



# MidWeek

This column by Senator Michelle Kidani was published in the MidWeek **WEST VOICE** section on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

## **National Recognition for Waipahu High School**

Last Friday was a proud day for Waipahu High School. Fifty-five students were inducted into **Phi Theta Kappa**, the international honor society for two-year colleges and academic programs. Waipahu is the first-ever high school chapter in the nation!

Waipahu Principal **Keith Hayashi** says WHS students have been welcomed into the PTK chapter at Leeward Community College for the past five years but can now claim this unique status thanks to the hard work of the school's ambitious and highly-successful college and career readiness programs.

"Our goal continues to be to challenge and inspire our students to achieve more than they ever thought possible," says Keith.

I learned about this distinct honor when I visited the campus recently with my legislative colleague, **Representative Ty Cullen**. We were there to discuss next steps in the planned construction of a new classroom building that will go a long way toward strengthening and enhancing the opportunities that have contributed to Waipahu's successes.

Much of that success is due to the leadership of **Gail Izumigawa**, Director of Waipahu High School's Career Academies. We were so pleased to be able to personally congratulate Gail for being selected 2018 **Leeward District Teacher of the Year!**

Gail has been an educator for more than 30 years, devoted to her work every day to improve resources for students. Earlier this year, with Gail's leadership, the school hosted the National Career Academy Coalition where delegates learned about Waipahu's two Model Academies – the Academy of Health & Sciences and the Academy of Natural Resources – the first in the state to be nationally certified.

Congratulations, Gail, and best wishes for many more years of service to our Waipahu students!



***With me from left to right, Gail Izumigawa, Waipahu Principal Keith Hayashi and Representative Ty Cullen.***

## **Go Marauders!**

We also have our fingers crossed for the Marauder football team that was scheduled to play 'Iolani in the OIA Division 1 championship semifinals last weekend. This column goes to MidWeek before the game, so we don't know the outcome. Congratulations to Head Coach Bryson Carvalho, his assistants and the players and their family supporters for a great 2018 season!