

# Senator Mike Gabbard

19th District, West Oahu

WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK, ROYAL KUNIA,  
KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO, KALAELOA, HONOKAI HALE,  
& PORTIONS OF WAIPAHAU & KO 'OLINA

**CHAIR**  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**VICE CHAIR**  
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**MEMBER**  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

◆ October 2009 ◆

## Aloha Friends,

I hope you and your family are well. After many delays and 25 years of waiting, October 5th marked the opening of the Farrington Highway to H-1 section of the North South Road. The next phase, which will connect Farrington Highway to Kapolei Parkway is expected to open up in March, 2010. Many mahalos to the Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, Kiewit Pacific Co., the design team, subcontractors, major vendors, and construction management for getting this project done! As a favorite Crosby, Stills and Nash tune goes, "It's been a long time comin." Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is [senqabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senqabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you:

### Sending Kokua Across the Pacific

With the horrific tragedies that have recently struck American Samoa, Samoa, the Philippines, Tonga and Indonesia, many of us here in Hawai'i are feeling the pain experienced by our loved ones across the Pacific. I happened to be in the Samoas, New Zealand, and Australia as part of our family reunion in September, so it was surreal to watch the news reports of the devastation in areas that we had just visited recently. Pictured with me at right, are my daughter Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo and the Governor of American Samoa, the Honorable Togiola Tulafono, just 11 days before the disasters began. Our Gabbard ohana is praying for the many families in all the areas affected. If you want to help, your donations will be graciously accepted at any of these locations:



**Filipino disaster relief:** Checks made payable to the Filipino Community Center with a note "for Philippine flood victims" can be mailed to the center at 94-428 Mokuola Street, Suite 302 in Waipahu, HI 96797, or dropped off at any Central Pacific Bank branch. Cash will be accepted at the Filipino Community Center, but no in-kind donations at this time please. Other collection sites include: Don Quijote in Waipahu, Kamehameha Shopping Center, Longs on Bishop Street and in Wahiawa, Kapolei Shopping Center, Ewa Beach Shopping Center, Wal-Mart in Mililani and Pearl City, Salt Lake Kmart, and the Philippine Consulate General on Pali Highway.

**Samoan disaster relief:** The Honolulu office of the American Samoa governor is running a food drive. If you'd like to donate food, please bring your contribution to their office at 1427 Dillingham Blvd, Suite 210. You can also make monetary donations by 1) writing a check out to Bank of Hawaii American Samoa Relief Fund, then dropping off at any Bank of Hawaii branch, or 2) writing a check to the American Red Cross – American Samoa, then mailing to PO Box 2635 in Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

**All disasters:** Checks may be made out to American Red Cross - Disaster Relief Fund and sent to the Hawaii State Chapter at 4155 Diamond Head Road in Honolulu, HI 96816. You can also call 800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to donate online or find other ways to help. Aloha Medical Mission is accepting donated medicines and medical supplies at its Palama Settlement office at 810 North Vineyard Blvd. The Cathedral of St. Andrew at 229 Queen Emma Square in Honolulu will accept checks to Episcopal Relief and Development during a special collection on Sunday, October 4th during services for victims of natural disasters in Samoa, the Philippines, and Indonesia.



### Listen-Story

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on Saturday, October 17th, 2009 from 9:00 – 10:00 am. I hope to see you there. The photo at left captures last month's meeting with a lively group in front of Kunia Starbucks on September 26th. The main focus of our conversation was the condition of our education system.



## Appointment to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

I was recently appointed to serve on the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) as a participating, non-voting member. The HISC was formed in 2003 and coordinates government initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species. Given our difficult budgetary situation, the HISC recently made the extremely difficult decision of reducing last year's budget of \$4 million to \$2 million for Fiscal Year 2010 at a meeting on September 18th. The diagram above shows the breakdown of funding for HISC programs.



Prevention	\$740,000
Response and Control of Pests	\$820,000
Research and Technology	\$0
Public Awareness/Outreach	\$130,000
Administration	<u>\$310,000</u>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

## Bringing Attention to the Environmental Council

As Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee, I held a hearing on October 1st to gather information and to urge the Governor's Administration to do a better job of providing the Environmental Council the necessary support and resources to fulfill its responsibilities. The Environmental Council is a 15-member, voluntary body which serves as a liaison between the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the public on matters concerning ecology and environmental quality, specifically related to the environmental impact statement (EIS) process.



On August 17th, Dr. Gail Grabowsky (testifying above), the Chair of the Council, sent a letter to the Department of Health, which has jurisdiction over the Council, letting them know that the Council had voted on July 23rd to suspend any future meetings. She cited the difficulties they faced in holding a successful meeting as a reason for this decision. In the past few years, the Council has had several members resign and there has been vocal frustration about lack of funding for flying Neighbor Island members to meetings, staffing support, and financial resources to produce an annual report. There also have been concerns about Council vacancies which haven't been filled.

After receiving a copy of Dr. Grabowsky's letter, I wrote DOH Director, Dr. Chiyome Fukino, requesting that she provide me with a report on what action she would take in response to Dr. Grabowsky's letter. After not hearing back from Dr. Fukino in a timely manner, I decided to hold this hearing in an attempt to avoid the environmental, legal, and social costs caused by eliminating the Council through neglect.

## Reducing the Number of Telephone Books Delivered to your Home

At one of my recent monthly community meetings, a Makakilo resident asked if something could be done to stop the proliferation of telephone books that constantly end up on our door-steps. She was especially concerned about the number of trees that were being cut down and the paper that was being wasted for all these telephone books to be printed.



We did some research and have drafted a bill that would allow companies to only distribute telephone directories to businesses or persons who have signed a written authorization card. This new system would be similar to the postcard authorization which Midweek requires before they send you a paper. I'm convinced that this is the right thing to do from both a consumer and environmental point of view.

*Senator Mike Gabbard*



## Hawai'i Interfaith Power and Light

Senator Gabbard met with representatives from Hawai'i Interfaith Power and Light at his State Capitol office on September 28th. This organization is dedicated to promoting conservation and energy efficiency within the faith communities. The 350 on the computer screen refers to their commitment to decreasing carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in the Earth's atmosphere to below 350 parts per million, the stable and safe upper limit. Pictured with Senator Gabbard are (L to R) Board member Travis Idol and Executive Coordinator Rob Kinslow.



## Better Business Bureau: 2010 U.S. Census Cautions

As you may know, the 2010 U.S. Census has already started. There will be Census workers visiting each address across our state and nation to gather demographic information. The Better Business Bureau recommends that you be cooperative, but at the same time cautious. They offer the following tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft. For more information, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

- ★ If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions.
- ★ Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card, or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- ★ While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, the Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers; nor will employees solicit donations.
- ★ Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by email. So be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census.
- ★ Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Supporting Olelo at Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Hearing



I submitted testimony to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) for their September 15th hearing on the renewal of the Oahu cable television franchise. As you might know, Oceanic Time Warner has had the franchise contract for many years

and is applying to renew the contract for the next 15 years. My comments focused on the requirement that Oceanic provides the necessary funding and support for Public Education Government (PEG) community access services.

Over the last 15 years, I've been a big supporter of PEG Community Access Television provider Olelo Community Television and its efforts to provide thousands of people the opportunity to view legislative hearings, educate themselves on important community issues, or even create their own television/video programs. Olelo gives people a "voice" to participate in and be a part of what makes Hawai'i such a special place to live. In my testimony, I asked DCCA to take the points at right into consideration as they deliberate on Oceanic's application.

- ★ Allowing statewide access for all PEG channels.
- ★ Encouraging a partnership between Hawai'i Education Network Consortium (HENC) and PEG for any future funding.
- ★ Providing "live" broadcast capability for PEG use.
- ★ Assessing the full five percent franchise fee allowable by law.

## Constituent Follow-Up

Here are a few of the constituent concerns my office worked on over the summer:

- ❖ Worked with Board of Water Supply to get additional signage installed for their water main project at Waiomea/Farrington in Honokai Hale.
- ❖ Assisted Waialeale residents in getting landowner to cut overgrowth behind their homes to lessen fire hazard.
- ❖ Helped recruit volunteers for 10th Annual FINANCE FACTORS Junior Achievement Golf Classic in Kapolei.
- ❖ Helped Kapolei businessman resolve administrative issues with the Department of Human Services to make their operations go more smoothly.
- ❖ Assisted Kapolei residents to bring closure on a recruiting dispute with the U.S. Navy.
- ❖ Helped find solution to broken air conditioning at Onemalu Transitional Shelter in Kalaheo.



# Upcoming Community Events *just around the corner!*

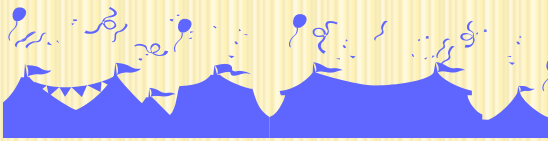


## Kalei'opu'u Celebrates 20th Anniversary and Ohana Fun Fair

I was recently contacted by a Kalei'opu'u Elementary School teacher who asked that I help her find volunteers for their upcoming 20th Anniversary Celebration and Ohana Fun Fair. The event will also serve as a fundraiser for the school and will be held at Kalei'opu'u on November 4th from 1:10 pm to 8 pm. They will have food booths, games, a white elephant sale, bouncers, and slides. If you'd like to help out, please contact Mona Oliveira at 675-0266 Ext. 228.

## "Kapolei Community Fair" for a Good Cause

Kapolei will not be hosting a "Sunset on the Plains" event this year. In its place, Kapolei High School has decided to host a "Kapolei Community Fair" on November 13th and 14th. The event will take place in the open field where the marching band practices at the corner of Fort Barrette and Kapolei Parkway. Proceeds will go toward the benefit of the 2011 Project Grad class. The two-day event will include: movies, live entertainment, food vendors, school clubs with info booths, craft vendors, a white elephant sale, rides, miniature golf, petting zoo, games, non-profit and organization booths, creative media showcase with Paula Akana and Tiny Tadani, and a career fair with college info.

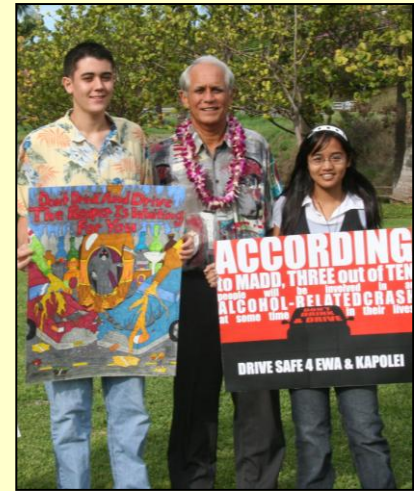


My office will be coordinating a health fair at the event and is working with Oceanic Time Warner to show the UH vs. New Mexico State football game on Saturday, November 14th. For more information, please call PCNC, Lolita Taketa, at 692-8200.

## Gearing up for 2009 Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign

I'm serving as a member of the planning committee for the 2009 Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Campaign. Other committee members are representatives from Ewa Weed and Seed, James Campbell High, Kapolei High, Kapolei City Lions Club, and HPD. The purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness to the problems of reckless and drunken driving during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

We'll be having a kick-off event, which is open to the public, at the Kapolei Police Station on Saturday, November 21st at 10 am. We'll also be sign holding in Kapolei on December 15th and 22nd. My office is helping to coordinate a poster contest for Ewa and Kapolei high school students (last year's winners, Turner Harrison and Samantha Isidro, are shown at right). If you'd like to get involved, please contact my office at 586-6830.



## Congratulations!!!



### Former Waikele Elementary Principal Named Leeward District Superintendent

Congratulations to Sheldon Oshio for being named the Department of Education's Complex Area Superintendent for Leeward Oahu on September 17th! Sheldon was a teacher at Waikele Elementary (1999-2000) and also the schools principal (2003-2007). His most recent position was principal of Waimalu Elementary in Aiea. Sheldon received his bachelor's degree from Washington State University and his master of education from UH Manoa. He started his new job on October 1st. I wish him the very best and look forward to working with him to improve education for our keiki.