

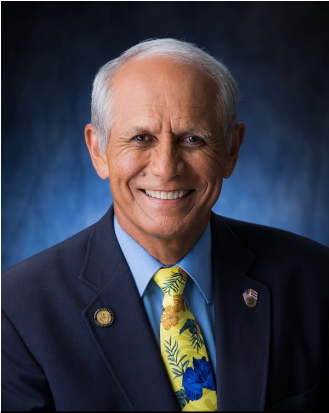
**The Senate**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## *Legislative update...*

*Aloha e friends,*

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! The Kapolei City Lights Electric Light Parade and Street Festival will take place on Dec. 10 from 4-10pm. The parade will start at 6pm on Ft. Barrette Road and end on Kapolei Parkway near Kapolei Hale. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a nice family evening with your Kapolei neighbors. For more information, contact Maile Alau of Hawaii Maoli at 394-0050. And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).



### **Kalaeloa Eyed as a Potential Jail Site**

On November 18<sup>th</sup> I received a blast email from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and their consultant, Louis Berger, informing me about the 11 sites being considered for the future of the O’ahu Community Correction Center (OCCC).

I was shocked to see that 5 of the 11 potential sites are located in my district in Kalaeloa. Those proposed sites in Kalaeloa include:

**Kalaeloa Area Parcel B** - property owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) along San Juacinto Street

**Kalaeloa Area Parcel C** – property owned by DHHL at the intersection of San Juacinto Street and Coral Sea Road

**Kalaeloa Area Parcels 6A/7** – property under the jurisdiction of Hunt Development Group bordered by Lexington Avenue and Saratoga Avenue

**Kalaeloa Area Parcels 18A/18B** – property under the jurisdiction of Hunt Development Group off of Roosevelt Avenue near Ewa Field

**Kalaeloa Area Barbers Point Riding Club** – property owned by the Navy next to Barbers Point Golf Course at the existing Barbers Point Riding Club

I was also taken aback by the KITV news statement on November 21 by a representative from DPS saying that in the last 3 months, community outreach has been going on with lawmakers, Neighborhood Boards, federal agencies, etc., because I wasn't given this courtesy. Learning about this the way I did, in an email blast, instead of a face-to-face meeting, was extremely disappointing, to say the least.

It’s been very challenging to get the Kalaeloa community on the right track and a jail would be a big blow to recent positive efforts. I plan to do whatever I can as a State Senator to keep OCCC out of our community. I’m not sure what, if anything, could convince me this is a good idea. I’ve been told by Bob Nardi, principal associate of Louis Berger, that the 11 sites will be whittled down by the end of January, and soon thereafter, an Environmental Impact Study will commence, which will take a year. Mr. Nardi wrote to me that the DPS “...project team are still in the early stages of planning and studying and that no decisions have been made about the proposed facility or possible locations.” I’ll be carefully monitoring the process. Stay tuned, and please get involved on this issue when community meetings are held.

December 2016  
Vol. 10 Issue 12

#### COMMITTEE CHAIR

◆ Agriculture & Environment

#### VICE CHAIR

◆ Water and Land

#### MEMBER

◆ Judiciary & Labor

#### DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

#### NEXT “LISTEN STORY”

We'll skip our "Listen Story" meeting in December because of the Christmas Holiday Season, and we'll resume January 28th from 9am to 10am at the Kapolei High School Teachers’ Lounge.

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# KAPOLEI EXPERIENCING PHENOMENAL GROWTH

*Kapolei Magazine* just released their latest issue and highlighted some fascinating statistics about the growth of the Kapolei region, which includes the 96706 and 96707 zip codes. Here are some of the numbers:

- ⇒ Population is expected to increase from 112,440 in 2015 to 168,940 in 2035
- ⇒ Average household size is 3.43 people
- ⇒ Median age is 31.9
- ⇒ Education completion levels are high school (30.1%), some college (26.1%), associate's degree (11.6%), bachelor's degree (17.5%), and graduate degree (6.6%)
- ⇒ Housing is expected to increase from 34,910 units in 2015 to 58,110 in 2035
- ⇒ Number of jobs is expected to go from 62,660 in 2015 to 103,430 in 2035
- ⇒ Home ownership rate – Honolulu (65%) and Kapolei region (70%)
- ⇒ Median Household Income – Honolulu (\$70,000) and Kapolei region (\$83,000)

## **New UH West O‘ahu Chancellor Announced and Groundbreaking for Allied Health/Administrative Building**

A big congratulations to Dr. Meanette Benham for being approved by the UH Board of Regents on November 17th as the new Chancellor of UH West O‘ahu. Dr. Benham will replace Dr. Doris Ching who has served as the Interim Chancellor for the last year. Dr. Benham is a former elementary and high school teacher, and was recently the Dean of the Hawaiinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at UH Manoa. A lot of exciting things are happening at UH West O‘ahu, so I'm looking forward to Dr. Benham's leadership. UH West O‘ahu currently has 2,900 students enrolled at the Kapolei campus, but there are plans to expand to 20,000 students in the future.

I had the privilege of attending the Groundbreaking Ceremony for UH West Oahu's Allied Health/Administrative Building on November 28th. It will house programs such as allied health, community health, health information management, long term care, and biology. The 43,000-square foot building will contain administrative offices, faculty offices, classrooms, and lab spaces. It will be the sixth building on the campus. About eight new faculty members will be hired to teach the Allied Health concentrations, which include community health,

health information management, and occupational therapy. Students will also take classes to complete public administration degrees with concentrations in justice, healthcare, and disaster preparedness and emergency management in the new building. The state appropriated \$36.7 million for the project and the building is scheduled to open in fall 2018.



**UH President Lassner, Rep. Har, Gov. Ige, and Sen. Gabbard**

## **CHANGES IN THE STATE SENATE**

I got word recently that my committee chair assignment for the 2017 session has changed. Instead of heading up the Water, Land, and Ag Committee like I did during the 2016 session, I'll now chair the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I'm fine with this change because I previously dealt

with environmental matters, as the Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee from 2009 to 2015. I'll also be the Vice Chair of the Water and Land committee and a member of the Judiciary and Labor Committee.

## VARONA VILLAGE REDEVELOPMENT

I was very pleased to learn that the City Council passed Resolution 16-276, which allows for the marketing of Varona Village in Ewa to a developer for redevelopment. Varona Village is listed on Hawai'i's Register of Historic Places. I commend Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Councilman Ron Menor for their efforts on this important project. The former Ewa Plantation workers were promised a long time ago that their homes would be improved, so it's good to see the City finally making good on that commitment. The resolution makes it so the former plantation workers and their families will have the option to either purchase their homes or remain there, if they wish, with low rents. There are currently 46-single family homes on the 90-lot area, with 43 existing families. The City will soon issue a request for proposals to begin this important process.



In his role as Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, Sen. Gabbard likes to get out of the office and into the field to experience first-hand the variety of industries that make up the agricultural landscape of our beautiful Hawai'i nei. On Oct. 24, he was invited by Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, to attend a Ko Hana Agrcirole Rum tour, a presentation at Whitmore Village, and tour of Green World Coffee Farm and Mari's Garden.

## Hawai'i Island Farm Visits

I took the opportunity over the Thanksgiving holidays to get out in the field and visit some farms on Hawai'i Island. As the Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, it's important for me to visit farmers and learn what kind of things the state can do to help them produce more of our food locally. The top agricultural crops on Hawai'i Island are flowers and nursery production (\$51.8M, 49% of state total); coffee (\$25.6M, 69% of state total value); macadamia nuts (\$24.6M, 100% of state total value); and fruits excluding pineapple (\$22.8M, 75% of state total value). I checked out Earth Matters 3-acre organic farm in South Point, which grows organic veggies and produces jams and jellies. I also visited OK Farms, a 1,500-acre farm which specializes in coffee, macadamia nuts, lychee, longan, citrus, cacao, heart of palm, and a wide variety of other tropical fruits and spices. It was interesting to see some of the Ed Olson Trust large-scale land holdings, which include both macadamia nut, coffee production, and ranching. One of the Olson Trust facilities I saw was the Ka'u Coffee Mill. Finally, I visited Lau Ola LLC to learn more about their plans as one of the state's new medical marijuana dispensaries.



Sen. Gabbard with Ed Olson (owner), Randy Stevens (store mgr.), and John Cross (Olson land manager) at the Ka'u Coffee Mill and Visitor Center in Pāhala on Nov. 25.



Sen. Gabbard toured Ka'u Coffee Farm in Pāhala on Nov. 25.



Sen. Gabbard toured Earth Matters Organic Farm in South Point on Nov. 25. Here he is with owner, Greg Smith, and Rep. Creagan—Chair House Ag Committee.



(Pictured L-R: Richard Ha—CEO Lau Ola, LLC, Sen. Gabbard, Jaclyn Moore—PharmD, Chief Compliance Officer, Dylan Shropshire—Chief Production Officer.)

## RECENT STATE BUDGET NEWS

In recent news stories, it was announced that the state closed Fiscal Year 2016, which ended on June 30, with a \$1 billion budget surplus. At the October Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale, my office was asked to report back on more specifics of the budget. We reported the following from the Senate Ways and Means Committee on this topic. In summary, the Legislature knew there would be a large year-ending balance, so we approved substantial one-time appropriations, including:

- ◆ **Act 47** -- \$100M for public school heat abatement projects.
- ◆ **Act 62** -- \$4M for the World Conservation Congress.
- ◆ **Act 77** -- \$103.2M for repayment of the general fund cash advance for the Kapalama Military Reservation project and Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.
- ◆ **Act 195** -- \$37M for deposit into the State highway fund..
- ◆ **Act 104** -- \$150M for deposit into the rainy day fund to meet a constitutional mandate.
- ◆ An additional \$51.4M is to be automatically transferred to the rainy day fund pursuant to section 328L-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

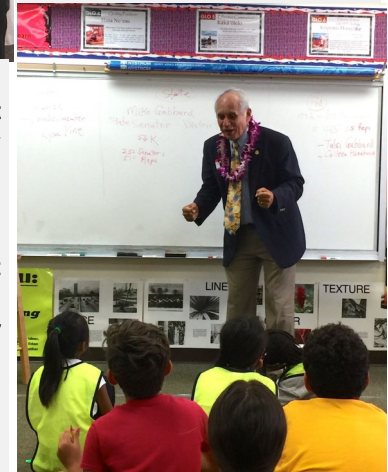
It's likely the ending balance for June 30, 2017 will be less than \$1 billion depending on revenues and expenditures.



Director J.D. Williams of the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy invited Sen. Gabbard to a Thanksgiving Luncheon with the cadets in Kalaeloa on Nov. 22, where the "Voices of YCA" performed "I Believe I Can Fly."



Sen. Gabbard spoke with fifth graders on Nov. 22 at the Mauka Lani Elementary School-Career Day. He talked about what it was like to be a Senator, the qualifications needed, and the significant moments in his life that led up to his decision to run for office.



## KOKO CRATER STABLES REOPENS

I was stoked to participate in the reopening of Koko Crater Stables, near the Koko Crater Botanical Gardens in East Honolulu on November 5.

Most adults who grew up in Honolulu and know how to ride a horse learned at Koko Crater Stables. It has been an important historic, cultural landmark, and beloved facility for 56 years. The estate of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop donated the land to the people of the City and County of Honolulu in 1928. In 1958, the City created the Koko Crater Botanical Gardens and in 1960 they earmarked ten acres of land to build a municipal stable facility.

The first horses arrived in 1962. Koko Crater Stables once held more than 40 horses and was the home to accredited Hawai'i Horse Show Association events enjoyed by the whole community. Unfortunately, over the years, due to lack of funding, the facility fell into disrepair. Horse owners moved their horses to other locations and parents stopped bringing their children for riding lessons.

The City & County condemned the main building and, with no other recourse, was preparing to bulldoze the facility. Luckily, thanks to the care and determination of Jerry and Jane Mount, along with the support of Michele Nekota, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Georgette Deemer, Deputy Managing Director of the City & County, the Koko Crater Stables were saved from destruction. Jerry and Jane formed

an LLC called *Horse Haven*

with partners Michelle Mizutani and Brigitte MacNaughton Egbert. But that was just the beginning of the challenge. The facility was in worse condition than anyone had anticipated.

Every single gate of every single stall was broken. Every single roof of every single building leaked. The tool room was filled with abandoned junk and hundreds of wasps. There was a lot of work to do and not a lot of time to do it in.

The great news was that there is a tremendous amount of community support. Supporters donated \$22,000 through a GoFundMe account. The Save Koko Crater Stables community, very rapidly and enthusiastically, grew into about 15 families who spent many weekdays and every single weekend working at the facility painting, building, and repairing. Joyously, the first horses have returned to Koko Crater Stables. A total of 25 horses are expected and two horse shows are planned for 2017.



Sen. Gabbard presented a certificate to honor and congratulate Koko Crater Stables upon their reopening Nov. 5. (Pictured with Jane Reilly Mount and Danny Kaleikini.)