

Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



2013

Dear Friends,

Whew, what an intense couple weeks. Law enforcement caught the guy stalking and threatening our daughter, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. Thanks to the Capitol Police, FBI, U.S. Marshals, county police departments and the sheriff's office. The Gabbard ohana are indebted to you all. Then, on Labor Day, I walked my youngest daughter Davan, a deputy U.S. Marshal based in DC down the aisle at Ko Olina. It was truly a sweet wedding. Nice to have all our family in town, including Tulsi and our 3 sons Bhakti, Jai, and Ryan, who always come to town intent on kicking their dad's okole on the golf course and tennis court. Congrats Jai...you're the golf champion until our next reunion in 2015. I thought I taught you to respect your elders, especially your dad? Hope you and your family are all well. Please e-mail me at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov, or call 586-6830, if I can help you or your family in any way.



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

"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, September 21st. If you can't make the meeting but would like to see the notes, please send me an email.



Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair

I'll be participating in the Third Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair, which will take place at Ewa Makai Middle School on September 7th from 9am to 1pm. The event is being organized by the Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee which has been successful in getting Ewa Beach designated as a StormReady and TsunamiReady Community. This year's theme is KIT (Keep in Together) and will help educate the public on what should be in their evacuation and shelter-in-place kits. Participants in this free event will receive emergency preparedness items for their kits made possible by sponsors, such as Target, D.R. Horton, HECO, Pali Momi Medical Center, Carmel Partners, Haseko, Safeway, and City Mill. The event will include informational booths, seminars, and hands on training. For more information, please contact Donald Harlor at 682-0111 or dharlor@aol.com.



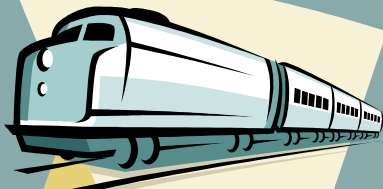
Senator Gabbard participated in a hearing of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee to consider the confirmation of newly appointed District Court Judge, Jim Ashford, on August 5th.



Senator Gabbard congratulated Judge Jim Ashford after he was unanimously confirmed by the State Senate as a District Court Judge on August 6th.



Rail Project Update



- On June 27, 2013, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate appropriation committees agreed to give Honolulu's rail project its full \$250 million funding share for 2014 – the single largest grant for any new startup project in the nation.
- The federal government is covering 30% of the cost of the project (\$1.15B).
- There's a federal court case being argued before the 9th Circuit Court which started on August 15th. The plaintiffs are seeking for the environmental impact statement for the project to be invalidated and construction to permanently be halted.
- On August 29th, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) approved the archaeological reports for the rail project.
- If the City wins the case, the plan is to start construction by mid-September.
- East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium section to be completed by 2017.
- Aloha Stadium to Ala Moana section to be completed by 2019.



PPSEAWA Dedicated Peace and Friendship Among Southeast Women

I donated a Hawai'i flag and prepared a certificate from the State Senate to congratulate the people of Fiji for hosting the 2013 Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) International Conference from August 24th to 30th. PPSEAWA is the only international women's organization devoted to peace and understanding in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. There are 23 chapters whose members are dedicated to identifying the needs and problems of today's women and children, protecting the status of women and children while promoting family and child welfare, furthering education, training and literacy programs for all ages, working to protect and improve the environment, as well as raising funds and providing support locally and region wide. PPSEAWA has a long history of organizing international conferences. Since the first international conference held during the summer of 1928 in Hawai'i, PPSEAWA conferences have provided opportunities for women to learn, discuss and act on global and regional issues. The 2013 International Conference will be held in Fiji where PPSEAWA members will be treated to the best of Fiji by President Neomai Katonivaliku and Ravesi Johnston, PPSEAWA International 1st Vice President and Conference Chairperson. The conference participants will be able to hear about the work that the PPSEAWA Fiji chapter is involved in, visit exhibition booths, take part in interesting panel discussions, and observe Fijian cultural performances. This is a significant opportunity for PPSEAWA members from many diverse countries to meet and strengthen the bonds of peace by promoting better understanding and fostering friendship. Vinaka vaka levu!

Senator Gabbard offered a "Moment of Contemplation" during a Special Session of the State Senate on August 5th with Senate President, Donna Kim sitting to his left.



Senator Gabbard served as a judge of student presentations for an Air Quality and Climate Change Course at UH Manoa on August 5th. The students focused on ways to combat air pollution which plagues Beijing, China. The course is taught by Dr. Doug Eisinger. Seated (L to R) are Keahi Konishi, Stacey Motonaga, Lucas Coelho Victoria, Pamela Hof, Andrew Ching, and Jacqueline Salgado. Standing (L to R) are Lois Hamaguchi (Information Specialist for HART), Mark Shrivastava, Bryan Jackson, Sergio Santiago Melendez, Carl Thompson, Dayna Lam, Maryam Palma, Maria Celeste Da Costa Alves, Melisa Ibrahimovic, William Kollmer, Senator Gabbard, Peter Flachsbar (UH Urban and Regional Planning Professor), and Douglas Eisinger (UH Geography Professor).

Post Offices Likely to Close

We got the latest news from USPS on possible post office closures in our district and it doesn't look good. It's likely the Kapolei Postal Station will close after the Christmas Holidays at the first of the 2014. USPS has the same plan for the Ewa Postal Station in Ewa Villages. USPS will hold a public meeting at that Ewa Postal Station on September 20 from 12pm to 2pm. As you know, USPS has experienced enormous financial troubles over the last several years and they are looking to cut costs. I continue to work with USPS in the hopes that they can open additional contract postal units in our community at area businesses.

Waipahu High's Juanito Moises Chosen as 2013 GEAR UP Youth of the Year

I presented Juanito Moises with an honorary certificate from the State Senate at Waipahu High School on August 30th. I recognized Juanito for being named the 2013 GEAR UP Youth of the Year. Each year, the GEAR UP Youth of the Year Award is awarded to a student participating in a GEAR UP program who has gone above and beyond to be a role model for others, while taking steps to enter and succeed in college. Juanito is an honor roll student, a member of the National Honor Society, and has a position on the Waipahu High School basketball, track, and cross country teams. Juanito has also proven that he is a skilled and effective leader; since 2010 he has been in leadership positions with the GEAR UP Club and Skills USA, an organization whose mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. Juanito also makes time to volunteer for the Salvation Army Toy Drive and to tutor other students in math. Juanito has won many honors in and out of the classroom, including 1st place in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Poetry Contest and 1st place in the boys 300 meter hurdles JV Western Championship.

Modern American Circus Coming to Kapolei

If you're looking for something to do with your family, look no further than the Modern American Circus that will be coming to Kapolei in September. The event will take place at the Kapolei Fairgrounds (across from Walmart at the corner of Fort Barrette and Farrington Highway) and will feature more than 30 artists performing aerial, ground, and stand-up acts under the "Big Top." Here are the show times: September 20th (7:30pm), September 21st (1pm, 4pm, & 7:30pm), September 22nd (1pm & 4pm), September 27th (7:30pm), September 28th (1pm, 4pm, & 7:30pm), and September 29th (1pm and 4pm). You can reserve your tickets by calling 781-4773 and also find out more information by visiting www.kamaainakids.com. Local childcare provider, Kama'aina Kids, is working as a partner in organizing the events and will also benefit from the proceeds, as well as Kapolei High School.

Habitat for Humanity Build-a-thon Event

Hawai'i Habitat for Humanity will hold its Seventh Annual Build-a-thon event from September 13th to 15th. The goal of Habitat for Humanity is to utilize the self-help model of homeownership to provide decent, affordable housing for low-income families. The organization is the 6th largest homebuilder in the U.S. and is one of the 10 most well-known and respected non-profits as well. The Build-a-thon event allows the 7 local offices to generate funds and help raise awareness about the need for housing opportunities in our state. The Habitat for Humanity Leeward O'ahu folks will be meeting at 91-1200 Kaneoneo Street in Kapolei on September 14th from 8:30am to 2:30pm to help build 2 homes in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Kanehili Subdivision. If you'd like to participate, please contact Jo Bautista of Habitat for Humanity Leeward O'ahu at 696-7882.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

H-1 PM Contraflow Lane and Kapolei Interchange, Phase II Update

The Senate Transportation and International Affairs Committee, which I serve on, got an update on upcoming H-1 and H-2 freeway projects on July 25th. The two projects in our district that were discussed were the H-1 PM Contraflow Lane and the Kapolei Interchange, Phase II. Construction on the H-1 PM Contraflow Lane began in June 2012 and is expected to be completed by August 2014. The project will cost a total of \$82 million with \$16.4 million coming from the state and the rest from our the federal government. The Kapolei Interchange, Phase II will include the construction of the Wakea Street overpass and the on- and off-ramps. Construction of this project will start in September 2014 and is expected to be completed by September 2017. The total price tag will be \$48 million with the federal government kicking in \$38.4 million of that amount.

Traffic

I hope you're surviving the "Beat the School" jam. As you're most likely painfully aware, on August 26th about 52,000 college and private school students began their fall semester. Our state Department of Transportation (DOT) is making several efforts to lessen the impact of the flood of new traffic on our roads. DOT did postpone its construction related lane closures during the week of August 26th and has also created a new GoAkamai App to help provide traffic congestion information for iPhone, iPad, and Android mobile device users. The App is available on the Android and iPhone App stores. But please be sure you're not using the App while driving. 😊

Development of Kapolei Fairgrounds

The Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) announced on August 10th that they are seeking competitive bids from private developers to develop the 27-acre "Fairgrounds" parcel fronting Walmart in Kapolei. HHFDC is considering both leasing and selling the property. The parcel was originally planned for 4 projects – a commercial center, a church, a park-and-ride, and senior housing. However, the parcel was rezoned in 2001 to allow for both commercial and residential up to 60 ft. in height. HHFDC now says their objective is to have moderate priced housing and small-scale retail, including restaurants. HHFDC estimates selecting a preferred plan by April 2014. In 2007, the land was valued at \$34.3 million. Please stay tuned.



Senator Gabbard, Senator Will Espero, and Rep. Jo Jordon presented Pacific Allied Products' President Bernie Coleman with a certificate from the State Senate in celebration of the launch of their new state of the art water filling co-packaging line in Campbell Industrial Park on August 16th. Pictured (L to R) are Senator Espero, Rep. Jordan, Mr. Coleman, and Senator Gabbard



Senator Gabbard and Senator Maile Shimabukuro were given a tour of Kaupuni Village in Wai'anae by Kamana'o Mills of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) on August 23rd. Kaupuni Village is a sustainable, net zero energy community that includes 19 affordable homes, which was developed by DHHL and contractor Hunt Building Company. Pictured (L to R) are Mr. Mills, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Gabbard, and Chad Johnston (Hunt Building Company)

