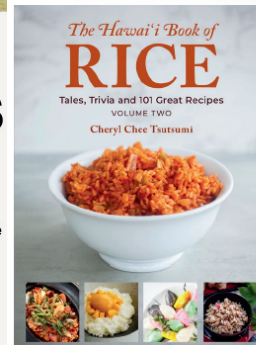
July Calendar

Mondays at 1:30 in the program room

FREE!
No RSVP required.

BOOK TALK: THE HAWAII BOOK OF RICE VOLUME 2

Saturday, July 19, 2025 @ 11:00 am
MILILANI PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM



Join author Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi for a fun and interesting discussion of her latest book, *The Hawaii Book of Rice - Vol. 2*.

Combination cookbook and local culinary history, *The Hawaii Book of Rice - Vol. 2* offers an all-new look at rice, Hawaiian-style, as well as 101 "rice-ipes" from both celebrity chefs and home cooks.

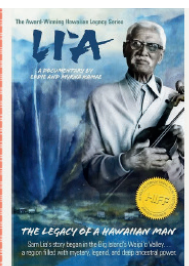
Her presentation will be followed by a Q&A session and copies of the book will be available for purchase as well.

This event is recommended for ages 18 and older.

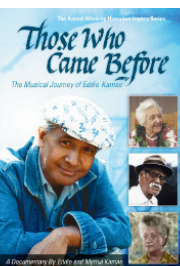
Mililani Public Library
Hawai'i State Public Library System



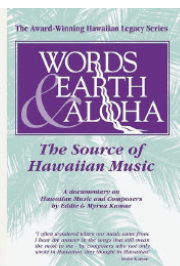
June 26
The History of the Sons of Hawaii
Runtime: 80 min



July 3
Li'a: The Legacy of a Hawaiian Man
Runtime: 74 min



July 10
Those Who Came Before
Runtime: 57 min



July 17
Words, Earth & Aloha
Runtime: 60 min

MELE MOVIE THURSDAYS @MILILANI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrate Mele this summer with 4 FREE documentary film screenings!

Thursdays at 1:30 in the library program room

No RSVP required.

Okinawan Dance with Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025
Time: 11:00am

Location:
Mililani Public Library
95-450 Maka'imo'imo St.
808-627-7470



Celebrate the Summer Reading Challenge!

Join Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone for an all-ages program exploring the beauty and evolution of Okinawan dance, from classical forms rarely seen today to lively modern and folk styles. The 45-minute event features performances, a sanshin demonstration, and an introduction to kumi wudui, Okinawa's classical dance drama. The program concludes with Atchame, an interactive dance inviting audience participation in a joyful expression of mutual appreciation.