



Senator Mike Gabbard

July 2009

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up & Community Highlights



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SENATE DISTRICT 19

WAIKELE
VILLAGE PARK
ROYAL KUNIA
KAPOLEI
MAKAKILO
KALAELOA
HONOKAI HALE
AND PORTIONS OF
WAIPAHU & KO 'OLINA

Aloha Friends and neighbors,

The 2009 Legislative Session came to a close on May 8th. As you know, it has been a tough year for our economy and state budget, but there have been some bright spots for our district. I was very pleased that we were able to secure \$3.5 million in funding for the design of the much-anticipated Kapolei II Elementary School. The school will be located across Ft. Barrette Road from Kapolei High and is targeted to be completed by 2012. We were also fortunate to have \$55 million appropriated for the PM Contraflow lane, which will allow carpoolers to use a zipper lane from Radford Drive to Waikele Road in the afternoons. This was also my first session to Chair the Energy and Environment Committee. We were able to pass many landmark bills that will move us in the direction of a "clean energy" powered economy. The legislation sets our goals of meeting 70% of our energy needs through renewable energy and energy efficiency savings by 2030. It will set up the necessary infrastructure to make electric vehicles a major player by 2015. I hope you enjoy this wrap-up of the session and a few other things I'd like to share with you.

Listen-Story Meeting

My next community meeting will be in Honokai Hale at the Kamokila Community Park on Saturday, August 22nd at 9am.

I hope to see you there!

Me ka pumehana,

Senator Mike Gabbard
19th District

March 28th "listen-story" attendees were (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.



Left: Dedication of new Senior Residence at Kapolei along Namahoe Street with Marvin Awaya on 5/06/09. Center: UH West O'ahu groundbreaking ceremony with Chancellor Gene Awakuni and Senate colleagues Will Espero, Jill Tokuda, and Clarence Nishihara on 1/14/09. Right: Groundbreaking for DHHL's Kanehili subdivision in East Kapolei with Micah Kane and Rep. Har on 1/27/09.



Energy & Environment

Legislative Accomplishments



I was happy to see five of the bills I authored this session be signed into law by Governor Lingle. Here's a short summary of each of them:

2009 Bills

SB 464



SB 1065



SB 1066



SB 1259



SB 1260



• **SB 464** – will make the Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit refundable and in the process create green collar jobs, help revive the construction industry, increase energy security, and reduce our carbon emissions. It will also save the state millions in electricity costs by making solar energy projects viable for state buildings, such as public schools.

• **SB 1065** – will allow the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) to sell electricity to its tenants and Keahole Airport without being considered a mini-utility. This will greatly reduce their electricity bills.

• **SB 1066** – will increase the number of NELHA Board of Directors to 13, by adding two tenant representative directors.

• **SB 1259** – will protect innocent property buyers or neighboring property owners from being held liable for environmental contamination they didn't cause.

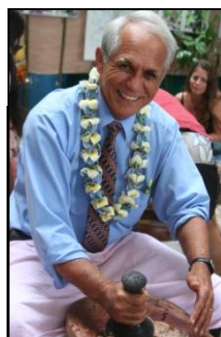
• **SB 1260** – will make it so polluters who produce more than 4,000 tons of air pollution emissions a year would no longer be exempt from paying additional fees.



May 21, 2009 – Checking out the solar panels atop the Big Island's Mauna Lani Resort with their Director of Engineering Greg Collard.



Recipients of the 2009 University of Hawai'i Stars of Oceania award on April 9, 2009 – Sen. Gabbard, Rep. Morita, and Sen. English.



March 24, 2009 – Making poi at the State Capitol on O'ahu Taro Day.



January 6, 2009 – Castle & Cooke's dedication ceremony for La Ola on Lana'i, the largest Solar Farm in Hawai'i.

Kapolei Interchange Complex Groundbreaking

It was great joining U.S. Senator Dan Inouye, Governor Linda Lingle, and others at the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the new Kapolei Interchange Complex on July 2nd. The project will include an eastbound on- and off-ramp for the new H-1 Kapolei Interchange at Kamokila Boulevard & Wakea Street and an off-ramp near Wet-n-Wild Hawai'i. It will also have a new westbound on-ramp for drivers wanting to access the H-1 via Makakilo Drive.

What's really cool is that no state money is being used. Total construction cost will be \$16.6 million, with \$15.6 coming from the federal government and \$1 million from Kapolei Property Development. The expected completion date will be early 2011 and the contractor is Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company.



July 2, 2009 – Groundbreaking and blessing ceremony for the Kapolei Interchange.

Construction Funding for Senate District 19

Given our difficult budgetary situation, Senate District 19 was very fortunate to have received a total of \$120,303,000 in appropriations from the Legislature in the 2009-2011 budget for our schools, roads, non-profits, and many other construction projects. A big mahalo to Ways and Means Chair, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, House Finance Chair, Marcus Oshiro, and my other colleagues at the Capitol for their hard work in balancing the budget! Here's a list of those projects:



Schools

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

Roads/Transportation Improvements

- H-1 Kunia Interchange Improvements - \$780,000
- North South Road Extension to Kalaeloa - \$15 million
- PM Contraflow Lane (Radford to Waikele) - \$55 million

Kalaeloa Development

- Kalaeloa Airport Improvements – \$22.5 million
- Kalaeloa Building 19 Restoration for National Guard - \$5.9 million
- Kalaeloa Harbor Basin and Channel Modifications - \$1.5 million
- Kalaeloa Mail Distribution Center for National Guard - \$1,175,000



Judiciary

- Kapolei Judiciary Complex - \$230,000

Grants-in Aid to Non-Profits

- Easter Seals - \$275,000
- Kipuka INPEACE - \$1.5 million



Agriculture

- Waiahole Ditch Irrigation System Improvements - \$6,295,000
- Multipurpose Research and Development Facility for Agricultural Products in Kunia - \$4,502,000

Federal Stimulus Package Money for Our Roads

It was great news to learn in March that our state is receiving \$127 million in funding for highway improvement projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (federal stimulus package).

Kapolei has two road projects that meet the federal criteria & are "ready to go."

The two projects are:

- \$7 million for Kalaeloa Blvd Widening and Reconstruction, Phase - 1 OR&L Right of Way to Lauwiliwili St.
- \$1.8 million for H-1, Seismic Retrofit, Farrington Hwy & Makakilo Separation

MAHALO

to our congressional delegation and President Obama for their hard work in making this happen!



The Ohana Council from Mauka Lani Elementary visited the State Capitol on March 10, 2009.

The Hawai'i Carpenters Union opened up a new training facility in Kalaeloa on May 23, 2009.





Youth Challenge Academy Graduation

It was an honor to be the keynote speaker at the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy graduation at Pearl City High School on June 20th. My speech highlighted how the Academy is doing "an incredibly important job in helping our youth become who they really want to and ought to be." I also personally presented each of the nearly 100 graduates with an honorary certificate from the State Senate in recognition of their achievement. The Academy is a Kalaheo-based program run by the

Hawai'i National Guard, which uses military training to significantly improve the life skills and employment potential of young people who drop out of high school before graduating.

Sierra Club: Legislator Who Made a Difference

I was humbled to be named one of "three legislators who made a difference" by the Hawaii Sierra Club during the 2009 legislative session. In their July-September 2009 newsletter, it was noted, "Senator Gabbard took the lead on sponsoring and ushering through a series of positive energy bills. He also deserves recognition for deferring a bill that would have undermined protections for endangered species in Hawaii." The other legislators who were recognized were Senator Clayton Hee and Rep. Chris Lee. I look forward to continuing to my work with the Sierra Club in the interest of protecting our environment.



Royal Kunia Recreation Center Project to Start in 2009

I was pleased to hear that site work on the Royal Kunia Recreation Center will begin this year. I'd been told by a constituent a few weeks ago that Castle & Cooke had notified the Royal Kunia Community Association Board that they were going to put off starting construction on the Recreation Center until 2010 because of the failing economy. I called and wrote a letter to Harry Saunders, the President of Castle & Cooke Hawaii, urging him to see if anything could be done to convince his corporate office to reconsider. Just a few days later, I got a call from Castle & Cooke informing my office that they'd decided to do the right thing. The Center will be built through a partnership between Castle & Cooke and Halekua Development called Kunia Residential Partners, Inc. It will boast a multi-purpose room, kitchen, community association office, Honolulu Police Department field office, restrooms, and a barbeque pavilion. It is expected to open in late 2010.



Kamokila Boulevard Extension Ready for Kapolei Costco and Target Openings

It was awesome to see the Kamokila Boulevard Extension finally open on February 26th. This short 2/10 mile road, which is located between the new Costco and the Kapolei Judiciary Complex, has been huge in reducing traffic in Kapolei. The best news of all is that the road was ready in time for the opening of Costco on February 27th and Target on March 4th. I started working on the Kamokila Extension in 2003 when I first took office as a City Councilman. A big mahalo to Kapolei Property Development and the City for getting the work done!

Kapolei Costco Grand Opening on 2/27/09
Sen. Gabbard with General Manager Max Ramos



Kamokila Boulevard opened on February 26, 2009
Dedication Ceremony 3/03/09



Above photo from left: Pastor Arlen Nagata, Sen. Gabbard, Dave Rae, Trudi Saito, Mayor Hannemann, Councilman Garcia, Councilman Apo, Rep. Sharon Har & Kirk Caldwell.

Kapolei Target Sneak Preview on 3/03/09
Sen. Gabbard with Store Manager Jon Radtke

