



Senator

September 2010

# 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

## UH West Oahu Construction Begins

Best news story of the decade? You guessed it. Construction on the new UH West Oahu campus officially began on August 18th. This was a special moment for our community considering that the state set aside \$307,000 in planning money for the campus in 1966. The first phase of the campus will cost roughly \$100 million to build. The Governor has already released \$48 million that we at the Legislature appropriated last session. The additional funding will be generated through a revenue bond issuance package that must be approved by the UH Board of Regents.

The campus opening date is set for fall 2012 and will include an administration building, a library, 2 classroom buildings, and a student services center. Check out a 3D campus walkthrough video here:

<http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/newcampus/index.php/2010/08/13/uh-west-oahu-3d-new-campus-walkthrough/>

## Special Session II

We'll have a second Special Session on September 1st and 2nd to consider two other nominations: Supreme Court Chief Justice, Judge Mark Recktenwald, and Maui district court judge, Blaine Kobayashi. Mark Recktenwald currently is an associate justice on the state Supreme Court and previously served as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Blaine Kobayashi is an attorney with Carlsmith Ball LLP on Maui focusing on land use, litigation, and administrative law.

We held a Senate Judiciary & Government Operations Committee hearing on August 25th and we'll be making a recommendation to the full Senate on the nominations after the Special Session convenes on September 1st. The full Senate will then take a final vote on these two nominees on September 2nd.

## *Aloha Friends,*

I hope you and your ohana are well and enjoying the exquisite summer weather. I wouldn't mind some rain though. These little sprinkles we get aren't enough for our thirsty organic garden.

At the Capitol, we're having a second Special Session on September 1st and 2nd to consider two more judicial nominees: for Supreme Court Chief Justice, Judge Mark Recktenwald, and for Maui district court judge, Blaine Kobayashi. (There is more information in the story below.)

Here are a few things I'd like to share with you. Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830.

## Listen-Story

My next "Listen-Story" community meeting will be at the Kunia Starbucks (Kunia Shopping Center at 94-673 Kupuohi Street) on Saturday, September 25th from 9:00 - 10:00 am.



Photo above from last month's "Listen-Story" meeting at Kapolei Starbucks on August 21st.

*Senator Mike Gabbard*



## Naming the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex

I attended the ceremony commemorating the renaming of the Kapolei Judiciary Complex to the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex on August 27th. Ronald Moon has served as the state Supreme Court Chief Justice since 1993 and is retiring at the end of this month. Chief Justice Moon did an outstanding job and is the first Korean American to become chief justice of any Supreme Court in the nation. He was also presented with the Harry L. Carrico Award for Judicial Innovation by Texas Chief Justice, Wallace B. Jefferson, of the National Center for State Courts at the ceremony. The award honors a state chief justice who has inspired, sponsored, promoted, or led an innovation or accomplishment of national significance in the field of judicial administration.

Thanks CJ for your public service. Best wishes on your retirement. When you get bored, we'll be looking for your name seeking public office at the county, state, or federal level.



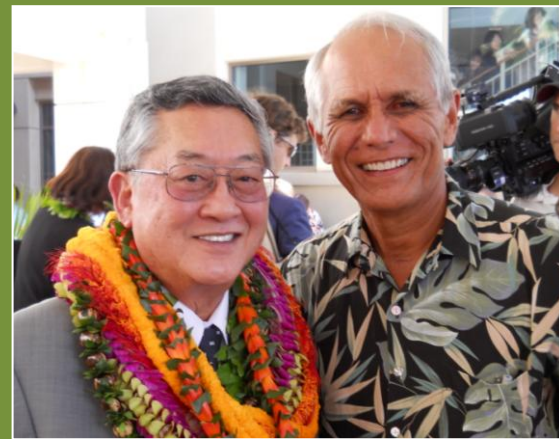
### New Senate Website Pages

Last month, I wrote about the Senate's paperless project that has been very successful in reducing our paper use by 80% and saved us close to \$350,000. In addition to these efforts the Senate

has also been upgrading its website to make it easier for you to keep up with what's going on at the Capitol.

Through these improvements, website traffic has increased from 176,661 hits during the session in 2008 to 200,862 hits in 2010. Additionally, we've upgraded the web pages of Senate members by adding news, legislative information, photos, and video. You can check out my new page at this link:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/members/senate/memberpage.aspx?member=gabbard>



Chief Justice Moon & Sen. Gabbard – August 27, 2010



## Operating Engineers Make Kapolei Home

It was great being a part of the Grand Opening of the Operating Engineers Local 3 Kapolei Office and the 5th Annual Empowering Operating Engineers Event on August 29th. The Operating Engineers' decision to come out to Kapolei reinforces the fact that this is the place to be. We were told that they moved out here because a majority of their membership lives in Leeward Oahu and a lot of the future construction work is also out this way. The Operating Engineers Local 3 includes Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah, Hawai'i, and Mid-Pacific Islands.

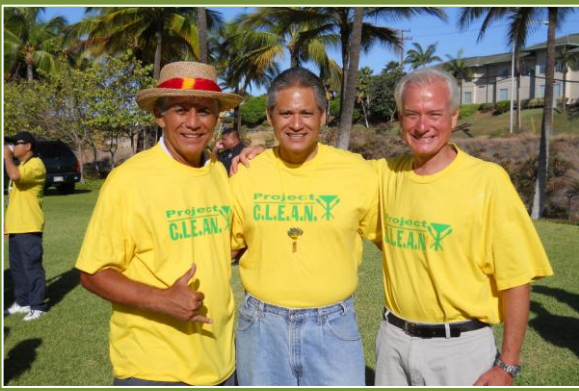


They have a membership of approximately 40,000 with about 3,200 here in the state. Most operating engineers are heavy equipment operators and construction workers. The office is located in the Kapolei Business Center and also houses the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union. I wish them much success and many productive years in Kapolei.

*From left: Gino Soquena (District Representative), Sen. Gabbard, Franklin "Don" Pacarro, Jr., Russ Burns (Office Business Manager), Michael Brandt (Executive Board Member), Sen. Nishihara, William "Kalani" Mahoe (Officer Treasurer), Dan Redding (Officer Financial Secretary).*







*Sen. Gabbard, Honolulu Police Chief Louis Kealoha, and Acting Mayor Kirk Caldwell participated in the Project CLEAN community beautification effort in Kapolei on August 28, 2010.*



*Sen. Gabbard lent his support to the Kapolei High School Cheerleader Car Wash at Hope Chapel Kapolei in Kalaeloa on August 28, 2010.*



*Senators Mike Gabbard and Will Espero presented Elena Farinas with a certificate from the State Senate in honor of her retirement in Ewa Beach on July 31, 2010.*



*Lisa Kubota of Hawaii News Now interviewed Sen. Gabbard on August 3rd for his thoughts on Judge Katherine Leonard, a nominee for Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.*



## Project Clean Kapolei

I participated in a community clean-up sponsored by HPD's Kapolei Community Policing Team on August 28th. Volunteers gathered at the Kapolei Police Station that morning to help out. We broke into four clean up groups: picking up trash from the Kapolei Police Station to Chili's Restaurant, picking up trash from the Kapolei Police Station to Outback Steakhouse, painting bus stops on Kamokila, and painting the Kapolei Skatepark. Please contact Officer Antone Pacheco at [apacheco1@honolulu.gov](mailto:apacheco1@honolulu.gov) if you'd like to find out about future events.

## Think Tech Hawai'i Interview on Energy

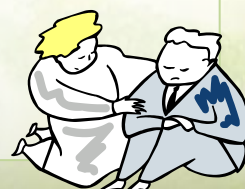
I took part in a 30 minute interview with attorney Duke Oishi of Think Tech Hawai'i on August 18th. Duke and I spoke about how important it is for our state to forge ahead on our goal of meeting 70% of our energy needs through energy efficiency and solar, wind, geothermal, ocean thermal, wave, and biofuels by the year 2030. We also focused on how critical the efforts of Think Tech, Blue Planet, and others are in helping to raise the public awareness about the benefits on using renewable energy. If you'd like to learn more about Think Tech and watch my interview in its entirety, you can check out their website here: <http://thinktechhawaii.com/>

## Ewa Beach Community Celebrates Elena Farinas' Retirement

Senator Will Espero and I presented a certificate from the State Senate to Elena Farinas (left) at her retirement celebration and birthday party in Ewa Beach on July 31st.

Elena was the owner and manager of the Torii Arch Care Home in Ewa Beach for 28 years. She touched many lives through her unwavering dedication to her patients. Elena is married to Eduardo, a retired Army Major, and has two children, Marie and Bobby. She is also a born-again Christian and a long-time member of Word International Ministries, where she sings on the church worship team. She says that her retirement gives her more time to visit sick people as part of religious service. She'll also continue with her hobbies: sewing and gardening. Elena is a very special woman with a big heart.

She deserves praise for her tireless efforts to care for the sick and our kupuna.





# National Night Out Puts Focus on Safe Neighborhoods in Kapolei

Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Kym Pine, Senator Will Espero, and I presented certificates to Gale Braceros of Weed and Seed - Ewa and Major Mike Moses of HPD in recognition for organizing the National Night Out event at Kapolei Commons on August 6, 2010.

National Night Out is an annual event that has been celebrated for 27 years in communities large and small in all 50 states, the U.S. territories, and in Canada. Last year's National Night Out had over 36 million participants in the festivities, which usually involve mass sign-waving, refreshments, entertainment and a poster contest. The goal is to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for, and participation in local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships while sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Other dedicated community partners who helped put together the event were Citizen Patrol Community District 8, Target, Boys & Girls Club of Hawai'i, Kamehameha Schools Community Learning Center at Nanakuli, Kalaeloa Rental Homes, Ewa Beach Lions Club, and the Ewa Beach Neighborhood Board.

Mahalo nui loa to HPD, Target, and the other community organizers for your efforts to strengthen our communities, decrease crime, and give us confidence that we do live in neighborhoods where people are watching out for each other with aloha.

## H-5 Shuttle Up & Running Again in Kalaeloa

August 9th marked the return of a free shuttle bus to help those living in Kalaeloa's homeless shelters get around. The shuttle service is managed by the Hawai'i Helping the Hungry Have Hope (H-5) and services 600 resident who currently live at Onelauena Shelter, Homeless Veterans Substance Abuse Program, Hale Ulu Pono Shelter, and Kumuhonua Shelter. They use two donated charter buses and two vans. The service originally started in 2008 but ended in April 2009 because of a lack of funding. The current program is covered by \$148,000 from the City, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Human Services, HCDA, Waianae Community Outreach, and H-5. For more information, please contact Jessica Nichols at 397-6229.



*State Legislators - Rep. Karen Awana, Senator Mike Gabbard, Rep. Kym Pine, and Senator Will Espero - presented certificates to Gale Braceros of Weed and Seed - Ewa and Major Mike Moses of HPD in recognition for organizing the National Night Out event at Kapolei Commons on August 6th.*



Nissan Leaf test drive from the Hawai'i Convention Center - 8/30/10



100% Electric + Zero Emissions = "Carol, my lovely wife, can we get one???"

