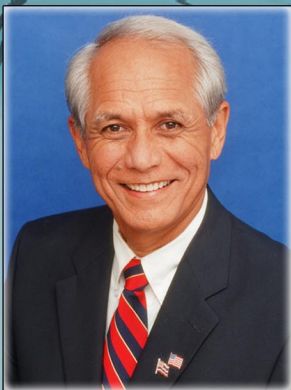


*Your Legislative Wrap-Up from...*

# Senator Mike Gabbard

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Chair

Energy and Environment

Vice Chair

Transportation, International, Intergovernmental Affairs

Member

Public Safety and Military Affairs, Judiciary and Govt Operations



District 19

Waialeale, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Kapolei, Makakilo, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale & portions of Waipahu and Ko 'Olina

*Aloha*  
*friends and neighbors!*

I can't believe I've already completed my fourth session as your State Senator. It's been a very challenging and rewarding four years given the economic recession and the rapid growth of our district. Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Through my "Listen Story" meetings, I've met many of you and learned more about the issues that are important to you and your families. My staff and I have done our best to follow-up on your concerns. Your ideas for legislation and common sense approaches to solving problems have helped me to be a better legislator at the Capitol.

I know many of you have been very pleased about the opening of Kualaka'i Parkway (North/South Rd.) and the Kapolei Judiciary Complex, and are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new UH West Oahu campus. These projects are key to the future quality of life in our community. In 2008, I was appointed Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, and I'm committed to ramping up our efforts to power our homes and businesses through renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in order to kick our addiction to foreign oil.

Please contact me if I can help you or your family in any way. My email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830.

Here are some things I'd like to share with you.

*Mike*

Senator Mike Gabbard



Sen. Gabbard's Kapolei "Listen Story" Meeting  
January 9, 2010



Blessing of the Kapolei Judiciary Complex  
May 28, 2010



Dedication of Kualaka'i Parkway  
February 11, 2010



## UH West Oahu Campus Finally Happening!

### District 19 Scores Long List of Improvement Projects

Even though things were tight at the Legislature these past two years, our district was still able to get a big investment of \$201,066,000 in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) from the 2009-2011 state budget to help fund important school, road, and other infrastructure improvements. Here's a list of those projects:

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

- UH West Oahu Campus Development \$48,000,000



#### SCHOOLS

- Waikele Elementary School – Expansion of Faculty Parking Lot \$100,000
- Barbers Point Elementary – Playground Fencing Improvements \$26,000
- Barbers Point Elementary – Electrical Upgrades \$1,000,000
- Kaleiopuu Elementary School – Covered Walkway \$100,000
- Kapolei II Elementary – Design of New School \$3,520,000
- Mauka Lani Elementary – Evacuation Route Ramp \$450,000



#### ROADS/TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- H-1 PM Contraflow Lane (Radford to Waikele) \$55,000,000
- H-1 Kunia Interchange Improvements \$780,000
- Kualaka'i Parkway Extension \$15,000,000
- Waikele Pedestrian Bridge Widening \$65,000
- Farrington Hwy Improvements – Honokai Hale to Hakimo Road \$12,500,000



#### KALAELOA DEVELOPMENT

- Kalaeloa Building 19 Restoration for National Guard \$5,900,000
- Kalaeloa Harbor Improvements \$25,150,000
- Kalaeloa Airport Improvements \$22,500,000
- Kalaeloa Mail Distribution Center for National Guard \$1,175,000
- Kalaeloa Harbor Basin and Channel Modification \$1,500,000



#### AGRICULTURE

- Waiahole Ditch Irrigation System Improvements \$6,295,000



#### GRANTS-IN-AID TO NON-PROFITS

- Easter Seals \$275,000
- Kipuka INPEACE Project \$1,500,000



#### JUDICIARY

- Kapolei Judiciary Complex – New Administrative Services Building \$230,000



The best news by far of the 2010 session is that we were able to secure \$48 million in funding for the planned UH West Oahu campus in Kapolei near Farrington Highway and Kualaka'i Parkway. It was critical that we funded the project this year, because otherwise the university could have lost the land. The former James Campbell Estate (now the James Campbell Company) had donated 202 acres to the university, but put in a stipulation that the land would revert back to them if construction on the campus doesn't begin by 12/31/2011.

With the \$48 million now secure, UH West Oahu will be on track to open Phase 1 of the campus by spring 2012. The plan is to have an enrollment of roughly 2,750 students at that point and the initial build out would include an administration building, campus center, library & 2 classroom buildings.

The UH West Oahu campus will offer 22 bachelor degree programs, which will include many subjects not offered at the Manoa campus, such as justice administration, respiratory care, health care administration, and computer, electronics, & networking technology.

A university campus for West Oahu is greatly needed. Right now, only 21% of the young people in the Leeward District of the DOE attend college compared to the state average of 38%. The campus will create jobs by employing over 300 people during the construction phase and another 1,000 jobs over the next decade. Another big plus is that it will cut down on rush hour traffic on the H-1 by directing traffic flow away from the downtown area.

Mahalo to Chancellor Gene Awakuni and his team for persevering and my colleagues at the Legislature for understanding the importance of providing better higher education opportunities for our community.



## 2010 Budget Overview

Since the 2010 Legislative Session ended on April 29th, I've been asked by many of you for a quick overview of how we managed to balance the budget. As you might be aware, the Legislature is required by law to balance the budget. It was especially difficult this time around because we had to cover a \$1.2 billion shortfall. Last year, we covered \$783.6 million of the short fall. This year we targeted the rest through:

- Tax Refund Deferral - \$275 million
- Tax Increase - increasing the cigarette & barrel taxes, and capping itemized deductions on tax returns - \$54.7 million
- Non General Fund - transferring special funds and cigarette tax revenues to the general fund and repealing select central service exemptions - \$77.5 million
- Fee Increase - increasing fee for printing of traffic abstracts - \$6.5 million
- Tax Tightening - increasing enforcement of tax scofflaws and greater oversight of GET trust liability - \$27.1 million
- Accounting Adjustment - requiring refundable tax credits to be taken before non-refundable ones and changing of tax payment due date - \$168.5 million
- Additional Lapses - lapsing of non-essential CIP projects - \$75.4 million

## Legislature Passes 249 Bills

It's sometimes overwhelming to think about the amount of legislation that is crammed into our 60-day session each year. This year we introduced 961 bills in the Senate and 1,151 in the House for a total of 2,112 bills. Of those, 249 ended up passing the Legislature. This compares to 3,523 bills being introduced last year with 249 of them passing the Legislature.

Governor Lingle has until June 21st to notify us if she plans to veto any of those bills. Her actual deadline to veto bills is July 6th, which would be the same day that the Legislature would have to hold a Special Session to consider overriding her vetoes. I encourage you to contact Governor Lingle at [governor.lingle@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingle@hawaii.gov) or call 586-0034 if you have any input. If you'd like to check out any of the bills that passed this time around, they're on the Capitol website at this link:

[www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/lists/RptMeasuresPassed.aspx](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/lists/RptMeasuresPassed.aspx)



*Senator Gabbard took BMW's demo "Mini-E" electric vehicle for a test-drive on April 13th - up to 70 miles on one charge!*

## Key Energy and Environment Legislation Passed

Although this session could have been better, I was able, as the Senate Energy and Environment Chair, to work with my colleagues in getting several energy-related bills I introduced through the Legislature. Here's a short description of those bills.



**SB 2817** – prevents homeowner associations from unreasonably restricting homeowners in installing solar energy devices, such as photovoltaic solar panels or solar water heaters. This is a common sense measure that will remove one of the last roadblocks in the path of homeowners in associations who want to take the positive step of installing solar energy devices on their homes. Distributed generation of energy from renewable sources is a key component in our state's ambitious quest to get off foreign oil.

**SB 466** – limits the hours that a leaf blower can be used in a residential area and also establishes fines for violation. This is a quality of life issue for many people around the state who suffer from the loud noise and pollution this lawn equipment creates.



**SB 2231** – prohibits a condominium association from preventing owners from installing an electric vehicle charging station on or near their parking stalls. It is likely that in the next couple of years we'll see a great increase in the number of electric vehicles on our roads.

**SB 2563** – sets the goal that our state meet 30% of its fuel demand with renewable fuels, such as biofuels, by 2030. Also, allows the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to collect fees for those who seek exemptions from the state's solar water heater mandate, which was the first such law in the nation.

**SB 2357 (Act 30)** – requires the Gas Company to report to the Public Utilities Commission the amount of renewable energy sources they are using to produce their synthetic natural gas. The hope is that they will continue moving in the "green" direction.

SB 2817

SB 466

SB 2231

SB 2563

SB 2357





A few more updates...



### "Listen Story"

My next "Listen Story" community meeting will be at the Kamokila Community Park meeting room in Honokai Hale on Saturday, July 24th from 9:00 - 10:00 am. Photo at left is from Sen. Gabbard's meeting at Kunia Starbucks on February 20th.

### Civil Liability Law Adds Protections for Homeowners



Back in 2007, I introduced a bill (SB 1617) after hearing from a Kapolei constituent who said there was a loophole in the law which allowed a homeowner to be sued by an intruder if the burglar is injured while trying to rob you and harm your family.

We looked into it and found out my constituent was right and that there had been cases like this on the mainland. My bill passed the Senate, but didn't end up making it through the House. I was a little discouraged but was told by a veteran colleague not to worry, because it sometimes takes several years even to get good legislation like this passed into law. So I was very happy that Senator Brian Taniguchi introduced a similar version of my bill, SB 532, which was signed into law by Governor Linda Lingle as Act 98 on May 12th. Act 98 effectively prevents a property owner from being held liable for civil damages for any injuries (or death) that a criminal suffers in the commission of a violent crime. However, one important point to mention is that in order for the protections to be in effect, the perpetrator must be convicted of the crime.

### Friday Furloughs Pau!



As a lifelong educator, I was happy and relieved that Friday Furloughs at our public schools have finally come to an end. Governor Lingle made an announcement on May 25th that she'll use \$57 million from the Hurricane Relief Fund appropriated by SB 2124 (Act 143) to restore the 17 furlough days that had been planned for next year. The Governor said she'll use a \$10 million line of credit from First Hawaiian Bank and Bank of Hawai'i if the \$57 million is not enough to cover the cost. Teachers earlier agreed to convert 6 planning days to instructional days for next year. The HSTA and the Governor still disagree on the number of school employees that are needed, but it's an enormous relief to know that our state will no longer hold the embarrassing distinction of having the lowest number of instructional days (163) in the nation. At right, Kapolei Elementary's Sarah Yamaguchi shows off an Honorary Certificate from Sen. Gabbard after winning Kapolei Library's "Aloha Tofu Haiku Contest" on April 10, 2010.



### Plug into Hawai'i Energy



You may have seen ads about the "Trade-Up for Cool Cash" program, which was launched on May 24th and provided \$250 cash rebates to 8,000 people who replaced their old clunker fridges with an ENERGY STAR. This great program was administered by Hawai'i Energy using federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds. If you are not familiar, Hawai'i Energy is the state's energy efficiency program, which used to be run by HECO. While the funding for this initial "Cool Cash" program is pau, more funding will soon be available to provide consumers with more ENERGY STAR appliances.



Please visit [www.hawaiienergy.com](http://www.hawaiienergy.com) for information about existing rebate programs and more deals to come! Pictured with Sen. Gabbard from left are members of the Environmental Working Group, who committed themselves to improving the state's environmental review system: Lee Sichter, David Henkin, Robert Harris, Dr. Gail Grabowsky, Scott Glenn, Mark Fox & Denise Antolini.

### H-1 Lights Getting Repaired

I received a letter from the Department of Transportation (DOT) on May 5th stating that they would finally be replacing the lighting on the H-1/H-2 that has been out for the past few years due to copper thieves. I know many of you have been very concerned about the lighting and will be happy to see them working again. DOT is still focused on upgrading the new copper wire system and providing additional security measures, so the lights won't be back on again until the end of 2011 or early 2012. But at least they'll be fixed!

