

# Senator Mike Gabbard

19th District, West Oahu  
WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK, ROYAL KUNIA,  
KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO, KALAELOA, HONOKAI HALE,  
& PORTIONS OF WAIPAHAU & KO 'OLINA

CHAIR  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIR  
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

November 2010

*Aloha Friends,*

*Wishing you and your ohana a Happy Thanksgiving! We're definitely lucky to call beautiful West Oahu our home. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you. My email address is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830. Please contact me if I can ever help you or your family in any way. Best wishes!!!*



### Listen-Story

My next "Listen-Story" community meeting will be at the Waikele Starbucks (Waikele Shopping Center) on Saturday, November 20th from 9:00-10:00am. *Photo at left from previous meeting at Waikele Starbucks in May of this year.*

### Second Anniversary of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative

On October 20th 2008, our state signed an historic agreement with the Hawaiian Electric Companies to press forward with the goals of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative to meet 70% of our energy needs through energy efficiency and renewable energy by 2030. This happens to be the first state-utility agreement of its kind in the nation. As we hit the two year anniversary, it's important to reflect on the progress we're making. At the same time, it's critical that we continue to move forward as quickly as possible, since we happen to be the most oil dependent state in the country, where: oil supplies 90% of our energy needs and costs us \$4-\$6 billion each year.

Our district here in West Oahu is proof that we are making progress. For example, on October 27th, I spoke at the Ground Breaking for the Kalaeloa Solar One project in Kalaeloa. This will be a 5 megawatt (MW) Concentrating Solar Power project. There are also plans to put in an additional 20-30 MW of solar farms in Kalaeloa over the next few years. Additionally, at the northern edge of my district in Kunia and Mililani will be a 20 MW solar farm headed up by Castle & Cooke. Not to mention that many families in our neighborhoods are getting solar water heaters and photovoltaic panels put on their homes every week to save on their electricity costs and at the same time do good for our environment.



*Photo at right (from left): Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Chairman Kaulana Park, Kahu David Kaupu, Governor Linda Lingle, Keahole Solar Power Founder Darren Kimura, and Senator Mike Gabbard checked out one of the concentrating solar panels at the Kalaeloa Solar One Ground Blessing on October 27th.*



# Around the Neighborhood

## Ideas for Legislation Welcome

The start of the 2011 Legislative Session will begin January 19th. As we get closer to the date, I'll be working on legislation to introduce. One of the best sources for ideas to improve the laws in our state is YOU! So far, these are some of the ideas that constituents have suggested to me for possible legislation:

- Enhance penalties for "hit and run" drivers
- Create a state bank that would provide consistent capital lending regardless of the economic conditions
- Establish a "Couples on the Brink" program at UH to offer divorce reconciliation services to couples who are considering ending their marriages
- Place a moratorium on the construction of new landfills or expansion of any private landfills on the Leeward Coast as of August 1, 2011
- Establish a self-employment assistance program in Hawai'i to allow our state to tap into the benefits of the existing U.S. Department of Labor program

If you have any ideas that you think should be considered in the next go around here at the Legislature, please let know.

## Kapolei Interchange Complex Update

Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board Chair, Maeda Timson, asked that I update the community on what's going on with the Kapolei Interchange Complex that is currently being constructed by our State Department of Transportation (DOT). We ran the following three questions by their Community Affairs Office and here are the responses we got back:

- ***How long will the sidewalk on Makakilo Drive be closed off while DOT is working on the H-1 West on-ramp?***  
Tie-in of new westbound on-ramp will be completed in January 2011. Sidewalk will be reopened at that time as well. (However, on-ramp won't open until mid-2011 because of other related infrastructure work)
- ***Will cars coming down Makakilo Drive getting on the H-1 West on-ramp have to stop at a traffic signal or will they just continue unimpeded like the existing H-1 East on-ramp?***  
Vehicles coming down from Makakilo will not have to stop at a traffic signal to enter the H-1 Westbound On-ramp.
- ***When will Phase 1 open up for use by the public?***  
Current project completion date is mid-2011.

## Pointer Field Irrigation to be Fixed Soon

Back in August, I was contacted by a constituent who was very frustrated by the condition of Pointer Field in Kalaeloa. As you may know, many youth in West Oahu use the field for sporting activities. The problem is that the irrigation system was broken, which made the field too hard to play on. I met the constituent out at the field to check it out myself. I then contacted City Parks Director, Lester Chang, to see if they could look into fixing the irrigation system. I was happy to have received a letter from Mr. Chang at the end of September stating that "on September 13th, 2010 a work order was submitted to have the irrigation system repaired. Also, timer was reset to increase the time of watering." This is great news! Mahalo to Lester and his team for a job well-done.



## Drive Safe 4 Ewa-Kapolei/Live and Let Live 2010 Campaign

The Holiday Season is just around the corner and so is the Drive Safe 4 Ewa-Kapolei/Live and Let Live 2010 Campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to bring increasing awareness of the dangers of speeding, and drinking and driving on the Westside. The campaign is sponsored by HPD's District 8 Community Policing Team and includes participation by area high school principals, elected officials, community groups, and active citizens. This year my office is once again sponsoring the poster contest which features traffic safety related artwork from students at Campbell, Kapolei, Nanakuli, and Waianae high schools. The kick-off event will take place at the Kapolei Police Station on November 27th from 9:30am to 11:00am. We'll also be having sign-waving at Kapolei High School on December 2nd from 7:15am to 8:00am and at the corner of Ft. Barrette Road and Farrington Hwy. on December 9th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Please join us if you can!



## PT Hawaii: Bigger and Better in Kapolei

PT Hawaii held its Grand Re-Opening of their new expanded office at the Kapolei Medical Park on October 15th. Grammy award winning musician, John Cruz (at center in photo below), was on hand to entertain all the invited guests.

PT Hawaii is dedicated to providing individualized, comprehensive evaluation and treatment programs for conditions of the neuromusculoskeletal system. They have over 10 years experience providing physical therapy services in Hawai'i. They have a

one of a kind physical therapy facility offering recovering aqua therapy in a 100,000 gallon solar heated, salt-water pool (in their Waipahu location), and over 8,000 square feet of rehabilitative options. The company owner is Dr. Scott McCaffrey (at center in photo above) and General Manager is Richard Glover (at right in photo above).



The promise of the Second City is finally coming to fruition and PT Hawaii is an important part of that. Mahalo to them for being good neighbors and for providing us with the healing therapies that help get us back to work and to play. I wish them continued success on the Leeward side for many years to come.

## Congratulations to Judge Faauga To'oto'o

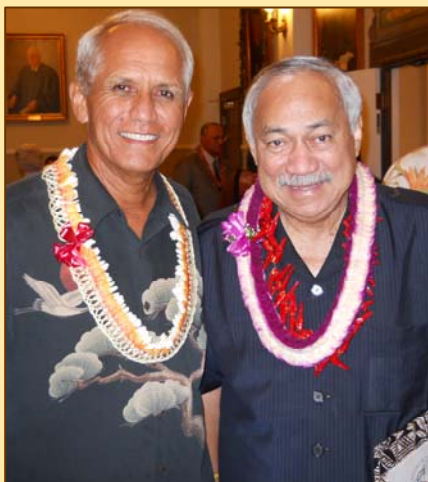
It was an honor attending the swearing-in ceremony for Circuit Court Judge Faauga To'oto'o at the State Supreme Court on October 7th. Judge To'oto'o has been a district court judge since 1994. He was raised in American Samoa and happens to be the first Circuit Court judge of Samoan ancestry in Hawai'i history. Congratulations to Judge To'oto'o for achieving this well-deserved position. Here are the comments I made on the floor of the Senate when we voted to unanimously confirm his nomination as a Circuit Court judge on August 6th.

"Madame President, I rise in support of the motion to consent to the confirmation of Faauga To'oto'o as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. First, I'd like to say, my decision is not based on Judge To'oto'o's ethnicity, I've known Mr. To'oto'o for many years and agree with the overwhelming majority of the testifiers who spoke about how qualified he is to be a Circuit Court Judge.



*Sen. Gabbard with Judge Faauga To'oto'o*

For many years, Judge To'oto'o has been a judge who is firm, fair, and hard working. On a personal level, he is a kind, loving family man who gives back to the community. The fact that he rose from humble beginnings to get where he is, makes him an important role model for the youth around our state. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting up."



# **SUBWAY** KALAELOA

I was sad to hear that the Subway next to the Post Office in Kalaeloa is set to close at the end of year.

However, I promised one of our Makakilo neighbors, Bev Brennan, that I'd get the word out that the other Subway located in the Touch-N-Go in Kalaeloa is open to the general public and not just for those with military I.D.s.

*Sen. Gabbard with Congressman Faleomavaega at Judge Faauga To'oto'o's swearing-in ceremony.*



## Kapolei Library Halloween Costume Party a Huge Hit

I once again served as a judge for the Kapolei Library Halloween Costume Party on October 19th. Lee Tokuhara, Community Relations Manager for Ho'opili, and I served as judges for the "0-3 year-old" and "Ohana" categories. The Kapolei Library reported that this was a record year with approximately 1,492 participants.



A big congratulations to Elaine Henrie of Kapolei (held by me in photo at right) who won best costume in the 0-3 year-old category dressed up as a USPS mail carrier.

Another big congrats to the Harris family of Kapolei (in photo at left) who won in the Ohana category for their creative Pirates of the Caribbean costumes.

Mahalo to Public Libraries Branch Director Stacie Kanno, Kapolei Library Branch Manager Liane Watanuki, and Kapolei's Children's Librarian Caroline Coleman for all their hard work in making this such a great event for our community.



## Bank of Hawai'i's Kapolei Branch Open for Business

I participated in the Grand Opening celebration for the new Bank of Hawai'i (BOH) Kapolei branch in the Kapolei Commons Shopping Center on October 16th. This is BOH's 71st branch in the state. In 2010, BOH was named America's Best Bank by Forbes Magazine. BOH has also been commended for its stability, strong performance despite the difficult economy, and for declining to accept money from the federal government's Troubled Asset Relief Program.



The new 4,861 square-foot branch features a BankLanai which provides 24 hour access to an enclosed space with ATMs and a business depository. Taking advantage of the latest technology and proving that they are concerned about our environment as well our money, the new building is equipped with roof rack mounted solar panels. Their photovoltaic system consists of 56 SunPower 315 watt photovoltaic modules and 3 SunPower 6000 watt inverters, which will allow them to produce a lot of energy from our plentiful Leeward sunshine. Congratulations to President and CEO Peter Ho, Executive Vice President and Hawai'i Branch Division Manager Darrick Ching, and Branch Manager Ryson Matsumura, upon the grand opening of the Kapolei Commons branch.



**Mpact Girls Club Ceremony - October 17, 2010** Senator Mike Gabbard recognized Justine Alvarado of Ewa Beach (in photo at left) for being awarded the Bronze Medal of Honor from the Friends Club of Mpact Girls Club at a ceremony at the Makakilo Recreation Center on October 17th. Justine is a freshman at James Campbell High School and her parents are John and Kristin Alvarado. They are members of the Assembly of God Church in Makakilo.

## Senior Residence at Kapolei 2

Kahu James Merseberg blessed 20 new affordable homes for our kupuna at the dedication ceremony for Senior Residence at Kapolei 2 on October 21st. This project was developed by the Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation with support from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation, and the City and County of Honolulu.

*Participating in the untying of the lei were (L to R) Bill Kikuchi, PHAC Board member; Bob Miyasato, PHAC Board President; Darren Ueki, HHFDC Finance Manager; Senator Mike Gabbard; Rep. Sharon Har; Marvin Awaya, PHAC Executive Director; Cheryl Fukunaga, HUD Senior Project Manager; and Ernie Martin, City & County of Honolulu Department of Community Services Acting Director.*

