

Legislative Wrap Up from...

Summer 2012

Senator Mike Gabbard

District 19—Waikele, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Makakilo, Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, and portions of Waipahu & Ko ‘Olina

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Listen-Story Meeting

My next two “Listen Story” meetings will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on Saturday, June 16th from 9:00am to 10:00am and the Kamokila Community Park Meeting Room in Honokai Hale on July 21st from 9:00 to 10:00am.



The Hawai‘i State Legislature honored U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka for receiving the Harry S. Truman Award for his years of service to the people of Hawai‘i, on April 3. Senator Gabbard shared a moment in the Senate chambers with Senator Akaka and his wife Millie.



Senator Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Kapolei High School Principal, Elden Esmeralda, from the State Senate on April 28, the occasion of the dedication of the Mural at Pu‘u O Kapolei. The mural was a community collaborative project between the Kapolei Hawaiian Civic Club, Honolulu Police Department District 8 Policing Team and Kapolei High School. The mural, representing the cultural heritage and history of the Kapolei area, was painted on bunkers at Kapolei Regional Park to combat a graffiti problem and to serve as a source of community pride. With Senator Gabbard are Kapolei High School art teachers Martha Richards (far left), Haley Kailiehu, who led the project, and Elden Esmeralda.

Aloha Friends,

I completed my 6th Legislative Session as your State Senator on May 3rd. Due to the changes made by the Reapportionment Commission, the district I currently represent will change from District 19 to District 20. My district will lose the communities of Waikele, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Honokai Hale, and a section of Ko Olina. I’ll pick up portions of Waipahu, Ewa Villages, and West Loch. I’ll also retain Kapolei, Makakilo, a large section of Kalaeloa, and a small area of Waipahu. To all those folks who will not live in District 20, it has been a privilege to serve as your State Senator. If I get re-elected on November 6th, to all the people in Ewa and Waipahu I’ll now represent and the Kapolei, Makakilo, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu residents I continue to represent, please let me know if I can ever help you or your family in any way. I can be reached at 586-6830 or at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Quick State Budget Summary

For Fiscal Year 2013, we have an \$11.2 billion operating budget and \$3.2 billion construction funding (CIP) budget. This was the first time in several years that we were not chasing a billion dollar shortfall, so we were able to make needed investments to restore core government programs. Major components of the operating budget are: human services (21.4%), education (17%), health (13.3%), University of Hawai'i (9%), and transportation (7.6%).

UH West Oahu Opening Soon

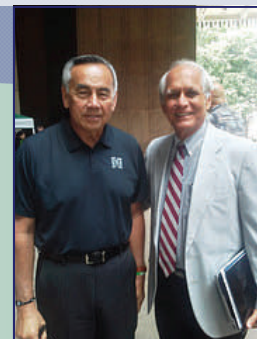
One of the biggest highlights of my time in the State Senate is seeing our new UH West O'ahu campus in Kapolei finally come to fruition. Given that the first appropriation of \$300,000 in planning funding for UHWO happened in 1966, it's huge that classes will begin on August 20th. The five building campus will open with 22 bachelor degree programs and 2,000 students, but will be expanding in the coming years. UH West O'ahu will provide higher education opportunities for the people of West and Central O'ahu and will also greatly reduce the traffic on the H-1. I hope you can make it to the public party at the new campus on August 18th from 11am to 6pm.



"Dog the Bounty Hunter" Chapman (far right), his wife Beth Chapman, and Dave Hyatt of HCC Surety visited Senator Gabbard at his office on March 19.



The Hawai'i State Senate honored Miss Hawai'i Lauren Cheape of Wahiawa/Mililani (left) and Mrs. Hawai'i Christie Oclaray of Makakilo on the Senate Floor on April 2. Here they are pictured with Senator Gabbard and Senator Michelle Kidani.



UH Head Coach Norm Chow and Senator Gabbard met at the Capitol Rotunda on March 13, after the "Punt, Pass, Kick" Competition between Senate, House and the Gov's Office for Education Week.

Key Energy and Environment Bills Pass the Legislature

This was my 4th session as the Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee. Here's a quick run-down of some of the key bills we passed this session:

- SB 2822**—establishes the Hawai'i Electric Device Recycling Task Force within the Department of Health to make recommendations for a workable recycling program for electronic devices.
- SB 2785**—sets up the regulatory framework through which the state Public Utilities Commission would regulate any interisland electrical transmission cable developer as a utility.
- SB 2746** - modifies existing state benefits for electric vehicle owners by making it so they have free metered parking for up to 2.5 hours and can use the HOV lanes, regardless of the number of passengers, through 2020.
- SB 2281** - allows applicants or agencies to bypass an environmental assessment (EA) and proceed directly to an environmental impact assessment (EIS) if the proposed project is likely to require an EIS anyway. This will save applicants time and money without compromising environmental protections.
- SB 2277** – extends the authority of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to issue incidental take licenses as part of habitat conservation plans and safe harbor agreements for endangered species through June 29, 2017.
- SB 2001** - amends the state Planning Act to promote the development of indigenous renewable energy resources, such as geothermal, that are located on public trust land as an affordable and reliable source of firm power for Hawai'i.
- HB 2593** – authorizes DLNR to adopt emergency rules if there is an imminent threat to natural resources.

Construction Funding Coming Our Way

Senate District 19 made out very well in construction funding in the 2011 to 2013 state budget. We received a total of \$239,653,000 to help improve our roads, schools, airport, harbor, military facilities, agricultural land, and to assist our non-profits. Mahalo to Ways and Means Committee Chair David Ige and Vice Chair Michelle Kidani in the Senate and Finance Committee Chair Marcus Oshiro and Vice Chair Marilyn Lee in the House for all their hard work in making this happen. Here are the specific projects:

Roads:

- Interstate Route H-1, Makakilo to Palailai IC (Kapolei Interchange Complex Improvements) - \$24,808,000
- Kualaka'i Parkway (Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt) - \$15 million

Schools:

- East Kapolei High School (design of new school) - \$3.3 million
- East Kapolei Middle School (design of new school) - \$2.5 million
- Kalei'opu'u Elementary School (electrical upgrades) - \$550,000
- Kalei'opu'u Elementary School (secondary ramp for campus evacuation) - \$625,000
- Kapolei High School (new locker room and showers) - \$4,665,000
- Kapolei II Elementary School (construction of new school) - \$40 million
- Makakilo Elementary (special education portable building) - \$375,000
- Royal Kunia Elementary School (plans for a new elementary school) - \$150,000
- Waikele Elementary School (expansion of cafeteria to include a performing arts stage) - \$794,000
- Waikele Elementary School (resurfacing basketball court/creation of playground surface) - \$175,000

Kalaeloa Development:

- Kalaeloa Airport Improvements - \$18.65 million
- Kalaeloa Airport Utility Corridor - \$500,000
- Kalaeloa East Energy Corridor - \$3.5 million
- Kalaeloa Fuel Pier Facility Improvements - \$2 million
- Kalaeloa Harbor Improvements - \$25,150,000
- Minor Military Construction and Renovations Army Guard Facilities (Kalaeloa and RTI Campus) - \$19.8M
- Renovation of Building 117 (Kalaeloa) - \$41,876,000
- 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center (Kalaeloa)- \$33.9M

UH West O'ahu:

- Photovoltaic Panel Array - \$2.5 million
- Campus-wide sitework and improvements - \$2.5 million
- Planning and design for Allied Health building - \$995,000
- Planning and design for creative media facility - \$900,000
- Road to connect campus to Farrington Highway - \$1,250,000

Agriculture:

- Kunia Agricultural Park Improvements - \$1 million

Grants-In-Aid to Non-Profits:

- Malama Learning Center - \$400,000
- Seagull Schools Preschool (Kapolei Elementary Pre-Plus Program) - \$300,000
- Special Olympics Hawai'i, Inc. - \$1.5 million



On January 10, at the Commissioning Ceremony for the Kuehnle Agrosystems (KAS) Algae Production Demonstration site within the Chevron refinery in Kapolei, Senator Gabbard and Representative Sharon Har presented KAS an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature. KAS employs an innovative system that uses recycled carbon dioxide waste streams and wastewater by-products to grow algae for food and feed. Pictured left to right are: KAS Chairman, Paul Zorner; Scott Frank of Chevron Hawai'i; KAS President and CEO, Heidi Kuehnle; Senator Gabbard and Representative Har.

2012 Legislative Session Overview

During the 2012 Legislative Session, we introduced 2,291 bills (1,219 in the House and 1,072 in the Senate). Of those, 345 were passed by the Legislature. Governor Abercrombie has to notify us about his intent to veto any bills by June 25th. The Legislature may then hold a Special Session to override vetoes on July 10th. You can contact Governor Abercrombie at governor.abercrombie@hawaii.gov or 586-0034 if you'd like to share your thoughts on any of the 2012 legislation.



The long awaited Grand Opening of Kroc Center was on January 28, beginning with a dedication ceremony and open house. On hand to share in the festivities were (L to R) Senator Will Espero; Senator Gabbard; former State Representative Mike Magaoay; First Hawaiian Bank CEO Don Horner and U.S. Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa. The community center includes an aquatic center, health and wellness center, gymnasium with dormitories, worship and performing arts center, a conference and banquet facility, and early childhood education center.



The Hawai'i State Senate honored recipients of the 2012 United States Small Business Administration's Small Business Awards on the Senate floor on March 28. Two Kapolei residents were among the awardees and were presented with Honorary Certificates by Senator Gabbard. Kathleen Davenport (left), of Kathleen Davenport Photography and West Oahu Women's Network, received the SBA Women in Business Champion of the Year Award. Dana Hauanio of the Honolulu Minority Business Center received the SBA Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award.



The Kapolei Community Development Corporation was honored by Senator Gabbard and his colleagues on March 2. KCDC's mission is to foster family and cultural preservation founded on the tenets of community, culture, education, and partnerships by leasing land and developing it in a way that benefits the community. Pictured are Senator Gabbard, KCDC Director Clayton Brown, Treasurer Homelani Schaedel, President Shirley Swinney, Vice-President Paul Richards, Senator Malama Solomon, Senator Pohai Ryan and Senator Kalani English.

Senator Gabbard attended the Solar Commissioning Ceremony and Blessing of the Kapolei Sustainable Energy Park on December 22, 2011. Beside him (left to right) are John Wallenstrom, President of Forest City of Hawai'i; Senator Will Espero; Samuel 'Ohukani'ohi'a Gon III, Senior Scientist & Cultural Advisor to the Hawai'i field office of The Nature Conservancy; and Georgette Stevens of Grace Pacific Corporation.



Senator Gabbard visited with the 94 cadets of the 36th class of the Youth Challenge Academy at the Capitol Auditorium on May 2. Last year, the Academy presented Senator Gabbard with the Lokahi Award in appreciation for his "lokahi" which underscores cooperation, working together, and helping others. The YCA program gives high school teens a second chance to get back on track and complete their high school studies.



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Congratulations to 2012 High School Graduates

Congratulations to Kapolei High School Valedictorians: Sharon Cabjuan, Caitlin Cavarocchi, Madison Healy, Tyler Kushima, Gabryn Kam, Kristen Kuakini, and Aisha Tierra. Also, congrats to American Renaissance Academy Valedictorian Laurent Drui, and Island Pacific Academy Salutatorian Lynn Shin, Valedictorian Kianna Billman, and their Navigator Award (best all around student) winner Ciera Fleming. I wish all the 2012 high school graduates the best!