

Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard



*Aloha Friends,*

I hope you and your family are well and in good spirits. My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at the **3rd Cup Café & Venue** in Kunia (94-615 Kupuohi Street #210) on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00-10:00am. This will be my last community meeting in Kunia, as I will no longer represent that area. I also wanted to say a big congratulations to the Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Little League Softball Team for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Little League World Series in Portland, Oregon on August 15<sup>th</sup>! 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).



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

\* Energy and Environment

### MEMBER

\* Judiciary and Labor

### MEMBER

\* Transportation and International Affairs

### District 19

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

## Governor Releases Construction Funding for UH West Oahu

I got word that Governor Abercrombie released \$92 million in construction funding on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Included in that amount were several projects that will continue improving the new UH West Oahu campus in Kapolei, which opened for classes on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

- \$2.5 million – sitework to complete the campus' first phase, including the creation of the Kalo'i Gulch Greenway and fencing to protect a photovoltaic panel array
- \$1.25 million – construction of a 4-lane road that will serve as the main entrance to the campus
- \$900,000 – design of the Academy of Creative Media Building
- \$500,000 – design of the Allied Health Building



The Grand Opening for the new UH West Oahu campus in Kapolei took place on August 18th. Pictured (L to R) are Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, UH President M.R.C. Greenwood, State Senator Gabbard, State Senator David Ige, and State Representative Ty Cullen.

## Queens to Buy and Reopen Hawai'i Medical Center – West

Great news this month that the State Health and Planning Development Agency approved Queen's Medical Center's plan to purchase and reopen the Hawai'i Medical Center – West (HMC-West) hospital in Ewa. As you know, HMC-West closed at the end of December 2011. This has left West Oahu without an acute-care hospital and has put a huge strain on other island hospitals to fill our emergency room service needs. Queen's will buy the hospital for \$73.2 million and plans to have it open for business by August 2013. They also plan to hire roughly 400 workers.

## Internet Speed Test

Governor Abercrombie is forging ahead with the Hawai'i Broadband Initiative that was launched last August. The goal of this effort is to improve access and affordability of high-speed internet access around the state. As part of that Initiative, the state has created a website to collect data on residents' internet speeds. The plan is to identify areas where improvements need to be made. You can take the test at this link hosted by the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs: <http://www.hibroadbandmap.org/speed-test/>. It just takes a few minutes.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Waipahu Cane Haul Run/Walk

The upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Waipahu Cane Haul Run/Walk will be on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The race is being sponsored by the Waipahu Community Coalition, YMCA, Weed & Seed, and the Waipahu Town Center. The race will start at 6:30am at Waipahu Town Center (94-050 Farrington Highway). If your registration is postmarked by August 24<sup>th</sup>, the entry fee is \$25. After August 24<sup>th</sup>, the fee is \$35. For more information, please visit [www.canehaulrun.blogspot.com](http://www.canehaulrun.blogspot.com) or call 469-0330. There will also be a health fair and farmer's market from 7am to 10am.

## Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit a Success

I participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit, which was held at the Convention Center from August 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was "Clean Energy Test Beds: Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific Region." The Summit brought together government and energy industry leaders from 20 countries to focus on clean energy economic development. Some of the notable speakers were: Hideo Hato, President of Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization; Thomas Hicks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy; Jooho Whang, President of Korea Institute of Energy Research; and Dr. Kevin Geiss, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy. On the first day of the Summit, Governor Abercrombie signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary General of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). This agreement will allow CCPIT to refer Chinese clean energy investors and developers to our state Energy Office to facilitate investment in clean energy projects in the state.

## Steve Fredette Honored for Service to St. Jude Catholic Church

I surprised Makakilo resident, Steve Fredette, with a certificate from the State Senate at a breakfast meeting of the **St. Jude Council #11293 of the Knights of Columbus** at the Wai-pahu Sizzler on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Steve was a fire fighter with the Air Force for 22 years. Since retiring in 2009, he has dedicated himself to protecting people and property from fire and other dangers at the Kalaeloa Airport. He has been married to his lovely wife, Kristin, since 2006. Outside of his work, Steve tries to help others in many ways. He is a very active and committed member of St. Jude Catholic Church. Thanks to the efforts of Steve and others who worked hard to fundraise, 7 parish youth were able to attend the L.A. Religious Education Conference and 2 other members were given college scholarships. Steve is a friendly face who can often be seen on parking duty at the church or helping to organize Lenten fish fry events. Steve has been a Grand Knight at St. Jude's for 2 years. He has set an exemplary standard of the four core principles that all Knights strive to achieve--charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. He used his own money and time to purchase and install an automated external defibrillator at St. Jude for cardiac emergencies. Steve will always be kindly remembered for spending time comforting fellow Knight Billy Ingalls while in the hospital before he passed away. Mahalo to Steve for his untiring service and dedication to St. Jude's Catholic Church and our community.



## Teachers' Contract Negotiations Back on Track

I was pleased to learn that on August 20<sup>th</sup> the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and Governor Abercrombie had agreed to start contract discussions again with the assistance of a Federal Mediator. It was back in June 2011 the Governor imposed the state's "last, best, and final offer" after contract negotiations stalled. In January 2012, teachers rejected a contract proposal by a vote of 67% to 33%. Specific details of that plan were: pay restored in 2013 to 2009 levels, new teacher evaluations in July 2013, performance-based pay raises, no change in the 50-50 health insurance contributions, and four extra days off through June 2013. The same contract proposal was again voted on by teachers with 66% of them supporting it in May 2012. However, that vote was considered invalid by the Governor because it had previously been rejected and was no longer on the table. I'm hopeful this round of discussions with the Federal Mediator will bear fruit and our teachers will get a contract they are satisfied with.



## 2012 Live & Let Live/Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign Aims to Make Roads Safer

My office will be participating on the planning committee for the Live & Let Live/Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign once again this year. Some of the others helping out are HPD, Ewa Weed & Seed, Ewa Boys & Girls Club, Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Council, area legislators, Leeward District high schools, Neighborhood Security Watch groups, and community leaders. We held our first meeting at the Kapolei Police Station on August 21<sup>st</sup>. I'll be organizing a poster contest with Leeward District high schools for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. The purpose of the campaign is to promote driver safety on our roads, especially during the upcoming Christmas and Holiday Seasons. HPD recently shared some alarming statistics: about how 43 lives have been lost on 'Oahu roads so far this year. Twenty-two deaths were speed related and eight involved alcohol. Eight of the fatalities happened in West Oahu. We'll have sign-holding events leading up to the Holidays after our Kick-Off at the Kapolei Police Station grounds on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00am to 11:30am. Let's work together to reduce accidents on our roads. If you'd like to get involved with the campaign, please contact Officer Michael Dela Cruz of the HPD District 8 Community Policy Team at 738-8408 or [mdelacruz@honolulu.gov](mailto:mdelacruz@honolulu.gov).



## Patricia Moad's Wedding



It was a pleasure to present a certificate from the State Senate to Patricia and Greg Moad in celebration of their wedding at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Patricia happens to be the daughter of one of my tennis buddies, Andy Chang, who is a very successful businessman with interests in China, Hawai'i, and the mainland U.S. Patricia grew up in Southern California and attended college at New York University. After immersing herself in the magazine publishing industry for several years, Patricia left the hustle and bustle of New York to settle in the laid-back Aloha State. She has found a niche here as a food critic and freelance writer for local publications. Patricia has also recently dedicated her fashionista and entrepreneurial skills to running **Milk and Honey**, a boutique in Chinatown. Greg Moad, the son of George and Stephanie Moad, grew up in Aina Haina, and graduated from St. Louis High School. He attended the Kapiolani Community College Culinary School and has been chopping, sautéing, and marinating his way to a successful career ever since. He is now currently the Executive Chef for Nico's at Pier 38. I wish them both a wonderful life together!

## Honowai Street and Waipahu Street Intersection Traffic Signal a Go

I recently received an email from a constituent asking that I look into the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Honowai and Waipahu streets. The constituent brought up the point that since the completion of Aiki Street, which connects Village Park to Waipahu, there has been an increase of traffic and near collisions/pedestrian accidents. This has been an issue that has repeatedly been brought up at the Waipahu Neighborhood Board. Both Board members and Councilman Nestor Garcia have worked to get this important traffic signal on the City's priority list. I recently got word from the City's Department of Transportation Services that the traffic signal will be completed within the next two months. This is great news for traffic safety in Waipahu.



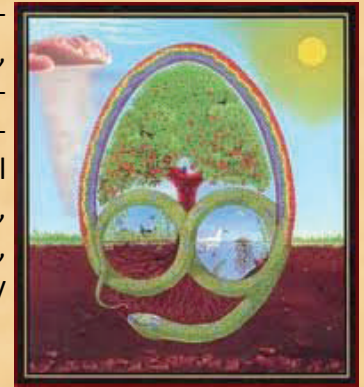
## Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design Brings First Permaculture Design Certificate Courses to Oahu



My office honored the Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design on the completion of their third Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) course. These were the first ever taught on Oahu. The PDC has been taught all over the world to thousands and had been offered on the neighbor islands for many years, but never on Oahu until now. My staffer, Donna Lay, presented Honorary Certificates from the State Senate on my behalf to PDC instructors, Matt Lynch and Hunter Heavilin, at the graduation ceremony of the most recent courses on August 12, 2012 at Waihuena Farm on the North Shore. The PDC is a 72-hour curriculum developed by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1980's to teach the foundation of sustainable and regenera-

tive design. The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design is a nonprofit organization based in Hawai'i founded to share regenerative design education, systems, and working models in the Asia-Pacific region. Based on the permaculture principles of *Earth Care*, *People Care*, and *Resource Share*, regenerative design seeks to observe, understand, and emulate healthy, productive ecological systems to create positive feedback loops that increasingly flourish over time, thus enabling human systems such as food production, urban environments, infrastructure, economics, industry and settlements, to renew their own energy and material sources to produce restorative impacts on their environments.

For more information go to [www.thegreenbackpack.net](http://www.thegreenbackpack.net).



## John Howell Retires from Easter Seals Hawai'i

I attended the Surprise Luncheon for John Howell's Retirement on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Easter Seals Hawai'i's Makakilo office. John Howell served as the CEO and President of ESH for nearly 20 years. Mr. Howell was born in Franklin, Virginia to William and Helen Howell. John, along with his older brother Billy and younger sister Janet, grew up amongst pigs, horses, chickens, and hunting dogs on his family's soybean and peanut farm. He first came to Hawai'i briefly in 1970 as an Infantry Officer. Mr. Howell was quick to take an opportunity to return for good when he transferred with Xerox Corporation out of Atlanta, Georgia. It was at Xerox that Mr. Howell met his future wife, Wendy. Together they have 2 children, Michael and Samantha. Mr. Howell dedicated himself to supporting his kids' athletic pursuits in a way that exceeded most other parents. He attended each and every baseball, softball, volleyball, and basketball game as well as swim and track meets. Mr. and Mrs. Howell are especially proud of Michael and Samantha who have both recently graduated and are now gainfully employed. After working for large corporations for the majority of his



life, Mr. Howell was ready to lend his extensive skills to ESH, where he could give back to his community. ESH provides exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play. Under Mr. Howell's watch, ESH now has 500 employees on five islands, with operating revenues of approximately \$18 million and is one of the top-ranked affiliates out of the 78 Easter Seals facilities across the nation. Mahalo nui loa to John for his decades of aloha for Easter Seals Hawai'i, and their extra special clients and employees.

