



Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha Friends,

To those of you who voted for me, mahalo for re-electing me to represent you at the State Legislature. To those of you who didn't vote for me, or didn't vote at all, I hope I can gain your trust. In either case, please don't hesitate to contact my office if I can help you in any way. I just got word that I'll be continuing as the Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee. This will be my 5th year to serve in that role. The 2013 Legislative Session is fast approaching and will kick off on January 16th. I'm interested in getting your input on any ideas you have for legislation. It doesn't have to be a well-thought out concept, just something that you think should be changed or improved in our government. I'll consider turning these ideas into bills for introduction. Here are some other things I'd like to share with you. You can reach me at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov.



COMMITTEE CHAIR

* Energy and Environment

MEMBER

* Judiciary and Labor

MEMBER

* Transportation and International Affairs

District 20

Kapolei, Makakilo, and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu



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.

Quick Community Updates

- **Campbell Industrial Park Street Signage** – I got a complaint from a constituent about the absence of street signage in Campbell Industrial Park. I contacted the Director of the City's Department of Facility Maintenance and got word back that they would be replacing missing street signs at the intersections of Kalaeloa & Malakole and Kalaeloa & Kauhi by mid-December.
- **Kapolei Parkway** – the City informed us that the section of Kapolei Parkway from the edge of D.R. Horton Schuler's Mehana residential development to Kamokila Boulevard will be under construction starting this month and be completed by January 2014. The project was delayed because the contractor, Royal Contracting, had problems getting grading permits from the City.
- **Renee Shoji Named Outstanding Educator** – a big congratulations to Kapolei High School teacher, Renee Shoji, who was named as a 2011-2012 Outstanding Educator by Oceanic Time Warner Cable and Pizza Hut.

"Listen Story" Meeting

My next "Listen Story" will be held at the new Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at the Kapolei Foodland (Wakea Street at Kapolei Parkway) on November 24th from 9am to 10am.



Foodland opened its Kapolei store on October 17th. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Sharon Har, CEO Janai Wall, Vice Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer Roger Wall, and Senator Gabbard.

H-Power Launches Third Boiler

Several of my colleagues and I congratulated Covanta and City officials with a certificate from the State Legislature at the H-Power facility in Campbell Industrial Park. H-Power recently added a third boiler to its existing waste-to-energy facility, which is managed by Covanta and owned by the City. The expansion added a second turbine-generator which will allow for combustion of a greater variety of waste, including bulky items. The expansion created 300 additional jobs during its construction period and was finished ahead of schedule and under budget. The additional boiler is capable of burning 300,000 tons of refuse per year, so H-Power will now process 900,000 tons of trash per year. H-Power provides power to approximately 65,000 homes and recovers 20,000 tons of metal for recycling each year. The third boiler cost an estimated \$302 million.



Makakilo Resident Nick Young Celebrates 65th Birthday

I surprised Makakilo resident Nick Young with a certificate from the State Senate at his 65th Birthday Party in Ewa Beach on October 13th. It wasn't simply an occasion for him, but rather an opportunity for others to celebrate and express their gratitude to Nick for sharing so much of his life with them. So far, Nick has had a full, rich life. He graduated from the University of Hawai'i with a degree in sociology. He then served our country admirably in the U.S. Navy Reserves, going on active duty for two years. In 1979, he started working as a flight attendant for United Airlines in San Francisco. A new chapter in his life began when he met fellow flight attendant, Julie, who he literally swept off her feet. They were married 8 months later and 32 years later, they still are enjoying each other's company as husband and wife. The second love of his life, after Julie, is making surfboards, which he has been doing since high school. In 1994, he started his own company, "Young Hawaiian Surfboards". Why? Because when he came back from the mainland, surfboards were so expensive, he decided to make his own and go commercial. His business also afforded him the luxury of spending more time at home with his son, Lyon, who is now 23 years old. Nick is an avid tennis player and was instrumental in working with me in forming and organizing the Kalaeloa Tennis Association (KTA). Nick served admirably as the inaugural KTA President from 2011 to 2012. Mahalo to Nick for being a great friend, neighbor and involved community member.



Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties Opens Kapolei Office

Rep. Sharon Har and I presented Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties a certificate from the State Legislature at the Grand Opening for their Kapolei office at Kapolei Commons, next to Down to Earth Natural Foods, on October 20th. Pictured with us are (from left to right), Broker-in-Charge & Senior Vice President Kalama Kim, President Chason Ishii, and Executive Regional Vice President Tracy Bradley.

Coldwell Banker is a leading residential real estate brokerage company in Hawai'i operating 5 residential real estate offices on Oahu with more than 400 sales associates and employees. They are part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company.



GMO Labeling Bigger Issue Locally and Nationally

During my 6 years at the Capitol, I've been a strong advocate for GMO labeling and continue to support this cause. Since 2008, I've been introducing legislation to label GMO "whole foods", to label GMO fish, and to set up a farmer notification system so people would know where all the field tests are taking place. I've been disappointed that we haven't been able to get any of these bills passed into law. What I keep coming back to is that this is common sense. We have a right to know what we're eating. The GMO industry should do what the organic industry did on a shoestring budget back in the 1970s—and that is a national campaign promoting organics. I remember 5 years ago suggesting this in an ENE committee meeting to the GMO industry. If they think their product taste better and is better for us, then do a national media campaign and convince us to buy GMOs. I never got a satisfactory answer to this question. So, I'll ask again. Why not, Monsanto? I've been a part of the on-going efforts of **Label It Hawai'i** to bring this issue to more people's attention. You might be aware that the people of California voted on Proposition 37 on November 6th, which would've required the labeling of GMO foods in that state. Unfortunately, that ballot initiative fell short with 47% of the vote, largely due to the nearly \$50 million that was spent by the GMO industry to defeat the measure. The Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board voted to pass a motion in support of labeling of GMO foods at their meeting on October 24th. This song by Mike Adams is entertaining and also nicely shows us why this issue is so important:<http://www.therealfoodchannel.com/videos/gmos-genetically-modified-food-1/just-label-it.html>



Senator Gabbard with Father Khahn Pham-Nguyen (left) and performing at the Walk in the Park for Blessed Mother Marianne Cope at the Kakaako Waterfront Park on September 29 (right). Saint Marianne followed in the footsteps of Saint Damien in serving Hansen's disease patients in Moloka'i.



Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Energy and Environmental Protection Committee Chair, Rep. Denny Coffman and I honored the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum (HEPF) to celebrate their 10th Anniversary on October 15th. I've been a member of HEPF since 2009, when I was appointed the Chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. HEPF was formed in May 2002 as a project of UH to bring together major stakeholders and community leaders in order to develop an energy strategy and supporting policies through the year 2030. The objective of HEPF is to help our state achieve a sustainable, affordable, safe, and reliable energy system. To establish a baseline starting point, HEPF commissioned studies on environmental, regulatory, economic, social, and cultural issues relating to Hawai'i's energy future. To focus on core outcomes, HEPF adopted a comprehensive 10 Point Action Plan and established Action Plan Working Groups to implement plans for: (1) renewable energy; (2) energy efficiency; (3) regulatory reform; (4) hydrocarbons future; (5) social and cultural impacts; (6) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and (7) communication and outreach. In support of its recommended policies, HEPF has conducted annual legislative briefings, public briefings, including an annual Hawai'i Clean Energy Day, public outreach through reports, and produced a 2-year television series on "Hawai'i: The State of Clean Energy." I thank them for their efforts in building the foundation for clean and sustainable energy that can be a model to the nation and world.



Kapolei Public Library "Fright Night" - October 24, 2012

Senator Gabbard and Rep. Sharon Har served as judges at the Kapolei Public Library "Fright Night" Halloween Costume Contest



"Cutest" winners: The Nikora Ohana. Ava, Tane, Gabby, Irie, & Angela pictured also with Lee Tokuhara, of Horton Schuler Homes (far left.) Lee was another costume judge.



"Most Creative" winners: The Adams Ohana. Sophia, Matthew, and Karena.



"Ohana" winners: The Harris Ohana. William & Cheyenne and Christopher & Chanelle.



"Super hero" winner: Livi Rand as Mary Poppins.



"Most original" winners: The Kile Ohana. Mike, Bekka and Mike.



"Scariest" winners: The Tani Ohana: Genesis, Sherry, Orich, and Phoenix



Senator Gabbard spoke about the legislative process with 8th grade students from Kapolei Middle School social studies classes at the Capitol on October 5th. Accompanying the students were special education teacher Jacqueline Richardson and educational assistant Lauren Kaawa (picture at left). At right, students were accompanied by math teacher Sharla Young and social studies teacher Tia Ubilas.