

# Legislative Update from Senator Mike Gabbard

August 2011

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**SENATE DISTRICT 19**

MAKAKILO, KAPOLEI, KALAELOA  
WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK  
ROYAL KUNIA, HONOKAI HALE,  
WAIPAHAU, AND KO 'OLINA

*Aloha,*

Lawmaking for 2011 officially came to a close when Governor Abercrombie vetoed and signed many bills into law on the July 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. The Legislature had the option of convening a Special Session to override the Governor's vetoes on that same day, but chose not to. The Governor enacted a total of 235 bills and vetoed 17. Here are a few other things I'd like to share with you.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My phone number is 586-6830 and email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov)

### Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen-story" community meeting will be at Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 10am. If you can't make it, please drop me an email or call the office.



### Senate District 19 Growth and Reapportionment

As you may be aware, the Reapportionment Commission is currently going through the process redrawing the lines for the State House, State Senate, and Congressional districts based on the population changes which have occurred over the last 10 years. The 2010 Census numbers prove that we are growing very fast out in West Oahu. Senate District 19, which I represent, covers the area from Waikele to Ko Olina in the west. Our district saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest growth among the 25 Senate districts, adding 16,768 people to now total 63,053. As a reminder of the expected growth for the Kapolei area, we are projected to see the following changes from 2010 to 2025:

- Housing – 31,730 homes in 2010 to 51,500 in 2025
- Population – 101,440 in 2010 to 158,750 in 2025
- Jobs – 36,150 in 2010 to 63,680 in 2025

District 20, which is represented by Senator Will Espero and includes Ewa, was the fastest growing in the state. Senator Gil Kahele's District 2, which encompasses the Hilo side of the Big Island, was the second fastest growing. The Reapportionment Commission is expected to release its draft plan for public review sometime in August. If you'd like to learn more, please visit the Office of Elections website:

<http://hawaii.gov/elections/reapportionment/>



Governor Neil Abercrombie, Senator Gabbard, other elected officials, business leaders, and energy experts participated in a news conference to launch the new electric vehicle charging station at the State Capitol on July 27 (above). Afterwards, Senator Gabbard was interviewed by KITV reporter, Shayne Enright, at the State Capitol about his experiences driving an all-electric Nissan Leaf (below).

## West Oahu Transportation Townhall Meeting Key to Traffic Fix



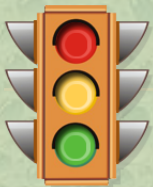
Over the last month, I've been getting tons of emails and phone calls from West Oahu residents complaining about the unbearable traffic congestion at the Kalaeloa Blvd./Farrington Highway intersection. After a June 30<sup>th</sup> Transportation Townhall Meeting hosted by Rep. Sharon Har, myself, and other legislators, we contacted Kapolei Property Development (KPD, formerly Campbell Estate) to see if they'd be open to working with the state on a temporary solution to have off-duty police officers direct traffic at the intersection during afternoon rush hour traffic. We were notified shortly after that KPD and the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had agreed to partner on this easy traffic solution. The off-duty police officer started directing traffic at the intersection on July 11<sup>th</sup> and will be there from 1-5pm each day. This will last approximately 10 weeks until the Wakea Street H-1 on and off-ramps open in October 2011. At the Transportation Townhall Meeting, we also got word from the DOT that the H-1 lights between Kunia and Makakilo, which have been out because of copper wire theft, will finally be repaired. The work will start in October 2011 and will include new Federal Highway approved boxes that are harder to break open.

Here are some other updates on other road projects in our area:



### City Transportation Updates

- Kalaeloa Boulevard Improvements (Railroad to Lauwiliwili) – construction will be completed in April 2012
- Kamokila Boulevard Resurfacing – construction to begin in September 2011 and be completed by March 2012
- Kapolei Parkway (Mehana to Kamokila) – construction to begin in March 2012 and will be completed by January 2013
- Kapolei Parkway (actually extension of Kama'aha to Wakea – near Foodland) – construction to begin in August 2012 and be completed by February 2013
- Kapolei Shopping Center – potential public-private partnership between City and Kapolei businesses, general route Ft. Barrette through Kamokila to Kapolei Commons
- Kupuna Loop Traffic Study – planning study to address community concerns about speeding, etc., estimated start date is January 2012



- Makakilo Drive Extension – finalizing design contract, estimated design completion date is July 2013
- Makakilo Drive Corridor Traffic Study – planning to address community concerns about speeding, etc., estimated start date is August 2011
- Traffic Signals at Kapolei Parkway/Kamokila– completed by November 2011
- Traffic Signals at Manawai & Haumea Street – completed by September 2011

### State Transportation Updates

- Ft. Barrette Widening – start construction by June 2014 and completed by June 2015
- Kapolei Interchange Wakea Street on-ramp and off-ramp – completed by October 2011
- Kualaka'i Parkway (Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt) – DHHL will construct, but no start date yet
- Leeward Bikeway Phase 1 (West Loch area, 4.2 miles) – start construction in April 2012 and completed by April 2013
- PM Zipper Lane (from Radford Drive to H1/H2 split) – delayed because of bid protest, will start construction as soon as resolved, planned start date was June 2010

## On-Bill Financing Finds New Life

I served as a panelist at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clean Energy Event at the YWCA on July 8<sup>th</sup>. This event brought together about 300 policy leaders and energy experts to focus on increasing awareness of the urgency of decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels. Governor Abercrombie surprised us by signing HB 1520 (Act 204) into law during his keynote speech. This important bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to investigate an on-bill financing program, which would allow homeowners and businesses to purchase renewable energy & energy efficiency systems and pay those improvements off on their electricity bills. The Governor had put the bill on his potential veto list voicing concerns of it being an unfunded mandate. Fortunately, the Blue Planet Foundation stepped up and agreed to partner with the state to help fund the study. I'm hopeful an on-bill financing program will soon become a reality in our state to help more homes and businesses afford solar PV to cut their electricity bills .

## iConserve Rally Focused on Getting State to Conserve Energy



I joined with Governor Abercrombie and Lt. Governor Schatz in speaking at the iConserve Rally at the Capitol on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was to launch the iConserve energy initiative which is intended to get state workers to significantly reduce energy consumption by taking 4 important steps: turning off the lights when not in use, turning off computers when not in use, removing or no longer using personal appliances, and shutting doors. We were also showing support for the State Capitol's entry in the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR National Building Competition: Battle of the Buildings. To give you some background, in 2009 the state Department of Accounting and General Services executed an energy performance

contract with NORESO for 10 Capitol District buildings, including the State Capitol. NORESO has been installing energy-efficiency improvements, such as improving air conditioning units, changing out light bulbs, and installing solar photovoltaic systems to lower our state electricity bill. These improvements are projected to save the state \$64 million over a 20-year period. During the rally, I announced a challenge among the 10 Capitol District buildings to see which one can reduce energy consumption by the greatest percentage over the next year. I'll be working with the Governor's Administration to launch this competition



West Oahu Senators taped a Senate Spotlight show at the State Capitol Olelo Studio on July 14 to give their communities an update on what they've been doing since the end of the 2011 legislative session. The program will air on 8/22/11 at 9:30am on View 54, 8/24/11 at 8:30am on Focus 49, 8/25/11 at 9:30am on View 54, and 8/29/11 at 10:30pm on View 54. Pictured (L to R) are senators Will Espero (District 18), Maile Shimabukuro (District 21), and Mike Gabbard (District 19).



Senator Gabbard was the lead co-chair for an informational briefing on July 7th which focused on a Native-to-Native model for public-private partnerships between the state and private geothermal developers to expand production of geothermal power. Presenters included representatives from Innovations Development Group and the Geothermal Working Group.



The Building Celebration for FBI Honolulu Division's new field office took place at the construction site in Kalaeloa on July 7, 2011. The 160,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in June 2012 and will have 250 personnel. Pictured (L to R) are Councilman Nestor Garcia, Senator Will Espero, Councilmember Tulsi Gabbard, Special Agent in Charge Frank Montoya, Senator Gabbard, and Chris Penrose of Penrose Corporation.

## Legislative Energy Horizon Institute



## A Rewarding Experience

I was in Portland, Oregon for the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute from July 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost of my travels was covered by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and National Conference of State Legislatures, who sponsored the intensive 4-day workshop. I was selected to receive a scholarship by the Senate's leadership in my role as the Energy and Environment Chair. Rep. Denny Coffman of the Big Island also participated as the representative from the State House. There were 48 of us from all across the country who are part of an 18-month certificate program awarded by PNWER and the University of Idaho. I'll be returning for another 3-day workshop in 2012. The focus of the Institute is to train a corps of legislators with knowledge of how energy is delivered to consumers. Some of the topics we covered were renewable energy, electricity, natural gas, and petroleum infrastructure. It was nice to hear how many states are looking to Hawai'i as a leader in the area of renewable energy. It was also beneficial to learn what other states are doing to tackle the challenges of being a fossil fuel based economy in our unstable world.



## Fujifilm Makes Waipahu Proud with "Green" Project

I was happy to take part in the dedication ceremony for Fujifilm Hawai'i's new 320 kW solar electric system on the roof of its Waipahu headquarters on July 14<sup>th</sup>. I was joined by Reps. Henry Aquino, Ty Cullen, and Denny Coffman in presenting a certificate from the State Senate in honor of the occasion. Fujifilm partnered with Conergy and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technologies to install this solar system which is one of the ten largest in the state, and the first Conergy PowerPlus plant in North America. The system consists of 1,455 PowerPlus premium modules, which will produce 483,391 kWh annually. This is equivalent to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.11 million pounds per year or powering 66 households per year. Mahalo to Fujifilm in Hawai'i, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technologies, and Conergy for their commitment to sustainability, energy conservation, and making our world a cleaner, greener place. I hope that they can inspire other companies to follow their example.



## Hickam Going Solar in a Big Way

I was thrilled to participate in the launch of a 4 MW solar PV system on Hickam Air Force Base on June 15<sup>th</sup>, where I presented a certificate from the State Senate. The project is a partnership between Hickam Communities, the U.S. Air Force, and Solar City. Over the next two years, PV will be installed on 600 homes in the community and this electrical power will be shared with 2,000 homes.

Through this effort, Hickam Communities will be able to offset more than 185 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the next twenty years. That is the equivalent of planting over

100,000 trees or eliminating from our roadways 200 cars that each drives 100,000 miles. The system will save \$14.8 million in energy costs while supplying nearly 10% of the energy needed to support the 2,000 families living in the area.

"Over the next two years, PV will be installed on 600 homes in the community and this electrical power will be shared with 2000 homes."