

COMMITTEE CHAIR

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International Affairs

* Technology and the Arts

District 20

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

Aloha Friends,

I completed my 7th session as your State Senator on May 2nd. This legislative wrap-up will provide you with an overview of some of the key things that happened which will impact our community. A big congrats to all the 2013 high school graduates from James Campbell High School, Kapolei High School, Waipahu High School, American Renaissance Academy, and Island Pacific Academy. I wish them all the best as they chart their futures. Please contact me at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way.

"Listen-Story" Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meetings will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on Saturday, June 22nd at 9am and at the Pray Eat Love Café (533 Manawai St #304) in Kapolei on July 20th at 9am.

2013 Legislative Session Overview

During the 2013 Legislative Session, we introduced 2,872 bills (1,484 in the House and 1,388 in the Senate). Of those, 293 were passed by the Legislature. Governor Abercrombie has until June 24th to notify us about his intent to veto any of those bills. The Legislature may then hold a Special Session to override vetoes on July 9th. 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 2013 legislation.



Energy and Environment Committee's Key Legislation

I just completed my 5th session as the Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee. This year we passed several good pieces of legislation that will serve our community well. Here's a brief overview of several of those bills:

- **SB 1087** – this bill will allow for the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Financing Program. It's a first in the nation program that will bring in private investment to assist lower and middle income folks in purchasing solar PV and other energy efficiency improvements through loans, which they would pay back on their electricity bill.
- **SB 19** – this bill will clarify the law to allow renters and commercial tenants to also gain access to the benefits of lowering their electricity bills through solar PV. It will greatly benefit the residents and businesses of Kalaeloa who are faced with a steep increase in electricity costs that was recently announced by the Navy.
- **SB 1133** – this bill will close a loophole in our state's deposit beverage container program ("bottle law") that currently allows some energy drinks to evade this important recycling program.
- **HB 899** – this bill will restore the exemption for the deposit beverage container special fund from the Department of Budget and Finance's Central Services Assessment fee. This fee drains \$3 million per year from this fund. This exemption will help the Department of Health avoid raising the 1.5 cent administrative fee placed on beverages.
- **HB 988** – this bill will make funding for Hawai'i Wildlife Center a permissible use of the environmental response revolving fund (barrel tax). The Hawai'i Wildlife Center is dedicated to rehabilitating wild birds from throughout the Hawai'i archipelago that have been affected by oil spills.

Island Invasive Species Committee Tours a Rewarding Experience

Since session ended on May 2nd, I've been busy taking tours with staff of the Island Invasive Species Committees (IISC). The IISC are located on each major island and tasked with the control and eradication of invasive species, such as miconia, coqui frogs, pampas grass, little fire ants, etc. I've recently had the opportunity to participate in helicopter tours and hikes on O'ahu, Maui & Moloka'i. I'll also be visiting the Big Island and Kua'i in the coming months. My goal is to use the information gained to work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop ideas for improving our state policies, including funding levels, and public outreach to help us better address the threat invasive species pose to our environment. I'll also be chairing a hearing on this subject and collaborating with ENE members on next steps. These efforts will culminate in the introduction of legislation for the 2014 session.



Senator Gabbard got a bird's eye view of O'ahu during a helicopter tour given by the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee on May 10th.



Senator Gabbard sprayed an area of thick foliage on Maui with citric acid to control the spread of coqui frogs on May 20th.

Senator Gabbard was shown different types of invasive species on Moloka'i by Lori Buchanan (Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee Manager) on May 13th. They are surrounded by a sea of pickleweed and saltbush just outside of Kaunakakai town.



Senator Mike Gabbard signed a PV panel at the SolarStrong Blessing and Ceremony for a 24 MW solar project at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i on May 8th. This joint project between SolarCity and Forest City will provide power for 6,500 military families at Navy Region Hawai'i and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. Looking on is Will Boudra, the Vice President for Development at Forest City.



Senator Gabbard surprised 5th grade Mauka Lani Elementary school teacher Bryan Rankie with a certificate from the State Senate during their faculty meeting at the Makakilo school on May 8th. Mr. Rankie was recently named Milken Educators of Hawai'i's "Teacher of Promise." Pictured are Senator Gabbard, Bryan Rankie, and Mauka Lani Principal Shelley Ferrara.



Senator Gabbard honored the Kapolei High School valedictorians with certificates from the State Senate at the 10th Annual Scholarship & Awards Night at Kapolei High School on May 10th. Pictured (L to R) are Principal Elden Esmeralda, Senator Gabbard, Vineal Singh, Sara Teixeira, Noah Higa, Jennifer Wong, Jenny Jo Garcillas, Stephen Macaspac, Lisa Cruz, McKaella Swenson, Leila Lagrio, Melanie Chandler, and Kristine Bacalla.



Senator Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates from the State Senate to Elizabeth Becherer (Navigator Award), Kayla Economou (Valedictorian), and Sarah Li (Salutatorian) at the Island Pacific Academy (IPA) Awards Banquet in Kapolei on May 15th. Also, pictured is Dr. Dan White, IPA Headmaster.

Quick State Budget Summary

For the Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015, we have a \$23.7 billion operating budget and a \$3.03 billion construction funding (CIP) budget. Major components of the operating budget are: human services (22%), budget and finance (18%), education (16%), health (13%), University of Hawai'i (9%), and transportation (7%).

Senate District 20 Scores Big for State Construction Projects

I was very pleased that Senate District 20 was able to secure \$91.8 million in construction funding as part of the 2013 – 2015 budget. This funding will go toward improving our roads, university, schools, community groups, National Guard, and harbor. Here's a breakdown:

Roads

- Kualaka'i Parkway Extension – Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt Ave. - \$15,001,000
- H-1 Westbound PM Contraflow Lane - \$15 million
- H-1 Kunia Interchange Improvements - \$780,000

UH West O'ahu

- University of Hawai'i - West Oahu Allied Health Building - \$11.8 million
- University of Hawai'i - West Oahu Road B - UHWO to Kualaka'i Parkway – \$3.5 million

Schools

- East Kapolei High School - \$5 million
- East Kapolei Middle School - \$3 million
- Mauka Lani Elementary Electrical Upgrades - \$700,000



Grants-in-Aid to Non-Profits

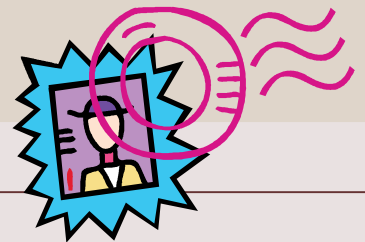
- Kapolei Community Development Corp. Grant in Aid (Heritage Center - \$1,150,000)
- Seagull Schools Childcare Center Grant in Aid (Kapolei Elementary School) - \$1.2 million

Harbor

- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor New Fuel Pier - \$3 million
- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor Turning Basin and Entrance Channel - \$400,000

National Guard

- Army Aviation Support Facility - \$31,319,000



Kapolei Postal Station in Danger of Closing

Back in August 2011, USPS announced that they were considering closing thousands of post offices around the country. Kapolei Postal Station (KPS) was unfortunately one of those post offices on the list. Since that time, I've been working with USPS in the hopes of keeping KPS from closing and also looking for alternatives, such as having a contract postal unit at UH West O'ahu. On May 3, 2013, USPS again gave notice that they're looking at closing KPS. Their plan is to move the more than 700 P.O. Boxes at KPS to the Barbers Point Station postal facility. As you know, USPS has experienced enormous financial troubles over the last several years and they are looking to cut costs. They estimate saving over \$1 million if they closed our post office. I'm asking you to help send a message to USPS that we need to keep our post office open. Please send written comments to: Janice Shimizu, 3600 Aolele Street Honolulu, HI 96820-9998. The deadline to submit comments is July 4, 2013.



Senator Mike Gabbard
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Senator Gabbard was presented with an exquisite kahili (He inoa keia kahili o Kamana'olana... "the name of this kahili is Hope") at the Kapolei Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) Board meeting at the Hale Pono'i in Kapolei on May 15th for his efforts in helping secure \$1.15 million in funding for the Heritage Center. Pictured (L to R – Front Row) are Joe Lewis (KCDC Vice President), Eliza Martin, Rani Vargas, Kaleo Keawe-Aiko (KCDC Director), Anolani Hanohano (KCDC Director), Lei Furtado, Home Schaedel (KCDC Treasurer), Senator Gabbard, Shirley Swinney (KCDC President), Charel Gabriel and Cheryl Amina. Back Row (L-R) are Nathan Napihaa and Pastor Guy Kapeliela.



### Kapolei Community Development Center Moving Forward with Heritage Center

One of the highlights of this past session was working with my colleagues at the State Legislature to help secure \$1.15 million for Kapolei Community Development Corporation's Heritage Center (KCDC). For those who are not familiar, KCDC is a grassroots organization made up of the various homestead associations in Kapolei. Since 2007, they have been working on projects to support our local Native Hawaiian community. Their current project is called the Heritage Center and is envisioned as a gathering place where families can come together to foster self-sufficiency and cultural preservation. The Heritage Center will be located on leased Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) property mauka of the DHHL headquarters in Kapolei. KCDC's plan is to raise \$3 million to complete the first two phases of the project. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase will include a certified kitchen, two classrooms, and a storage area. Phase 2 will include a covered halau. Additional phases will include the commercial piece which could be affordable rentals or retail outlets. A big mahalo to KCDC President Shirley Swinney, Vice President Joe Lewis, Treasurer Home Schaedel, Director Kaleo Keawe-Aiko, and Director Anolani Hanohano for all their hard work and dedication to making the Heritage Center a reality.



Senator Gabbard presented a certificate from the State Senate to (L to R) 5 yr. old Charlie Parsons and 7 yr. old Leo Campagna, CEO of The Littlest Co-Op, at the Community Seed & Plant Exchange at Kualoa Ranch on May 5th. Charlie and Leo were honored for their love of growing their own food, starting a business, and promoting sustainability.



Senator Gabbard gave an inspirational message to the Youth Challenge Academy cadets at the "Brown Bag Luncheon with a Lawmaker" held at their Kalaeloa headquarters on May 3rd.