



**ISLAND MATTERS** *Mufi Hannemann*

# A Great Education Appointment

**K**udos to schools superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi for picking Waipahu High School principal Keith Hayashi to replace Stephen Schatz as DOE deputy director. Hayashi is an excellent choice as he is experienced, a visionary and highly passionate in doing what's best and what's right for students. In dealings with his teachers and staff, he is the consummate team player who gets everyone involved. As a result, he not only has amassed almost all the honors a principal could possibly receive for his meritorious work and dedication, but he

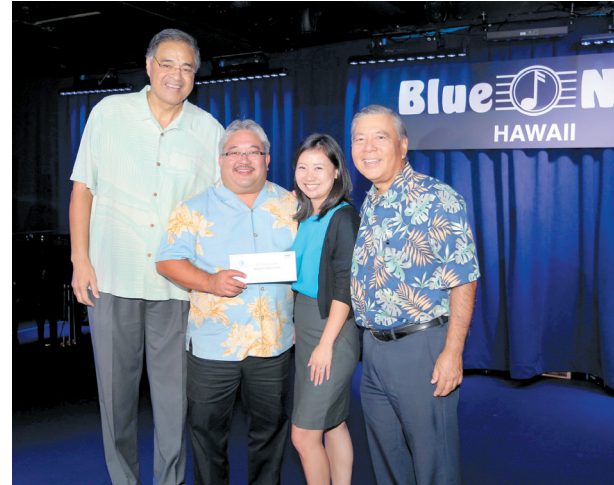
also has brought statewide recognition and national accreditation and acclaim to the Marauder campus for its academic achievements.

Hayashi's successful and creative implementation of the Early College program is a major example of his accomplishments — students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Leeward Community College and University of Hawaii officials all attest to the effectiveness of a program that transforms Waipahu students into being more than "college ready," and recipients of thousands of dollars in scholarships. Waipahu cur-

rently operates the largest EC program in the state. His peers constantly ask for his advice, and he doesn't hesitate to dispense it.

Every time I have visited his campus, I am impressed with what I have observed in the areas of hospitality, culinary arts, health, science, agriculture, music and the like. His personal low-key and collaborative interaction with his students and staff is a sight to behold.

I recall on one visit students actually stopped him to sing "Happy Birthday" (never seen that before), and when I attend his honors assembly



Waipahu High School principal Keith Hiyashi (second from left) received an HLTA Charity Walk grant last September for the school's advocacy for the hospitality industry from (from left) the author, Elizabeth Higashi and Dean Nakasone

PHOTO COURTESY GREGG YAMAMOTO

in May to present my annual scholarships and Harvard Book award, he'd prefer to snap pictures of the honorees rather than personally pose for a photo. Whether he works at the DOE front office for only a short term or for years, rest assured he'll make a positive impact!

**Multiple Employment Bill**

The Legislature is mulling over a bill introduced by state Rep. Scott Saiki that would prohibit the governor and four county mayors from holding another job while in public office. The House majority leader says it was prompted



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## Necessary Bill And Stadium Situation

by President Trump's potential conflicts of interest over his extensive business holdings and relationships. But here at home, it would apply to Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, who has been criticized for sitting on the board of a local financial institution that compensates him handsomely while serving as mayor.

Because Caldwell continues to cling tenaciously to his dual compensation package, I believe there's merit to the proposal. Many office seekers run because of their wish to participate in our democracy, their ideas to make ours a better society, and their selfless desire to serve others — not for compensation for their deeds or to gain some advantage in their personal endeavors.

I recall that Gov. Ariyoshi gave up his practice with a prominent law firm to avoid any taint of possible conflicts of interest. He also declined pay raises during his many years as the state's chief executive. Other governors have done the same with regard to their professions. (Legislators, on the other hand, are permitted outside employment in keeping with their status as part-time citizen-legislators.) I don't believe any other mayor in the modern era has taken a salary outside of compensation as chief executive of the City and County of Honolulu.

There's no good reason for a governor or mayor to hold an outside paying position, for the reasons I've just cited, and it's befuddling that Caldwell refuses to yield his board membership, estimated at between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year, while raising concerns about perceived conflicts of interest and taking away from his many responsibilities. We

know he works hard, but that shouldn't entitle him to be rewarded with the compensatory benefits of a private board membership. This is why Saiki's bill is necessary and imperative.

### Aloha Stadium Ripe For Change

It was good to hear that state officials are taking a serious look at the opportunities presented by the city's rail system and Aloha Stadium.

While we were evaluating various rail routes and transit stations during my term as mayor of Honolulu, we identified key stops that we believed would present excellent opportunities for transit-oriented development, i.e., urban development and revitalization immediately surrounding the rail stations. I am a huge proponent of transit-oriented development (TOD) and have always believed that the Aloha Stadium area is ideal, given the expanse of the property and its location at the terminus of the H-3 freeway and proximity to Aiea, Salt Lake, Pearl Harbor and the Honolulu International Airport area.

We correctly foresaw the day when the federal government would return the Aloha Stadium land to the state and we then would be free to make the best use of the tract. With the stadium aging and renovation costs mounting, state officials now are serious at looking at potential redevelopment of the site, to include a new but smaller stadium and perhaps a combination of housing and commercial development accompanying it.

Here's my take on the situation:

Aloha Stadium is a prime location for TOD. As a 25-year

resident of Aiea, many of my neighbors concur that is an area ripe for the right kind of redevelopment and revitalization. The time is perfect for a public-private partnership that would give a private developer the rights to build a multipurpose stadium to accommodate more than just football. Other sports and entertainment events should be a target. The developer also could lead the charge to create a mix of, say, housing, commercial and retail space, and recreation that will balance the public's needs and desires with the developer's need for a reasonable return on investment.

Depending on the agreement, a private developer might be better suited to operate, market and maintain the new stadium, rather than continuing the existing arrangement where the Stadium Authority is dependent on the largesse of the executive and legislative branches for vital repair and maintenance money.

Community involvement and input at every step of the process are essential. Top-down urban development does not work, as we've seen with other government-driven developments. The public should have the chance to weigh in with ideas on the direction of any changes on public property and which use public money.

It will take bold and decisive leadership to make the changes at Aloha Stadium, which are long overdue. Let's hope our public officials will make the timely and creative decisions that will give us something to be proud of.

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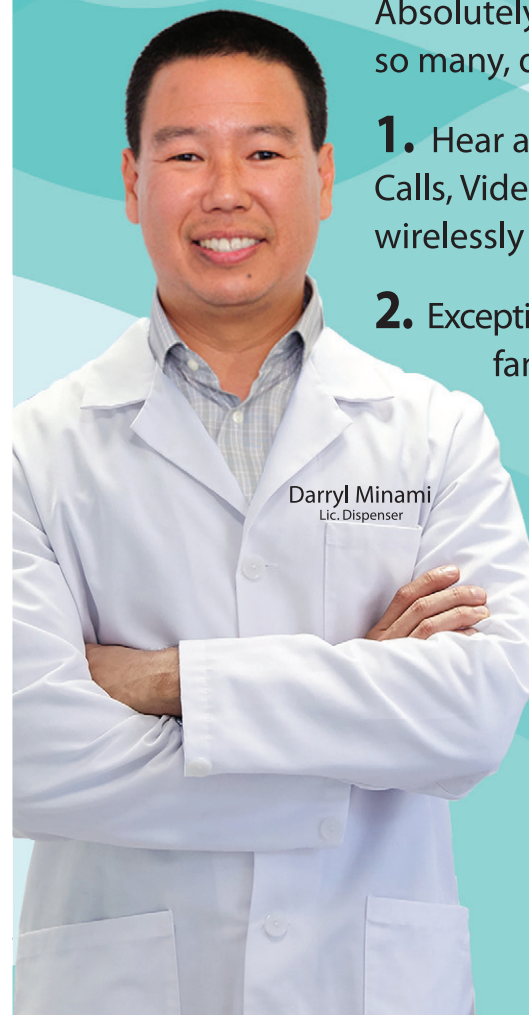
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