



Legislative Update from

Senator Mike Gabbard



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SENATOR MIKE GABBARD

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ROYAL KUNIA, HONOKAI HALE,
WAIPAHU, AND KO 'OLINA



Aloha Friends & Neighbors,

The Legislative Session kicked off on January 19th. So things are getting very busy at the Capitol. Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and my phone number is 586-6830.

Listen-Story

My next "Listen-story" community meeting will be held on February 19th at the Kamokila Community Park meeting room in Honokai Hale from 9 to 10am.



Small Wind Turning Some Heads

Recently, I checked out both 2 kW and 10 kW vertical axis wind turbines at Hickam Air Force Base. The wind turbines are part of a demonstration project, which interconnects wind energy to Hickam's hydrogen production facility. The wind turbines are virtually silent, have a lifecycle of 25 years and were manufactured by MicroWind Solutions, which is led by CEO and President Richard Figliuzzi. Don't be surprised if you start seeing these popping up around our state in the not-so-distant future.

Energy and Environment Committee Raring to Go

As the Senate's Energy and Environment Chair, I'll once again be focusing on helping us move toward more renewable energy and energy efficiency, while also protecting and preserving our natural environment. Here are short descriptions of a few of the bills I've introduced:

- ❖ **SB 178** – would add energy drinks, hard liquor, and wine to the list of bottles and cans that you can recycle and redeem for 5 cents at your local container recycling redemption center.
- ❖ **SB 181** – would require that all new single-family homes be designed so they're photovoltaic-ready.
- ❖ **SB 201** – would create an opt-out registry to allow residents and businesses to elect not to receive yellow pages phone books.
- ❖ **SB 703** – would require the Public Utilities Commission to set up a governmental wheeling system so that renewable energy producers located on government land can sell their electricity directly to the government.
- ❖ **SB 710** – would prohibit state funds to be expended by state agencies to purchase single-serving bottled water



Opening Day



Senator Gabbard with Marc Alexander, (Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness) and Arvid Youngquist



Senator & wife Carol, with guests Rick Fried, daughter Tulsii, Nancy Cardinet, Mel Chiogioji of Mele Associates, Robert Harris, of Sierra Club; Mark Duda, President of Hawai'i Solar Energy Association; Dave O'Neal, and Kekoa Kaluhiwa of First Wind



Senator Gabbard with University of Hawai'i Chancellor, Virginia Hinshaw



Senator Gabbard with Jenna Long and Kelly King of Pacific Biofuels



Senator with wife Carol & Chu Lan Schubert-Kwock of the Chinatown Business & Community Association

Kalaeloa Tennis Association Looking for Members

Many of you may know that I'm an avid tennis player, and in the 1970s, I was the head tennis pro at Kulima Hyatt Resort at Turtle Bay. I live in Kalaeloa and frequently play at the tennis courts there. Since the Navy pulled out of Barbers Point, the courts have been slowly and surely losing their luster because of normal wear and tear and also for lack of maintenance.

Now that Hunt Development controls the courts, many in the community have seen an opportunity for those who use the courts to help maintain them. To this end, a new group called the Kalaeloa Tennis Association (KTA) has stepped up to try to keep the courts in playable shape. KTA plans to hold work parties and raise funds to improve the tennis courts to make it a nice place not only for families and friends to get some exercise, but also to just hang out and get some good, old-fashioned quality family time together.

If you'd like to join KTA or would like more information, please contact the group's President, Makakilo resident Nick Young at makakilojones@gmail.com



THE KALAELOA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Nick Young, Dale Fryxell, Susan Fryxell, Rock Riggs, Glenn Yoshida, Dave Damon, Mike Gabbard, Judith Jaca, Al Yamashiro, Rick Hobson, Pilok Lee, Merri Hoffherr, Maria Agamao, Noble George. **Officers:** Nick Young, President, Merri Hoffherr, Secretary, Maria Agamao, Treasurer.

Hosting Youth Exchange and Study Student to Promote Peace

I hosted Nayirie Skayan of Lebanon as an intern at the Capitol for the day as part of the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program on January 21st. Nayirie is a student at Mililani High School and is living with the Schillers family in Mililani for one year. The YES program was launched in response to the tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001 to build bridges between the U.S. and countries of the Arab and Muslim world. The program is funded by the U.S. State Department and provides high school students, from places like Lebanon, the opportunity to live in the U.S. with a host family and attend school for an academic year.

Nayirie is an exceptional student who participates on the swim team, Key Club, and White Wallers Club. She speaks 5 languages: Lebanese, English, French, Arabic, and Armenian. Her future plans include attending college and traveling around the world. Her father, Sebouh, was the Mayor of the Municipality of Anjar in Lebanon for 12 years, so Nayirie may be joining me in public service in the future. I wish her the best of luck during her time in Hawai'i and in her future back home.



Royal Kunia Adds Community Center

I participated in the Grand Opening of the Royal Kunia Community Center on January 15th. This new 5,600 square-foot facility features a multi-purpose room, community association offices, restrooms, a kitchen, and a BBQ lanai for the use of the residents and their guests.

The Center will accommodate up to 200 people and will be an important gathering place for the residents of Royal Kunia to bring friends and family, while enjoying a wide range of recreational activities. I congratulate the people of Royal Kunia for this great addition to their community.



Senator Gabbard getting ready to share his birthday cake with staff (left to right), Austin Rochon, Carolyn Aguilar, Donna Lay, Carlton Saito and Rock Riggs.



Filipino Chamber of Commerce Hold 2011 Legislative Breakfast

I served as a panelist at the Filipino Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Legislative Breakfast at the Fil-Com Center on January 22nd. Other participants included: Senators Clarence Nishihara, Will Espero, & Glenn Wakai and Reps. Calvin Say, Henry Aquino, Rida Cabanilla, Joey Manahan, John Mizuno, Karl Rhoads, and Kym Pine. During the event, we had the opportunity to share our thoughts on the upcoming legislative session & our economy, and also hear about the Chamber's priorities.

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce was established in 1954 and is the oldest Filipino Chamber in the United States. Membership is open to anyone engaged in business, industry, agricultural, or a professional career. If you'd like more information, please contact them at 843-8838 or filipinochamber@hawaii.rr.com. Mahalo to Government Affairs Committee Chairperson Bryan Andaya and Co-Chairperson Maria Etrata for a job well done.

Senator Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate to Ibrahim Barlas, President of Pacifica Institute, on the occasion of their First Annual Dialog and Friendship Dinner in Honolulu. Also pictured from left to right are: Senators Espero, Wakai, Ryan, Nishihara, English, & Representatives Lee, Takai, Brower, Awana and Nishimoto.



❖ Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Briefing Sets Tone for Session



I gave a speech to close the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum's (HEPF) Legislative Briefing on January 21st. HEPF brings together a wide-range of stakeholders to help plan for our energy future. Here's the text of my speech:

I'm very excited because we are on the cusp of a new age of increased energy self-sufficiency in Hawai'i. We are taking the first step in the 12-step process of kicking our state's addiction to fossil fuels. We can get clean and stay clean. But we cannot afford to relapse. For too long, our state has been Sisyphus, (you know, the guy in Greek mythology who was pushing the boulder up the hill only to see the boulder roll back down the hill and repeating that process for eternity.)

Each Btu of fossil fuel that we import is a mortgage that we must pay for by sending our precious dollars to the tune of \$4-6 billion out of the state every year. But each Btu or watt that we can generate from renewable sources within our state is a down payment on the future of our keiki o ka aina by creating jobs and protecting the environment.

This task will not be easy. It will be a long, complicated, sometimes contentious process. But we will be able to cheer each milestone we achieve. Energy self-sufficiency will require that we utilize a multitude of sources and a variety of technologies. It cannot be one size fits all. And we cannot depend on any single source or any single technology to meet the needs of every individual energy user.

Each island has different needs and has different resources available. However, we are all one state. We sink or swim together. We all need to work together to accomplish our mutual goals. I am a proponent of both centralized and distributed generation of energy. We need both, and there is room at the table for both.

As many of you know, recently, I held an info briefing on the big wind projects proposed for Lāna'i and Moloka'i, as well as the interisland cable connecting both of those islands with O'ahu. But let's not forget small wind. Last week I checked out an exciting demonstration project by MicroWind Solutions on Hickam, where I saw 2kw and 10 kW vertical axis wind turbines. What's really cool, is these will be manufactured here in Hawai'i. And closer to home, in my district, we're seeing more or more families who are investing in PV arrays and watching their electric bills go from \$300 to \$18 per month.

I'm told by our energy office that we have officially 90,000 solar water heaters and another 10,000 undocumented ones for a total of 100,000 in operation. We have 4,000 PV systems and dozens of of small wind systems. If I'm invited to speak at this event next year, I'll give you a report card. Hopefully, these numbers will double or even triple.

We will continue looking at ways to facilitate the production of different forms of renewable energy, from biofuels to geothermal to ocean thermal to hydroelectric to solar to wave to wind. Hell, if we can find a way to harness the hot air coming out of the State Capitol, we'll do that too. Everything is on the table. We need to create an energy buffet in order for our state to kick our addiction to fossil fuels. If your gourmet specialty is not part of the buffet, you need to make an appointment with me, so we can talk story. It's time to pull up our sleeves and do the work that needs to be done to push us toward making our state the model for the world to follow.

TBN TV Interview



Senator Gabbard was interviewed by Lauren Tanaka of Trinity Broadcast Network (Channel 26) on January 18th for their program, "Joy in Our Town". The interview focused on the state of our economy and energy issues.

Olelo Interview



Senator Gabbard was interviewed by 8th grade students from Kapolei Middle School as part of Olelo's Capitol Commentary program in his office on January 11th.

Pictured are Government/History teacher and advisor, Jason Duncan, Gabrielle Diaz, Sandy Hopeau, and Nethaniah Helenihi.

Hawaii Employers Council Forum



Senators Ige, Baker and Gabbard were panelists at the Hawai'i Employers Council Legislative Forum on January 7th. They shared their priorities for this upcoming legislative session and answered questions by members on various subjects such as taxes, healthcare reform and energy.