

Aloha e Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your 'ohana are all doing well and had a wonderful and safe holiday season. If I can help you or your 'ohana in any way, please contact me at (808) 586-6830, or send me an email at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov. I also invite you to follow me on social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#). Best wishes to you and your 'ohana.

**COMMITTEE
CHAIR**

**AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT**

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

DISTRICT 21

Kapolei,
Makakilo,
Kalaeloa,
and portions of:
Fernandez Village,
Ewa

DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

Listen Story Community Meeting

ICYMI, on **Saturday, Jan 21, 9-10am** I'll be hosting my first Listen Story meeting of 2023! The meeting is a hybrid, so people can attend either in-person at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge, or via Zoom. Our Special Guest **Kiran Polk, Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce**, will be providing an overview of what initiatives the Kapolei Chamber is working on, and she'll also share about the Business Revitalization Task Force and their priorities. There will be time for Q & A. Following Kiran's presentation, I'll give some quick community updates. Please send me an email at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov to RSVP or for the link to join via Zoom.

2022 Recap

Hard to believe it's already 2023! You can watch a short recap of some of my favorite events and memories [here on YouTube](#).



Sen. Gabbard with staff on December 30, 2022 District 21 tour at the end of Makakilo Drive, pictured L – R: Angel Crumpton, Jhanavi Pomerantz, Kawena "Reggie" Garcia, Meg Turner.

District 21 Team Tour

On December 30, in preparation for the quickly approaching start of session on Jan 18, 2023, my staff and I went on a tour of District 21...also known as the most beautiful District in the entire state. 😊

Senate District 21 encompasses 4 House Districts; the majority of House District 41: Rep. David Alcos, the entire House District 42: Rep. Diamond Garcia, the entire House District 43: Rep. Kanani Souza, and portions of House District 44: Rep. Darius Kila.

We met up on Friday morning in Kalaeloa, where my wife Carol and I have lived for the past 19 years. From there, myself, Office Manager Meg Turner, Community Liaison Jhanavi Pomerantz, Legislative Aide Angel Crumpton, and Committee Clerk Kawena "Reggie" Garcia drove out together to Barber's Point Harbor (the southwest corner of D21) to start our tour! (cont. on P2)

DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

District 21 Team Tour

(cont. from P1) My staff had worked hard to create a route that followed very closely along the new borders of District 21 (formerly District 20). From Barber's Point Harbor we drove up to Makakilo Drive, which was one of our favorite views on the tour...and we couldn't resist a group selfie. Our tour continued from Makakilo Drive to Farrington Highway, Kualaka'i and Kapolei Parkways, Fort Weaver Road, Barbers Point Golf Course, and White Plains Beach. A highlight of the tour was finding the future home of Ho'opili's First Urban Garden! Not only did we get to familiarize ourselves with D21, it was great talking-story with my staff and getting to know each other. We wrapped up our tour right at 1pm and I treated my staff to an ono lunch at Kapolei Down to Earth.

GoFarms Waimanalo Site Visit

On December 21, 2022, I attended a wonderful site visit to the [GoFarms](#) Waimanalo Research Center. I was joined on the tour by my Agriculture and Environment Committee Members; Sen. Tim Richards, Vice Chair, Sen. Lynn DeCoite, and Sen. Brenton Awa. Micah-Seth Munekata from Ulupono Initiative, Sen. Lynn DeCoite's son Dillon, and my staffers Angel Crumpton, Jhanavi Pomerantz, and Reggie Garcia also joined the site visit. It was great to get our feet on the ground with my fellow AEN committee members prior to the start of session and connect in person with our local farmers. We had a great discussion with CTAHR's (College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources) GoFarm Hawai'i's farmer-graduates, who gave us an overview of the program and answered questions from our group.

GoFarm Hawai'i is a Statewide Beginning Farmer Training Program with sites on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Their mission is to enhance Hawai'i's food security and economy by increasing the number of sustainable, local agricultural producers by providing hands-on commercial farm and business training. You can read about the history of GoFarms [here](#).

GoFarm Hawai'i beginning farmer training program was launched in 2012, and as a UH CTAHR program, GoFarm Hawai'i has grown to become one of the largest and most successful beginning farmer development programs in the country! These are a few of the farms



Sen. Gabbard and Community Liaison Jhanavi Pomerantz at the future site of Ho'opili's First Urban Garden.

Opening Day

January 18, 10am marks the start of session for the 32nd Hawaii State Legislature – also known as **Opening Day!** You can check out this [legislative calendar](#) for the deadlines of the 2023 Regular Session. My staff and I have been hard at work for the past several weeks prepping bills; we have until Jan 25 to introduce our bills. In the next few weeks, you'll find a rapidly growing list of bills on the Legislature's Reports and Lists section [here](#). The Hawai'i State Legislature has also posted the [2023 Grant-in-Aid \(GIA\) application](#); Jan 20 is the deadline to submit applications.

owned by their recent grads: Counter Culture Organic Farm (5-acre North Shore), Kanui Farms (1/2 acre Waimanalo), and Del La Mesa Farm (1/4 acre Waimanalo).

We spoke with a few of the amazing young farmers and saw (and tasted! 😊) firsthand some of the products they grow to sell to local restaurants. It was truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm that these young men and women from all walks of life have for farming. We were given some amazing produce to take home, including an ono bag of mixed greens, lilikoi, and apple bananas.



Some ono lettuce growing at GoFarms Waimanalo.

DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES



Group photo at GoFarms Waimanalo location, Dec 21, 2022. Back row from L – R: Matthew McKinnon, Micah Seth-Munekata, Sen. Tim Richards, Laura Ediger, Rachel LaDrig, Jhanavi Pomerantz, Dillon DeCoite, Angela Crumpton, Shane Crumpton; front row from L – R: Haley Mayoaka, Sen. Lynn DeCoite, Janel Yamamoto, Sen. Gabbard, Sen. Brenton Awa, Alyssa Lee, Kawena “Reggie” Garcia.

Environmental Legislative Caucus (ELC) Cesspool Info Briefing

My crappy quote made the [Big Island Now news](#) 1/5/23... 😊

“We wanted to thank you for all your hard work on this crappy issue,” Senate Committee Chair Mike Gabbard said before the presentation began.

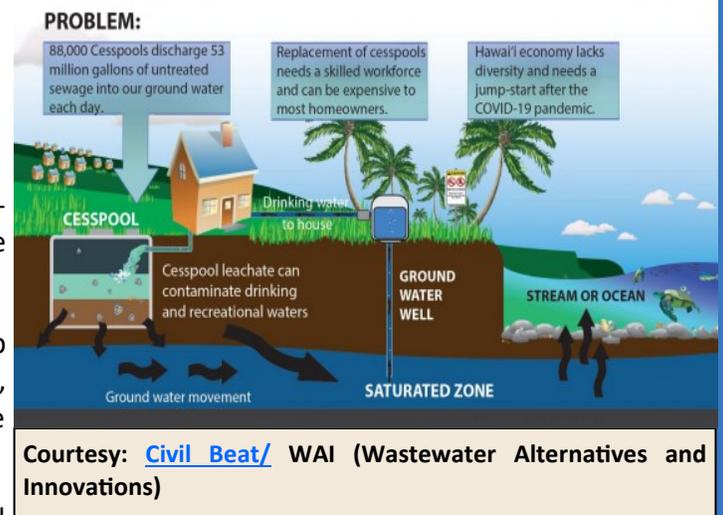
On January 4th, The Cesspool Conversion Working Group shared an informational briefing goal to develop a long-range, comprehensive plan for the safe, environmentally responsible conversion of Hawai'i's cesspools by 2050.

Info briefings are where a Chair invites actively engaged field experts to share their mana'o, research, and findings. This way, legislators can make informed decisions as a committee. Chair, Representative Nicole Lowen, and I as co-Chair of the Environmental Legislative Caucus, hosted the informational briefing to have a current overview of the facts and data on this issue.

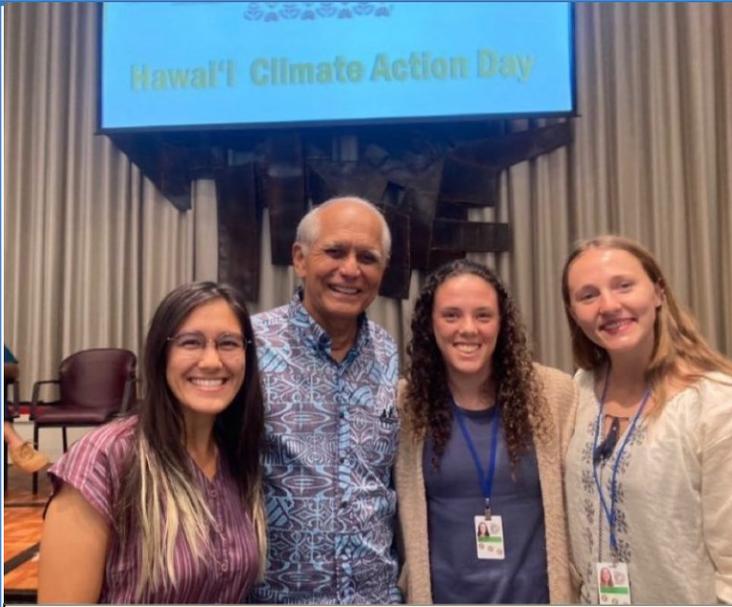
We are hopeful this will help us take legislative action this upcoming session!

Submitting Testimony

If you'd like to get involved in our upcoming session, you can follow the detailed instructions here: [testimonyinstructions.pdf \(hawaii.gov\)](#) for submitting testimony online as well as how to sign up to testify remotely via Zoom!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



Sen. Gabbard at Hawai'i Climate Day with (L-R) Elin Woolf, Climate Ready Engagement Specialist; Hailey Campbell, Climate Adaptation Specialist & VISTA Leader; Alex Grant-Hudd, Public Policy Research Analyst.

Climate Week Panel at UH West O'ahu

Are you keeping up with Climate Week? It's a national event, in which Hawai'i has planned a whole week of events! I helped to kick it off on Monday at the East-West Center at UH West O'ahu. Many mahalos to DLNR, the Climate Commission, and everyone else who helped organize this event and the entire Hawai'i Climate Week. Not to mention our new Gov, Josh Green, who used the opportunity to announce his pledge of \$100M to fight climate change!

It was nice to see one of our main local papers (<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2023/01/10/hawaii-news/hawaii-gov-josh-green-pledges-100m-to-fight-climate-change/>) include this quote from me below. The article requires a paid subscription to read, but Yahoo news picked it up so I included that link if you'd like to read the article.

Should be an interesting upcoming Legislative Session with all the focus and support for Climate Change. Hawai'i made history a couple years ago, when I introduced, and the legislature passed, a resolution (SCR44) making us the first state in the country to declare a climate emergency. You can Google to see numerous articles on the topic.

Here's my quote from the Climate Day Event on Monday
State Sen. Mike Gabbard (D, Ewa-Kapolei-Makakilo) said his top priorities include a visitor impact fee backed by Green, a carbon cash-back bill, green infrastructure and healthy soil.

"Your voice really matters, so please send in your testimony of climate-related bills," Gabbard said. "Especially you young folks."

Here's the article on Yahoo: <https://news.yahoo.com/hawaii-gov-josh-green-pledges-223100044.html>

Public Parking at the Capitol

The Capitol's paid public parking is open! On Jan 3, Gov. Josh Green, M.D. made the announcement that the Capitol parking has reopened for paid public parking. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) installed new pay stations to collect parking fees.

Visitors who want to park in the Capitol building parking lot will be required to use the centralized pay station which will print a receipt after payment that has to be placed on the vehicle's dashboard. The cost to park in the public parking area is \$2 per hour for the first two hours, and \$4 for every following hour.



Sen. Gabbard at Waimanalo GoFarms site visit, Dec 21, 2022.