

Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard

2016 Legislative
Wrap-up

Aloha e Friends,

I completed my 10th legislative session as your State Senator on May 5th. During those 10 years, we've seen a lot of positive changes, such as the new UH West O'ahu campus, the Kapolei Court Complex, Kualaka'i Parkway, Ho'okele Elementary, and the addition of many homes, businesses, and places to shop. This was my first session as Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee after serving the previous 7 sessions as Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee. Following are some highlights of the 2016 legislative session and updates on things happening in our community. And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/>

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Water, Land & Agriculture

MEMBER

Transportation & Energy

Judiciary and Labor

Higher Education and the Arts

District 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu



Next Listen Story Meeting

My next Listen Story meeting will be on June 25 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Ewa Mahiko District Park meeting room. If you can't make it, send me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.

Key Legislation

Four bills I authored passed the Legislature this session and are on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. Here are short summaries of those bills:

Industrial Hemp (SB 2659) - an historic bill establishing a 5-year pilot program under the Dept. of Agriculture to allow the cultivation of industrial hemp for agricultural and academic research. (Note: You can't get high on hemp! See the documentary, "Bringing It Home".) This would include the commercial sale of hemp as marketing and industry development. The Hemp Industries Association estimated last year that the retail value of all hemp products sold in the U.S. was \$620 million. I want to see a cottage industry using the Hawai'i brand: Hawaiian Hemp Shampoo, Honolulu Hemp Granola, Hawai'i Hemp Oil, etc.

Wildlife Species (SB 2647) - according to a 2008 study, Hawai'i has the nation's third largest market for ivory, after New York and California. This bill would ban people selling any part or product from the following animal species: elephant, rhino, hippo, lions, pangolins, cheetah, jaguar, or leopard and the following marine species: sea turtles, monk seals, narwhal, whales, or walrus. The passage of this bill goes after those involved in this illegal wildlife trade and in no way impacts the possession of ivory by the many Hawai'i families who own these items.

Water Audits (SB 2645) - there are over 100 public water systems in the state. Many of these water systems operate with inefficiencies that result in the loss of water, increased energy costs, and lost revenue. This bill would require the Commission on Water Resource Management to establish a 5-year program to conduct standardized water audits of public water systems.

Please see **Key Legislation**, p. 2

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Renewable Fuels (SB 2652) – this bill would establish a renewable fuels production tax credit and repeal the existing ethanol facility tax credit. Renewable fuels that would qualify would be methanol, ethanol, hydrogen, biodiesel or renewable diesel, biogas, other biofuels, or renewable jet fuel or renewable gas.

State Funding for Senate District 20

There was \$62,446,000 in funding included in the Fiscal Year 2015 – 2017 state budget for Senate District 20. Here's a list of those projects, which will benefit our communities.

Schools

- ◆ Kapolei Middle – Re-roofing - \$2.6 million
- ◆ Kapolei Middle – New Bus Lanes and Drop-Off - \$1.8 million
- ◆ Kapolei Middle – Additional Parking - \$100,000
- ◆ Makakilo Elementary – ADA Compliance - \$1.045 million

Transportation

- ◆ H-1 Makakilo to Palailai Interchange Improvements - \$7 million
- ◆ Kalaeloa Airport Utility Improvements - \$638,000
- ◆ Kakuhihewa State Building (Department of Transportation Office Renovations) - \$500,000

Kalaeloa Improvements

- ◆ Kalaeloa Energy Corridor - \$3 million
- ◆ Youth Challenge Academy Kalaeloa Guardrail Replacement - \$388,000

UH West Oahu

- ◆ UHWO Creative Media Building - \$35 million
- ◆ UHWO Admin and Allied Health Facility - \$7 million

Grants-in-Aid

- ◆ Child and Family Services (Grant-in-Aid for Operations) - \$100,000
- ◆ KAMP Hawaii Incorporated (Grant-in-Aid for Operations) - \$75,000
- ◆ Kapolei Community Development Corporation (Grant-in-Aid for Heritage Center) – \$500,000
- ◆ National Kidney Foundation Grant-in-Aid for Program Development Center) - \$2 million
- ◆ Special Olympics (Grant-in-Aid for Multi-Purpose Facility and Fitness Building) - \$700,000



Sen. Gabbard attended The Pacific Aviation Museum at Pearl Harbor “National Youth Summit” on May 17. Discussion focused on Japanese American Incarceration in World War II. The outreach youth program is sponsored by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in partnership with the Japanese American National History. (Pictured with Ken de Hoff, Executive Director of the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.)



Sen. Gabbard gave remarks on the Senate floor May 3, regarding the House amendments to the Wildlife Trafficking bill. The bill will allow coordination between DLNR and federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the enforcement of the illegal wildlife trade. The bill also makes it clear that it's illegal to sell wildlife parts and products of endangered species trafficked through Hawai'i. The passage of this bill in no way impacts the possession of ivory by the many Hawaiian families that own these items.

2016 Legislative Session Overview

There was a total of 2,387 bills introduced during the 2016 legislative session (1,260 in the House and 1,379 in the Senate). Of those, 272 were passed by the Legislature. The Governor has three choices: he can sign the bills into law, allow the bills to become law without his signature, or veto the bills.

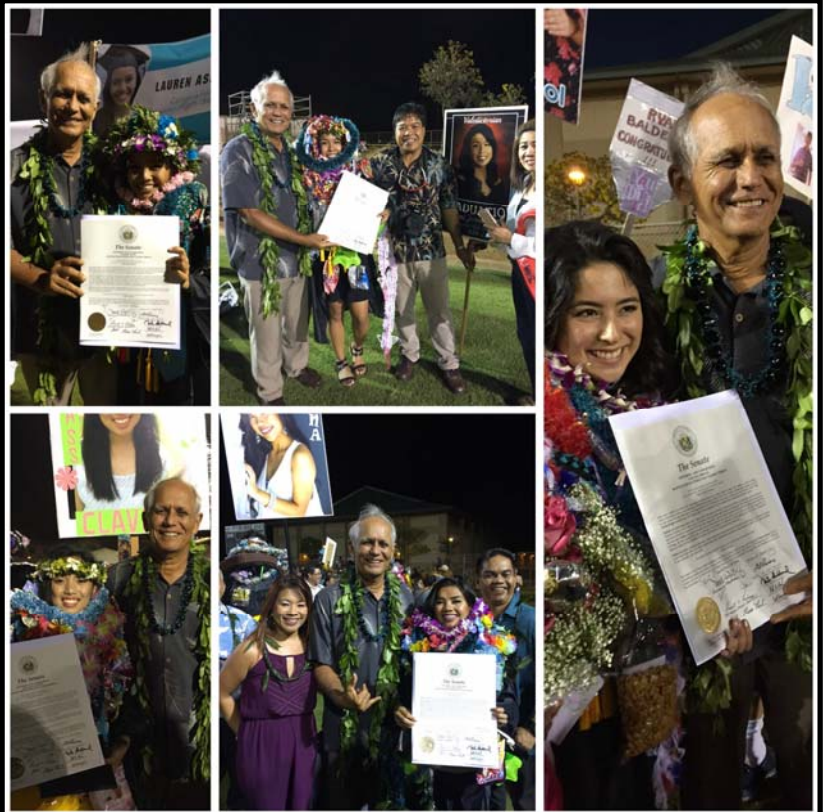
Here are the next major deadlines:

June 27th – Deadline for the Governor to notify the Legislature if he intends to veto any of those bills.

July 12th – Deadline for the Governor to veto bills and for the Legislature to come back into Special Session to override those vetoes.

Please let the Governor know how you feel about the different legislation by calling him at 586-0034 or filling on the "Contact Us" form here:

<http://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/comments-on-legislation/>



Kapolei High School 2016 graduation was May 20. Every year, Sen. Gabbard attends and afterwards, seeks out the Valedictorians, to present them with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawaii State Senate. (Pictured L-R: Lauren Alejo, Anolani Viloria, Arianna Claveria, Kiana Fernandez, and Chelsea Briggs.)



Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz invited Sen. Gabbard to speak at Sugarland Farms May 21 in support of the Whitmore Project – part of a revitalization strategy for Wahiawa and its surrounding land. The main goals are to promote local agriculture and create jobs in an area desperate for change. (Pictured L-R: Tisha Uyehara – Chairwoman for the Board of Directors for Agribusiness Development Corporation; Sen. Dela Cruz, and Sen. Gabbard.)

Supplemental State Budget Overview 2016-2017

- ◆ The total supplemental operating state budget for 2016-2017 is \$13.7 billion.
- ◆ The supplemental state budget includes the appropriations that are made during the second year of the two-year biennium budget.
- ◆ Here's the breakdown by department:
- ◆ Human Services – 24%; Education – 15%; Other Departments; Health – 12%; UH – 8%; Transportation – 7%; Health Premiums – 7%; Retirement Benefits – 6%; and Debt Service – 6%.

Here are some of the bigger ticket items included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 state budget.

- ◆ \$160 m. to renovate the Hawaii State Hospital
- ◆ \$100 m. to cool classrooms
- ◆ \$37 m. for Department of Transportation Highway Fund
- ◆ \$31.5 m. for purchase of former Dole lands for agriculture
- ◆ \$5.4 m. to study construction of a new Oahu prison



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### Successful School Year Comes to an End

A big congrats to all the high school graduates of James Campbell High, Kapolei High, Waipahu High, Island Pacific Academy, and American Renaissance Academy. I wish all these outstanding young people much success in all their future endeavors. I also want to publicly congratulate Kapolei Middle School Principal Bruce Naguwa, who was named the 2016 National Distinguished Principal by the Hawai'i Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association and their school Librarian, Carolyn Kirio, who was selected by the White House as a great educator following her nomination by the American Association of School Librarians. Waipahu High teacher, Michael Sana, the Chairman of their Science Department also deserves praise for being named the 2015-2016 Milken Educator Award winner.



Sen. Gabbard spoke to 39 seniors from Island Pacific Academy on May 14 about what to expect from college and their role in the community as upcoming voters and leaders of our society.

### Kapolei High Athletics Comes Up Big

During the Spring Semester several Kapolei High athletic programs received many accolades. Here's a rundown of those achievements:

**Kapolei High Judo** – won their third straight team title at the Max Muscle/HHSAA Boys Judo State Championships on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Iolani placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kapolei High individual team members were state champions in the following weight classes: Anthony Brett (132); Rodman Salangdron (161); and Kaulana Marisco (178).



**Kapolei High Softball** - placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2016 HHSAA Softball State Championship on May 13, 2016. The team lost to James Campbell High by a score of 12-2.

**Kapolei High Soccer** – placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the HHSAA Boys Soccer Championship on Feb. 27, 2016. Punahou placed 1<sup>st</sup> with a 2-0 score.

**Kapolei High Boys Wrestling** – placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2016 HHSAA Boys Wrestling Championship on February 20, 2016. Iolani placed 1<sup>st</sup> and James Campbell High was 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sen. Gabbard was invited to be the emcee at the 6th Annual Leeward Music Festival at the Kroc Center on April 23. He, along with Representative Andria Tupola, presented Doris Dudley with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate for her role as founder of the festival six years ago.