



MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **CENTRAL VOICE** section on Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

Public schools by the numbers

With the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, the Department of Education has released the official enrollment figures – and two Mililani schools are once again at or near the top for the numbers of students on their campuses.

Mililani High School is third largest among all schools in the state, with 2,616 students enrolled. Mililani Middle School serves 1,886 students to lead schools in the intermediate/middle school category.



Mililani High School—Home of the Trojans—third largest high school in the state, with 2,626 students enrolled in the current school year

Years ago, enrollment pressure at Mililani Middle School led to implementation of a year-round, multi-track instructional calendar, but now relief is on the way. After an intense years-long effort, a construction contract has been awarded to T. Iida Contracting Limited to build an additional, large classroom building on the campus. The contractor's bid came in for less than the \$23 million approved for the project; the “extra” dollars will be earmarked to build additional dining space.

Construction is expected to begin next summer and continue for approximately 18 months, which means we may be able to dedicate the new building sometime in the 2020-2021 school year as MMS continues to plan for transition from multi-track to the traditional school calendar.

New classroom building will relieve enrollment pressures at Mililani Middle School



The DOE has also issued its ***by-the-numbers performance reports*** for public schools for the last (2017-2018) school year. Test scores measure achievements in language arts, math, and science – and provide information about graduation rates and post-secondary college enrollment for high school grads.

As with many statistical reports, the STRIVE HI charts and documents can take a while to review and digest. The DOE reports that in the last 3 years (2016-2018) performance overall has improved in language arts, math and science. Also, more students are achieving grade-level literacy in third and eighth grades – the grades in which reading skills testing is conducted.

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For Mililani High School, 73 percent of students are meeting standards in language arts – up from 69 percent the previous year. Scores for math achievement are about the same level as last year – 48 percent. About 54 percent of students are meeting science standards – a dip from 60 percent in the previous year. The report also notes that 93 percent of MHS seniors in the class of 2018 graduated on time, and 68 percent of grads went on to enroll in post-secondary institutions.

Performance results are available for all schools in my Senate District 18. If you would like to take a look at the specifics, go online to hawaiipublicschools.org and enter “STRIVE HI performance system report” in the search box. Be prepared to follow several links to get to specific school information.

Mahalo for your service!

Dean Hazama has retired after many years of service to the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board. Dean was an elected member of the Board for 16 years and served as Chair for eleven of those years. The Mauka Board presented a citation to Dean at their September meeting expressing appreciation for his leadership and service. Mahalo, Dean! And congratulations to new Chair Dr. Steven Melendrez for his willingness to serve. Dr. Melendrez also serves as a member of the Mililani Middle School Community Council.



Outgoing Chair and longtime member of the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board Dean Hazama (above left with wife Jenny) was recognized for his service by current Chair, Dr. Steven Melendrez.