

Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha Friends,

NewsFlash! I just heard that Foodland is set to open its Kapolei store at Wakea St. and Kapolei Parkway on October 17th at 11am. Foodland was the first modern supermarket to open in our state in 1948 and is also our largest locally owned grocery retailer. This will give us yet another option for shopping for food in our growing city. Here are some other things I'd like to share with you. Please contact me at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you in any way.



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District 19

Waikele, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Makakilo, Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, and portions of Waipahu and Ko'Olina

"Listen Story"

My next "Listen Story" will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on October 20th from 9am to 10am.



Bus Service Extended for UH West Oahu



It was great news to hear that the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) made the decision to extend Route 40 bus service for UH West Oahu students starting September 7th. Before this happened, Route 40's last bus was at 5:47pm for westbound riders and 5:59pm for eastbound riders. This created a lot of hardship for students who take night classes. With the change, Route 40 now goes until 10:23pm for those traveling in the eastbound direction. No changes were made to the westbound direction. A big mahalo to DTS Director, Wayne Yoshioka, for stepping up for UH West Oahu students and the Kapolei community.



State Senate Seeks Answers on "Wonder Blunder"

The Senate Committee on Accountability, chaired by Sen. Donna Kim, held two hearings at the State Capitol to get to the bottom of the scandal involving the \$200,000 that was wired to a man in Florida for a Stevie Wonder concert at UH that never happened. Rich Sheriff (Sheriff Center manager) and Jim Donovan (former Athletics Director) were temporarily suspended from their jobs. Rich got his job back and Jim was moved to a plus-\$200,000 a year marketing position in the UH Manoa Chancellor's Office. UH has also spent additional money in hiring two law firms to help them prepare for facing the Senate Committee. The total is already up to \$1.1 million. UH President M.R.C. Greenwood, UH Manoa Chancellor Tom Apple, Board of Regents Chair Eric Martinson, and Jim Donovan have all been asked tough questions at these hearings. We deserve to know what happened and those responsible should be held accountable. We'll be looking at what other actions need to be taken to prevent this from happening again.

Online Democracy Award

The State Legislature won the Online Democracy Award sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislators on August 8th. This honor goes to the nation's best legislative website. Previous winners of the award include the Florida Senate, Washington Legislature, and Tennessee General Assembly. You can check out the website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Oka's Body Shop Wins National Sustainability Award

I presented a certificate from the State Senate to Oka's Body Shop in Wai-pahu on September 10th. Oka's was one of three companies in the nation to receive the FIT Sustainability Award from the AkzoNobel Automobile & Aerospace Coatings Americas in San Antonio, TX on July 19, 2012. This was the third annual FIT Sustainability Award, an industry recognition program devoted to honoring businesses and organizations actively engaged in practices that advance the concepts of sustainability through "Focus, Innovation and Talent", the three key principles of FIT. Eddie Okahara, the owner of Oka Auto Body for the last 47 years, has been dedicated to recycling the cardboard and other materials from his shop for many years. In 2010, Oka's Auto Body and contractor Hawai'i Energy Connections, LLC worked together to install a photovoltaic system that allows the shop to operate 100% off the grid.



Zipper Lane Changes Cause Concern

I've received emails from residents in our community who are upset about the ridership requirement for the Zipper Lane being changed from 3 to 2 people. This is the latest response we've received from the Department of Transportation on the reason for this change.

"The decision to lower the required number of occupants from three to two was made with a great deal of thought to how we could maximize all the available freeway lanes to their best potential. Since the ZipperLane first opened in 1998, the minimum ridership has been adjusted four times, each time to fine-tune how the lane could be best used to both promote carpooling and improve overall traffic based on current trends. In an ideal world, the perfect usage rate would be just under the lane's capacity, but achieving this precise rate is very difficult. The recent decrease in the requirements is a continuing effort to find this ideal point between overuse and under-use of the lane.

Cities across America also increase or decrease requirements to fine-tune their own HOV lanes. Our recent change from three to two occupants actually brings our ZipperLane into conformity with HOV lanes in other metropolitan cities, such as Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Dallas, Miami, San Francisco and Houston, among many others. Although this does mean more carpool vehicles are using the lane, it also means the lane is being used more during peak travel times.

We do appreciate the public's patience as our engineers continue to monitor the traffic flow data. Future ridership adjustments may still be made if we determine that the lane is being either overused or under-used and we will notify the public immediately of any such decision."

2012 Live & Let Live/Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign Sign Waving Schedule Set

The sign waving schedule has been set for the 2012 Live & Let Live/Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign aimed at reducing dangerous driving during the Christmas Holiday season. You can join us at either of these times in Kapolei:

- December 4th – 7:00am–7:45am Kapolei High School (fronting Kapolei Parkway/Ft. Barrette)
- December 10th – 3:30pm-4:30pm Ft. Barrette and Farrington Highway

As a reminder, our kick-off event will be held at the Kapolei Police Station on Saturday, December 1st from 8:00am to 11:30am. Please come out and join us! If you'd like more information, please contact Officer Michael Dela Cruz at 738-8408 or mdelacruz@honolulu.gov.

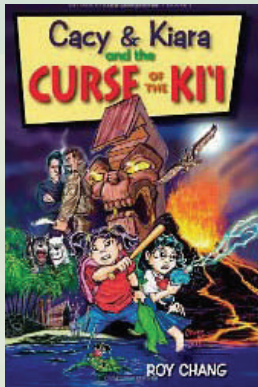




Color Run Set for Kalaeloa

If you haven't heard of the Color Run, you might want to check it out. I've been told that on November 3rd at 8am there will be 10,000 people gathered in Kalaeloa to run a 5K (3 mile) race while simultaneously being drenched with colored powder by the organizer's volunteers, sponsors, and staff. Each kilometer of the event is associated with a designated color: yellow, orange, pink, or blue. Ostensibly, organizers say this is a fun way to blow off steam and have a good time. The Color Run is happening in cities all over the country. Hunt Development Company is helping to sponsor the event. To find out more information and to register, go to their website at <http://thecolorrun.com/hawaii/>, or phone Seth King, race director, at 801.707.7415 or 800.858.1453.

Midweek Cartoonist, Roy Chang, to Speak at Kapolei Public Library



In November, bring the kids to meet Midweek cartoonist and fine arts teacher, Roy Chang. He'll be speaking about how he created "manga" style illustrations for his new children's book: *Cacy and Kiara and the Curse of Ki'i*. He'll be at the Kapolei Public Library from 10:30am to 11:30am on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. You can read the first three chapters of his book at this link:

[http://www.beachhousepublishing.com/Cacy & Kiara files/Cacy%20%26%20Kiara-sample%20chapters.pdf](http://www.beachhousepublishing.com/Cacy%20%26%20Kiara-sample%20chapters.pdf)



Quick Community Updates

- **Kalaeloa Admin Rules** - were passed unanimously by the Hawai'i Community Development Authority Board on September 11th. The rules now go to the Governor for his signature which should happen by November. The rules establish special zoning districts aimed at balancing commercial, residential, light industrial, and recreational uses in the community.
- **Ka Makana Ali'i Mall** - the Land Use Commission voted 7-0 on September 14th to allow the planned Ka Makana Ali'i mall to move forward. It is hoped that construction on the first phase should start in 2014.
- **Roosevelt Avenue** – the Department of Transportation is in the process of repairing the sidewalk on Roosevelt Avenue from the west end of the road to Ft. Barrette Avenue during the next few months.



Senator Gabbard attended the graduation of the Laulima Eco-friendly Alliance of Farms (LEAF) 'Aina Corps Organic Farmer Trainees in Waimanalo on September 14, 2012. LEAF had partnered with the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) and the Hawai'i Workforce Development Program (part of the Green Jobs Initiative) to offer the program. Pictured are HCAP Director of Community Services, Robert Naniolo and Planning and Development Specialist, Kristina Jenkins. LEAF Executive Director, David Santistevan is holding the Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate that was presented by Senator Gabbard.

University of Phoenix Opens New Kapolei Campus



University of Phoenix®

I presented a certificate from the State Senate to the University of Phoenix's (UOP) Hawai'i Campus Director, Kristine Averill, to celebrate the opening of their new Kapolei campus on September 27th. The new facility on Kamokila Boulevard is a 24,301 square foot learning center with ten classrooms outfitted with the most current technology for interactive learning. The center is also home to a student resource center where students may access computers and printers to help them with their studies. In 1976, UOP was founded to offer working adults with local, higher education options at convenient class times. UOP has opened doors for many adults—doors to higher education, better careers and jobs, as well as better lives. There are more than 200 UOP locations, as well as online programs available in countries around the world. UOP Hawai'i has three locations that provide rigorous degree and certificate programs and a learning environment that's designed to support working adults. Mahalo to the University of Phoenix for providing education that allows adults to renew and improve their lives.



Tesoro Hawai'i Kapolei Refinery 40th Anniversary

I took part in the 40th anniversary celebration of the Tesoro Hawai'i Kapolei Refinery on September 29th. The Kapolei refinery was developed as Hawai'i Independent Refinery, Inc., a subsidiary of Pacific Resources, Inc., and later operated by Broken Hill Proprietary, Inc. The groundbreaking was at Campbell Industrial Park in August 1970 and the refinery was dedicated on May 26, 1972. Tesoro Hawai'i and its parent, Tesoro Corporation, have provided professional and technical jobs for thousands of Hawai'i's residents over the years. Congratulations to Tesoro for achieving this significant milestone of fulfilling the energy needs of the residents of our island paradise for more than four decades.



The groundbreaking for the Pacific Center at Downtown Kapolei – Phase II took place on September 10th. The development will include a new regional U.S. Social Security office and be opened by July 2013. Pictured (L to R) are Senator Will Espero, Senator Gabbard, Avalon Development Company CEO Christine Camp, Rep. Sharon Har, and Rep. Kym Pine.



Senator Gabbard was paid a visit by students from the Hawai'i Hydroponics Innovators of Farrington High School's Lexus Eco Project on October 2nd. The students are focused on teaching young people how to grow herbs and vegetables using hydroponic techniques. Pictured (L to R) are Yvon Edades, Christopher Nguyen, Senator Gabbard, and Joie Cascayan.

Kapolei Resident Charles Zahn on Neighborhood Commission

Kapolei resident and Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board member, Charles Zahn, was confirmed as a member of the Neighborhood Commission by the City Council on September 12th. In my opinion, Charles will be an effective member of the Neighborhood Commission because he listens to all sides of the issues and makes decisions based on the good of the community and not based on his personal interests.