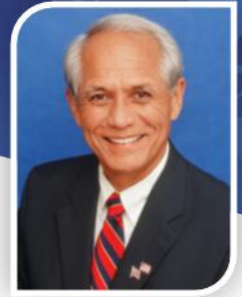


April 2009



Aloha Friends and neighbors,

Don't forget, May 10th is Mother's Day. If you haven't expressed your appreciation, I hope you'll take the opportunity to honor all the moms, mothers-in-law, and grandmas in your life.

On a different note, I want to share with you a harrowing experience I had recently that has a happy ending. Somehow or other, I got the hiccups and instead of them going away after a few minutes, they lasted for **FIVE DAYS...** and I mean, 24-7.

The first night, I got out of bed and slept on the floor because Carol was sleeping next to me, and every time I hiccupped, the bed would shake. At about 2am, I began Google-ing "hiccups cure" and came up with some pretty bizarre remedies. I tried them all – standing on my head while drinking water, eating peanut butter, holding my breath seemingly forever... but nothing worked. Sometimes, they would get so bad (30-40 hiccups in a row), I found myself gasping for air. On the 4th day, I had to give a speech and apologized to the audience if my words seemed to be a little, you know, syncopated. I called a registered nurse friend and she said I should see a doctor.

Finally, on the fifth night, literally exhausted from lack of sleep, I went back to Google-ing and the first thing that came up was, "The longest record of continuous hiccups was a man who had them for 60 years." Great. So, I'm sinking into a semi-depressive freak-out, thinking about the next day's legislative session, when I found this on the Internet: www.mastersweep.com/curehiccups.htm

EUREKA! A CURE!!! Five easy steps with a 99% cure rate. I tried it, and immediately my hiccups vanished. I took a very looooooong nap, and I'm back at full speed. So, if this ever happens to you, now you know where to find the cure.

Please contact me if I can help you. My email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and my phone number is 586-6830. Next up are a few things I'd like to share with you.

Mike
Senator Mike Gabbard



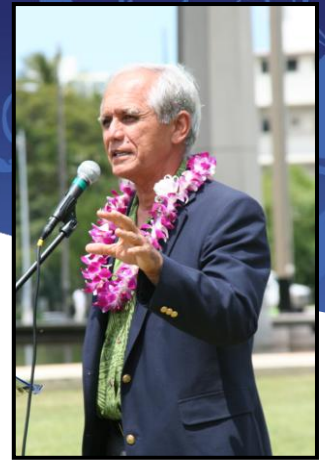
Listen-Story

Mahalo to everyone who attended my last community meeting in Kunia on March 28th (left). My next "listen-story" will be at the Waikele Starbucks, 94-799 Lumiaina Street (next to Borders Books), on Saturday, May 16th from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Hope to see you there!

March 28th "listen-story" attendees were (above, from left) Gary Waters, Jodi Akau, Wendy and Tadd Rienstra, Young Kim, Senator Mike Gabbard, Steven and Denise Ishizu, Mel Abe, Celia Molina, and Tyrell Ma'ae (UH West Oahu Student Body President).

Key Environmental Legislation Poised for Passage

We've entered the final stretch of the Legislative Session which ends May 7th. This portion is called Conference and is the time when the House and Senate sit down to compromise and work out the differences in the bills. As the Senate Energy and Environment Chair, I've been able to collaborate with my colleagues and get several key pieces of legislation that I authored to this point. Here's a short description of those bills:



Sen. Gabbard and his staff were happy to make Easter baskets with hygiene items & goodies for the Institute for Human Services to distribute to Hawai'i families in need this year.



Hawai'i artist Vicky Chock created 4 ceramic sculptures featured in Sen. Gabbard's office on loan from the State Foundation on Culture & Arts. Shown here is her piece Jurassic Chair.

SB 242 – would allow Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning to qualify for state enterprise zone benefits to help spur the development of their planned seawater air conditioning in downtown Honolulu

SB 464 – would make the State's solar and wind tax credit behave like a grant by allowing homeowners and businesses to get reimbursed for a portion of the cost of a solar system instead of only using it as a tax credit

SB 1065 – would allow the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority (NELHA) to sell electricity to its tenants and Keahole Airport without being considered a mini-utility

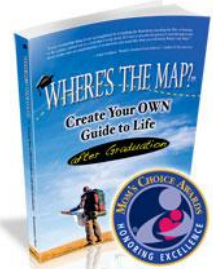
SB 1066 – would increase the number of NELHA Board of Directors to 13, by adding two tenant representative directors

SB 1173 – would move the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative forward by establishing various requirements, standards, guidelines, and incentives for energy efficiency

SB 1258 – would move the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative forward by encouraging the development of renewable energy in Hawai'i

SB 1259 – would protect innocent property buyers or contiguous property owners from being held liable for environmental contamination they didn't cause

SB 1260 – would make it so polluters producing more than 4,000 tons of air pollution emissions a year, would no longer be exempt from paying additional fees



SupportHawaiiSchools.com Trying to Make a Difference

I was recently contacted by a couple on the Big Island who own an independent book company called Inspiration Publications. They requested that I help them get the word out about a fundraising effort that they are putting together to help high schools across the state. They are offering 40% of every sale of their book, Where's the Map? Create Your OWN Guide to Life After Graduation to benefit Hawai'i high schools.

Their goal is to raise \$250,000 for the cause in 2009. The book has been used in several local high schools as part of a pilot for the "Personal Transition Plan" curriculum and also received the 2009 Mom's Choice Award for the Best in Family-Friendly Media in the young adult non-fiction category. Visit their websites at SupportHawaiiSchools.com and WheresTheMap.com to learn more about their fundraising efforts and book.

University of Hawai'i Stars of Oceania Award

Senator J. Kalani English, Rep. Hermina Morita, and I received the 2009 University of Hawai'i Stars of Oceania award at the Waikiki Sheraton on April 9th. This award is given to traditional leaders from Melanesia, Polynesia & Micronesia who are elected officials / community leaders and "advocate, practice, and lead in ways that demonstrate aloha, responsibility, and caring for the health, beauty and welfare of the Pacific Ocean and planet earth." I was humbled to receive this honor.



The presentation of the award was coupled with the Pasifika Energy Summit. This forum focused on connecting traditional wisdom and modern knowledge to combat the problems of global warming, excessive consumption, and environmental degradation. The Summit also brought together renewable energy companies to focus on how island economies can reduce their dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The UH Stars of Oceania Awards and Pasifika Energy Summit was sponsored by the UH Pacific Business Program which is housed in the Shidler College of Business Administration. Their goal is to provide management and technical assistance to businesses across the Pacific region. A big mahalo to Dr. Tusi Avegalio and his staff at UH's Pacific Business Center for the recognition and for doing such great work for Pacific Islanders.

Photo at left: Sen. Gabbard making poi at the State Capitol on 'Oahu Taro Day, March 24th.

Shark Tours: Not Good for 'Oahu Residents or the Environment

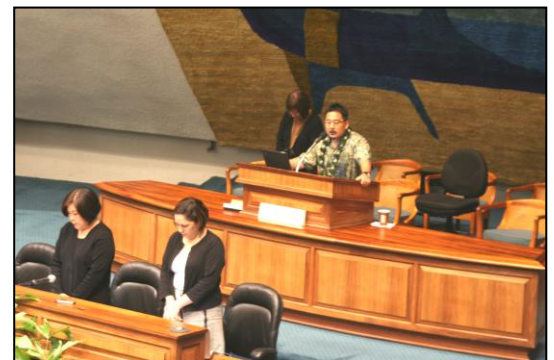


I attended a meeting at Kamiloiki Elementary School on April 16th to hear from East Honolulu residents about the plans of a local company to do shark tours 3 miles off the coast of Maunaloa Bay. Hundreds of residents and many elected officials attended the meeting. Given the sheer number of residents who recreate in this bay, it's a very bad idea to attract more of these predators to the area which could potentially cause shark attacks and damage the natural eco-system.

You might have heard in the media that the company has decided to pull the plug on its planned shark tour for now. I announced at the meeting that, as Chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, I plan to hold an informational briefing on the shark tour issue over the legislative interim to explore a potential solution to this problem. I promise to work hard on this issue and do my best to prevent something like this from happening in West 'Oahu.

Kapolei's Glenn Yamaguchi Delivers Invocation

Mahalo to Glenn Yamaguchi, Senior Pastor at New Hope Kapolei for coming down to the State Capitol on March 23, 2009 to deliver the official invocation for the State Senate's daily session. Before starting New Hope Kapolei over a decade ago, he was a missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ, a salesman, and an associate pastor with Hope Chapel Mililani. Thanks, Pastor Glenn!



Le Fetuao Samoan Language School

Linking Our Youth to Their Heritage



I served as the keynote speaker at the Le Fetuao Samoan Language School's Open House event on April 4th. I also had the opportunity to present Rev. Nuutele Vaeena, the school's Executive Director, and Elisapeta Tu'upo-Alaimaleata, the Director and Founder, with an honorary certificate from the State Senate.



Le Fetuao Samoan Language School is a church-based community outreach program in Honolulu designed to provide preschool to middle school aged children with language, literacy, and cultural vernacular education. Though the school is a community service program of the First Samoan Methodist Church in Salt Lake, participation is open to church members and non-members alike. The teachings at Le Fetuao Samoan Language School combine in-class lessons, at-home learning and community-based activities. Strong partnerships have been established between Le Fetuao Samoan Language School and the University of Hawai'i Samoan Language and Culture Program, the University of Hawai'i Creating Futures, and even many local businesses.

"Fa'afetai lava" (thanks) to Le Fetuao for making a difference in the lives of Hawai'i's Samoan youth and for helping us all to remember that we're one "aiga" (family) with many similar hopes, dreams, and prayers for the future. It's so important that we provide our young people with an opportunity to learn the heritage, language and culture of their ancestral homeland.

Kaneohe Resident Honored for "Cool" Invention

Senator Jill Tokuda and I honored Kaneohe resident, Richard Maruya, at the State Capitol on April 8th. Mr. Maruya was recognized for his non-toxic and non-ozone depleting invention, Hydro Carbon Refrigerant 188C (HCR188C), which was selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a prestigious Environmental Achievement Award in 2008.



After 15 years of tireless trials, Mr. Maruya was successful in coming up with an alternative refrigerant that is more efficient, safer, and creates less pollution than current refrigerants. HCR188C is patented for its ability to replace current refrigerants in air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers that contribute greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. His amazing mixture is proving to have an energy savings of at least 5 percent and requires only a third as much to be added to appliances, making flammability less of a concern.

HCR188C has been patented in the U.S., Japan, Korea, China, UK, France, and Germany. Mr. Maruya has even taken his invention to the next level by designing his own refrigerators with HCR188C and is looking to get it on the market by mid-summer. Richard's invention has the potential to improve our world in many ways and reflects greatly on the environmental "coolness" of Hawai'i. I wish him success in getting a shot of HCR188C into refrigerators and air conditioners everywhere.