

Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



2013

Aloha Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your ohana. I hope you enjoy the official start to our holiday season. Here are a few updates I'd like to share with you. A special congratulations to my son, Jai, who got married in Australia on November 5th. I wish him a life of joy and fulfillment with his wife, Jayde. Please let me know if I can ever help you or your family in any way. I can be reached at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov.



Mike



COMMITTEE CHAIR

* Energy and Environment

MEMBER

* Judiciary and Labor

* Transportation and International Affairs

* Education

District 20

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

Kapolei Public Library Electricity and Event

Back in early October, we were notified that the Kapolei Public Library was experiencing power outages on a regular basis. We looked into the problem and found out that the power outages were due to a breaker. We were informed that the state Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) had hired an electrical contractor to fix the problem. As of November 1st, Sheryl Lynch, Branch Librarian, notified us that adjustments have been made and that no more outages have occurred over the last few weeks. DAGS is still working on a long-term solution.

I was disappointed that this year's Fright Night keiki Halloween costume party was cancelled because of the electrical issues. But the library is hosting an interesting event on December 7th at 2:00pm. Author Rob Simbeck will be discussing his book, *Daughter of the Air*, about the life of Cornelia Fort and the role of female pilots during World War II. For more information, please contact the library at 693-7050.

Your Ideas for Legislation Welcome

The 2014 Regular Session is just around the corner and will begin on Jan 16th. One of the key ways I get good ideas for legislation is from the community. One constituent from Waipahu approached me several months ago to express his concern about an issue with his medical records. He said that he had gotten a letter in the mail from a law firm in California after the closure of Hawai'i Medical Center – West (HMC-West). They notified him that due to the bankruptcy of HMC-West he would have to pay close to \$50 to obtain his medical records from the hospital. He contacted my office because he thought it was a scam. We got in touch with the state Attorney General and were able to determine that this was allowed under the bankruptcy court's decision. The constituent suggested that I look at legislation to better protect seniors and the disabled who were put in hardship over the situation. So I've drafted a bill for introduction to require that before any hospital can declare bankruptcy, they must first contact all their patients and provide them with their medical records free of charge. I'm hopeful this consumer protection legislation moves forward. Please let me know if you have any ideas for legislation that you'd like to see introduced.



Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at the Pray Eat Love Café (533 Manawai Street #304, Wai'anae side directly across from Kapolei High School) at 9am on Saturday, December 7th. If you can't make it, send me an email and I'll get you the notes.

Carmel Partners and Hunt Development Come Up Big on Kalaeloa Electricity Rates

In July, the Navy, which buys electricity from Hawaiian Electric Company and provides power to both the Kalaeloa community and Waterfront at Puuloa in Ewa, announced they would be significantly raising the electric rate from \$263.47 per MWH to \$587.43 per MWH, a 133% increase, starting on October 1st. I wrote Admiral Richard Williams on July 15th asking him to do everything he could to avoid the electricity increase. I received a letter on July 29th from the Navy informing me that the rates would be going up as planned from October 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014. The Navy explained that although HECO's rates increased between 2008 and 2012, the rates the Navy charged to its Kalaeloa customers did not increase. This resulted in financial losses for the Navy. We were also informed that since this rate increase was included in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2014 budget submission, the rates can't be lowered without the express approval of the Secretary of the Department of Defense. I was also notified that the Navy is looking to transfer the electrical utility to HECO as early as Fiscal Year 2017/2018. Mahalo to both Carmel Partners and Hunt Development for stepping up and not passing along this electricity increase to their tenants. Carmel Partners made the decision to absorb 100% of the increase for their residential tenants. Hunt is paying for 70% of the increase for their commercial tenants.

Kudos to James Campbell Company

A big mahalo to the James Campbell Company for donating \$250,000 to 9 West O'ahu schools to support infrastructure and technology last month. The following schools were recipients of the gift:

• Kapolei High School	\$45,000
• Kapolei Middle School	\$45,000
• Kapolei Elementary School	\$25,000
• Barbers Point Elementary School	\$25,000
• Makakilo Elementary School	\$25,000
• Mauka Lani Elementary School	\$25,000
• James Campbell High School	\$20,000
• Nanakuli High and Intermediate School	\$20,000
• Wai'anae High School	\$20,000



Senator Gabbard and his wife Carol talked story with Li Cobian (center) at the 2013 Children and Youth Day at the State Capitol on October 7th.



Senator Gabbard stopped by the Label it Hawai'i booth at the 2013 Children and Youth Day at the State Capitol on October 7th. Pictured (L to R) are Senator Gabbard, Mitsuko Hayakawa, Mama T Gonsalves, Carol Gabbard, and Dr. Melissa Yee.

Tokai International College's New Kapolei Campus



I sponsored a certificate from the State Senate to congratulate Hawai'i Tokai International College (HTIC) for breaking ground on a new campus on October 4th, which will be located next to UH West O'ahu. The campus is scheduled to open in April 2015. Dr. Richard Kosaki founded HTIC in 1992 for the purpose of providing a strong liberal arts education that would contribute to a moral and social consciousness necessary for an increasingly technologically advanced world. HTIC is the only American campus of the Tokai University Educational System of Japan (TES), founded by Dr. Shigeyoshi Matsumae. Dr. Matsumae strongly believed that an internationally oriented education was the best route to lasting world peace. TES is an extensive network of educational and research institutions throughout Japan, with facilities also located in Denmark and Austria. When searching for a location for an American TES campus, Hawai'i's population of diverse cultures and welcoming spirit of aloha was found to be ideal. Until now, HTIC has been located in Honolulu, but in an effort to coordinate with UH West O'ahu and thus enhance both educational programs, HTIC will utilize 6.597 acres of land at the Kapolei campus site. This arrangement will allow for cooperation and synergy of HTIC's and UH West O'ahu's interactive educational programs. Students from both schools will benefit greatly with an opportunity for a deeper awareness of the importance of developing a global perspective, a better international understanding, and ethical global citizens. Arigatou gozaimasu to the Tokai ohana!

UH West Oahu PV Project

I've been getting feedback from student leaders of UH West O'ahu who have expressed their concerns that a proposed PV project at UH West O'ahu isn't getting completed fast enough. We checked in with UH West O'ahu Chancellor Rockne Freitas' office and were told that the project is moving forward. We got this update that I'd like to share with you:

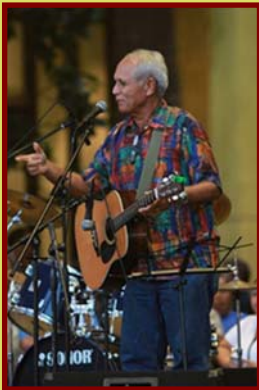
- ◆ \$2.5 million in General Obligation bonds for a PV project for UH West O'ahu was appropriated in the 2011 legislative session.
- ◆ The PV system will produce 435 kW of power, which will meet 15% of the campus' energy needs.
- ◆ Originally the funds were transferred to the Research Corporation of UH because the intent was to construct the PV array as part of the Phase I campus project.
- ◆ As the deadline for the opening of the campus approached, completion of facilities that were vital to campus operations (classrooms, roads, utilities, courtyard) needed to be prioritized and a decision was made to defer construction of the PV project until after the campus was opened.
- ◆ After the campus opened, attempts were made to negotiate a price for the PV installation with the contractor.
- ◆ However, the costs for the PV installation were higher than the appropriated amount, so the decision was made to bid out the PV project separately and to have the University (as opposed to RCUH) handle the bid and construction. This occurred during the first half of 2013.
- ◆ The University System's Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) is now responsible for seeing the project through construction.
- ◆ They are working with a consultant to finalize the plans so that the project can go out to bid.
- ◆ The funds for the PV project need to be encumbered by a construction contract no later than June 30, 2014.



Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Live & Live Let Traffic Safety Awareness Campaign

The 2013 Drive Safe 4 Ewa/Kapolei Live & Let Live Traffic Safety Awareness Campaign will kick-off at the Kapolei Police Station on November 23rd at 9am. You might be familiar with this Campaign, which features crashed cars placed on the side of the roadways and sign waving. The goal of the program is to increase driver safety during the Christmas Holiday seasons. This is the 6th year for my office to coordinate the poster contest for the Campaign. This year Kapolei, Nanakuli, and Wai'anae High schools all submitted student posters for consideration. Here is this year's sign waving schedule for the Ewa and Kapolei communities, if you'd like to participate. For more information, contact Sgt. Antone Pacheco at 723-8411.

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| ◇ Ft. Weaver Road (fronting Ewa Beach Boys and Girls Club) | 12/02/13, 7:00-7:45am |
| ◇ Kapolei High School (Kapolei Parkway and Ft. Barrette) | 12/03/13, 7:00-7:45am |
| ◇ Kaimiloa Elementary School | 12/05/13, 7:00-7:45am |
| ◇ Ft. Barrette and Farrington Hwy | 12/09/13, 3:30-4:30pm |
| ◇ Ft. Weaver Rd. and Laulaunui Drive | 12/11/13, 3:00-4:30pm |
| ◇ Ewa Makai Middle School | 12/17/13, 3:00-3:30pm |
| ◇ Ft. Weaver (fronting Ewa Beach Boys and Girls Club) | 12/18/13, 2:00-2:30pm |



Senator Mike Gabbard sang a song he co-wrote with Leon Siu, *E Kupono Me Ke Aloha (Taking a Stand for What's Right with Love)* at the State Capitol on October 28th. Thousands assembled and sang along as they gathered to testify on SB1 on Same Sex Marriage.



Senator Gabbard met with his cousin, Tony Langkilde, of American Samoa in his office on October 1st.



The House and Senate Energy/Environment and Consumer Protection/Commerce Committees held a joint Informational Briefing on Hawaiian Electric Company's changes to its solar photovoltaic grid interconnection policies on October 14. Legislators pictured Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senator Rosalind Baker, Senator Gabbard, Rep. Chris Lee and Rep. Angus McKelvey.



Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui presented Karen Lee, Executive Director of Hawai'i Partnerships for Education, with a Proclamation in honor of National GEAR UP Week at the UH West O'ahu campus in Kapolei on September 28th. Also on hand to lend their support were Senate Education Committee Chair, Jill Tokuda, and West Oahu Senator and Education Committee member, Mike Gabbard.