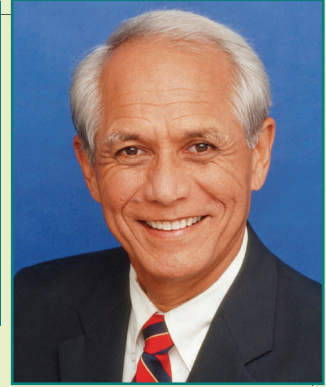


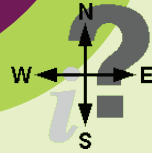
# Legislative Update from Senator Mike Gabbard

February 2012

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Aloha Friends,



The 2012 Legislative Session is in full swing. You may have seen on the news that the state Supreme Court ruled the Reapportionment Commission's new legislative districts plan was invalid because it counted too many of the non-permanent resident military and students. The Reapportionment Commission had a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup> to come up with a new plan, but this didn't happen. This means none of us know what our districts will look like come 2013. I'll keep you posted!

## "Listen Story" Meeting

My next "listen story" meeting will be held at the Waikele Starbucks (Waikele Shopping Center) on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:00am.



Senator Gabbard held his first monthly community "listen-story" meeting of 2012 at the Kapolei Starbucks on January 14th. Senator Gabbard spoke about the upcoming legislative session and heard what issues and concerns are on the minds of his constituents.



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SENATE DISTRICT 19

MAKAKILO, KAPOLEI, KALAELOA

WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK

ROYAL KUNIA, HONOKAI HALE,

WAIPAHU, AND KO 'OLINA

## East Kapolei Fire Company Placed in Service

I got word that the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) placed a new fire company, Engine 43, in service on January 22nd. The actual East Kapolei Fire Station, which will be located adjacent to the current Department of Hawaiian Home Lands headquarters, is still under construction. However, HFD has the new fire apparatus and crew stationed at the construction site where they will be housed in two portable trailers until the fire station is complete at the end of 2012. Engine 43 will be available for emergency response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The only difference is that walk-in services, such as blood pressure screening and fire education, won't be available while construction is still going on due to safety concerns.



Senator Gabbard, who turned 64 on January 15, was surprised with a birthday cake and song during lunch at the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Annual Legislative Briefing at the State Capitol. Pictured left to right are: PUC Chair Hermina Morita; Senator Gabbard; HEPF Co-Chairs, Mike Hamnett and Sharon Moriwaki; and Kelly King of Pacific Biodiesel.

## Kuehnle Agrosystems Launches Innovative Project in Kapolei

I participated in the Commissioning Ceremony for the Kuehnle Agrosystems (KAS) Algae Production Demonstration site at the Chevron refinery and Campbell Industrial Park on January 10<sup>th</sup>. KAS employs an innovative system that uses recycled carbon dioxide waste streams and wastewater by-products from the Chevron to grow algae for food and feed. KAS will operate the 18-month demonstration project to cultivate and evaluate different strains of algae at production scale. During the ceremony, I was told that this is the only place in the world where an oil refinery is working hand in hand with a "green" company with the goal of producing renewable energy and agricultural products. Congratulations to KAS Chairman, Paul Zorner; Scott Frank of Chevron Hawai'i; and KAS President and CEO, Heidi Kuehnle, for making this innovative project happen.



## Hearings Provide Legislators Updates on Invasive Species and Climate Change

I co-chaired two hearings by the Senate Energy & Environment and House Energy & Environmental Protection committees leading up to the start of the 2012 session.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, we got an update on invasive species threatening our environment and resources from various agencies that deal with combating invasive species. One of the highlights was that the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch brought an albino python, coqui frogs, leopard geckos, hissing Madagascar cockroaches, and an alligator skull as “show and tell” to demonstrate what kind of species are getting into the state. These examples make it clear we've got to do more to protect our shores from this serious problem.



## Legislation Would Allow State to Register Internet Domain Names

I've introduced Senate Bill 2985 to direct the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), in cooperation with the state chief information officer, to apply with the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for the generic top-level domain names (gTLD) “.hawaii”, “.hi” and “.aloha”. It's very important for us to register these top-level domain names to prevent someone from misappropriating them and possibly tarnishing the name, acronym and nickname of our state. ICANN has jurisdiction over gTLDs, such as “.com”, “.gov” and “.org”. ICANN is drastically expanding the realm of gTLDs. The application period began on January 12, 2012, and ends on April 12, 2012. Because the application period ends on April 12, 2012, this will require an emergency appropriation from the 2011-2012 budget. DBEDT would then develop licensing procedures for approved vendors to use those gTLDs after paying a licensing fee to the state. This could be a much-needed revenue generating measure allowing us to license the appropriate use of those top-level domain names and also help with marketing the state both on the mainland and internationally. In the near future, we could end up seeing domain names like ‘weddings.hawaii’, ‘hotels.hi’ or ‘honeymoons.aloha’.”

## Nicholas Huff Achieves Eagle Scout Rank

I had the opportunity to attend the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Nicholas "Nick" Huff at Mauka Lani Elementary on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Nick is a Kapolei High School student and son of proud parents Daryl and Caroline. You may remember Daryl as the former



Representative Sharon Har and Senator Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature to Nicolas Huff at his Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony on January 21, 2012.

longtime reporter for KITV news. Nick started as a scout when he was seven with Makakilo Troop #51. He has proven himself to be a natural leader as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Quartermaster. Nick chose to encourage greater physical activity amongst our youth with his Eagle Scout project. He designed and constructed three concrete-based tetherball sets for Mauka Lani Elementary School. He also completed the extra step of creating a how-to and safety video for the students. Besides this, Nick and another scout are to be commended for uniting Troop 44 as well as bringing in new members after participation and enthusiasm dwindled. As a member of the Saint Damien Boy Scouts of Oahu troop, Nick had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Europe and be a part of Father Damien's canonization ceremony at the Vatican. Nick is surely a young man who will accomplish great things as he continues on his chosen path in life. I wish him all success.



## Energy and Environment Committee Sets Priorities for 2012

As the Senate's Energy and Environment Chair, I continue to do all I can to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Here are a few of the bills we'll be taking up in the coming weeks.

- **SB 2511** - would require retailers to charge a 10 cent fee for every plastic or paper shopping bag they provide to customers. Some of the revenue from the fee would go toward protecting and restoring our watersheds.
- **SB 2281** - would allow applicants or agencies to bypass an environmental assessment (EA) and proceed directly with an environmental impact assessment (EIS) if the proposed project is likely to require an EIS anyway. This could save developers between \$10,000 to \$50,000 without compromising environmental protections.
- **SB 2291** - would make it clear that homeowner associations can't prohibit the installation of PV solar panels on condos up to three stories in height. This legislation was requested by a Waialeale resident who is being prevented from installing PV.
- **SB 2297** - would put language in the state plan to specify that geothermal is an affordable and reliable source of firm power for the state, without excluding other potential sources of firm power. This could potentially help geothermal developers to lease state lands to get their projects off the ground.

## Governor Releases More Construction Funding for Senate District 19

I was happy to hear that Governor Abercrombie announced on January 27<sup>th</sup> that he had released \$15.6 million in funding for "shovel-ready" construction projects around the state. Of those funds, \$1,650,000 will be for the design, construction, and works of art for the renovation of Hawai'i Army National Guard Building 117 in Kalaheo. Mahalo to the Governor for releasing this important funding for our military.

## HCDA Traffic Safety Improvements in Kalaheo

It was an honor to participate and offer remarks at the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) Kalaheo Life Safety Projects Volunteer Appreciation & Blessing Ceremony on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Construction on these important road safety improvements began on January 17<sup>th</sup> and will take about 6 months to complete. It will consist of the installation of traffic signs and pavement markings, minor grading work, and traffic lane realignment at these five separate locations.

- Project Site 1: "S" curve on Coral Sea Road
- Project Site 2: Roosevelt Avenue and Philippine Sea Street intersection
- Project Site 3: Coral Sea Road and Eisenhower Road intersection
- Project Site 4: Coral Sea Road and Tripoli Street intersection
- Project Site 5: Roosevelt Avenue and Coral Sea Road

I've been a Kalaheo resident for about 8 years and know that my neighbors and friends are very pleased that their trips to go surfing or swimming at White Plains will be that much safer. Mahalo to the Governor, HCDA, my colleagues at the Legislature, the Kalaheo Community Network, and the Kalaheo Safety Group for their efforts in making these projects a reality.



Senator Gabbard attended the Volunteer Appreciation and Blessing Ceremony on January 20, 2012 for the construction of traffic safety projects starting in Kalaheo. Here, he is pictured with other city and state officials after the program. Front row: Alexis Chapman (Office of Rep. Sharon Har), Charles Zahn, Senator Gabbard, HCDA Member Alicia Maluafiti, Valerie Kane, Pearlyn Fukuba. Back row: LDCR Jerred Williams, Captain Ken Kidani, Alan Tshako, Evelyn Souza, Councilmember Tom Berg, Ray Munos, HCDA Executive Director Tony Ching, Sharaleen McShane, Pratt Kinimaka, Tesha Malama, Lt. Gerry Asato, Steve Miyamoto, Kahu Shad Kane and Michael Nakamura.

Senator Gabbard & Friends on OPENING DAY ~ Hawai`i State Legislature ~  
January 18, 2012



Robbie Cabral, Senior Advisor for Innovations Development Group (IDG) ; OHA Trustee Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey; and Miliani Trask, Indigenous and Community Advisor for IDG



Mauka Lani Elementary School 4th graders : (left) class of Moriko Yorimoto and Marissa Nowry & (right) Catie Nagashima and Merte Cox



Waikele resident, Glenn Fernandez



(Left to right) Kristy Nishimura, Special Education Program Fiscal Specialist for Waipahu Complex; Sheldon Oshio, Waikele Elementary School Principal; Randall Dunn, Waipahu Intermediate School Principal; Paul Taga, Waipahu Elementary School Principal; Florentina Smith, August Ahrens Elementary School Principal; Vernon Young, Kalei'opu'u Elementary School Principal, and Keith Hayashi, Waipahu High School Principal



Linda Wong, Danny Kaleikini, Tiva Aga and Vai Sua



Carrie and Amado Bermuda



Waipahu High School students and Olelo crew: Johann Montero, Myka Oca, Camyl Limaco, Sasha Moore, Hiromi Seguin, Sen. Gabbard, Quinten Kaawa, Aric Banuilos, and Travis Nishida



ILWU Local 142: Kimo Brown (Secretary Treasurer), Maurice Cecil, Bert Lane, Merilyn Soares, Brad Scott, Drake Delaforce, Siu Saifoloi, and William Haole IV (Vice Division Director)



Deacon Kin Borja



Mary Oyama and kids



Norman Tan, Thelma Ortal and staff from the Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawai`i