



ISLAND MATTERS *Mufi Hannemann*

The Warning Siren Test Has Evident Flaws

On the first day of December, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the state's civil defense operation, tested its attack-warning siren. The test was prompted by a beligerent North Korea, which seems intent on provoking international conflict with every long-range missile launch. Our test made the national news.

The state decided that it was better to be safe than sorry, and so the test was scheduled just in case there was a possibility, admittedly remote, of a missile attack.

The siren test received mixed reviews. Some folks recalled a time when sirens and bomb shelters were a fact of life, others shrugged it off and a few mocked it. But there were also those in the visitor industry and community who felt it was an unnecessary and alarmist reaction to a very remote threat.

As someone who has championed public safety throughout my career in public service and now as head of Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, I take safety very seriously. We have an excellent and experienced emergency management infrastructure in place, from our state personnel to city first-responders, to the armed forces, to private security officers employed by hotels and businesses across

the islands.

I know the hotel industry has proven procedures we take for emergencies, be they tsunamis and earthquakes, hurricanes, king tides, and a host of other natural or man-made situations. In essence, these procedures call for visitors and employees to get inside and stay in touch.

As an international travel destination, we promote public safety as one of our main attractions. So anything that

is not predicted. It would reassure everyone that our warning system is working, but also reassure our visitors that Hawai'i continues to be one of the safest destinations to visit.

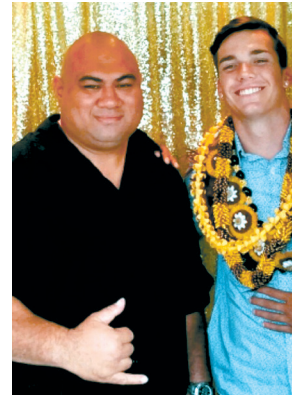
McKenzie Milton Is The Real Deal

I posted on Facebook recently that Millilani High School football coach Rod York and all of Trojan Nation gotta be feeling mighty proud

Alabama, who has performed well every time his number has been called. However, it is clear that Milton has stood out the most, and at this point comes the closest to emulating the college career of NFL star Marcus Mariota of the Tennessee Titans.

In a conversation with Coach York, he described McKenzie as one of the "hardest-working" individuals he has ever coached, and most importantly is the epitome of "humility." Despite the fact that he is under 6 feet tall, he personifies the adage that "you can't measure the heart of a champion," or "judge a book by its cover."

York continues that "he knew he would do well, but not this soon." The former 'Iolani and UH football star credits his mom Misifeleni,



Millilani coach Rod York with his prized quarterback McKenzie Milton.

PHOTO COURTESY LYNN YORK

who first predicted star potential in the young Milton when he was a spunky freshman on the JV team "who never backed down from anyone." He is also quick to credit Milton's parents Mark and Theresa as being positive influences in their son's life.

With the departure of University of Central Florida coach Scott Frost to Nebraska, some are wondering what's next with Milton? There are those speculating that he'll join Frost at Lincoln. After all, Frost helped tutor Marcus Mariota at University of Oregon and personally recruited McKenzie to Orlando, so why not follow Frost? And then there are those who are hoping he'll transfer to UH. Now wouldn't that be something? He is a proven winner and he'll put people in the stands!

One thing is for certain: No matter who his coach is and no matter where he plays, Milton is the Real Deal and Hawai'i is so fortunate to claim him as one of its own!

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affects that perception does come with drawbacks.

Given some technical shortcomings and the lukewarm reception to the attack-warning siren test, and the belief among many that it was potentially harmful to Hawai'i's reputation as a tourist destination, perhaps there might be another approach to ensuring that our emergency warning system is in working order.

I'm sure the good folks at Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency can come up with a reasonable test that doesn't call attention to a threat that is neither immi-

with the way McKenzie Milton has played not only in the AAC championship game, but with the fabulous season he has had this year. He was not only named the game's most outstanding player but he led the 10th-ranked Knights to compete in the Peach Bowl.

I suppose a similar pride exists with all those associated with Pearl City High School and the remarkable manner in which former Chargers quarterback Jordan Ta'amu has played at Ole Miss, or all the Saint Louis alums with Tua Tagavailoa also a QB at perennial power

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