



Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha friends,

The 2014 Legislative Session opened on January 15th and will conclude on May 1st. On page 4 of this newsletter, I've included a how-to-guide on submitting online testimony. I encourage you to get involved in the political process. 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, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu

Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at the Ewa Mahiko District Park at 9am on Saturday, February 22nd. If you can't make it, send me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.



High School Legislative Intern Program

This session I'll be hosting Noah Eckhart, a Kapolei High School sophomore, as part of the 2014 High School Legislative Intern Program. The purpose of this program is to provide young people, like Noah, a unique learning experience in the legislative process. Noah will have the opportunity to work on researching issues from home, assisting with constituent issues in my district, and volunteering in my office at the State Capitol. The main requirement is that Noah put in at least 4 hours a week over the course of the legislative session which ends on May 1st.

Volunteers Needed for LPGA LOTTE Championship

If you're looking to volunteer and watch some top notch golf, you might be interested in serving as a standard bearer for the LPGA LOTTE Championship at Ko Olina Golf Club from April 15th – 19th, 2014. Standard bearers carry a light weight sign with a golfer's name and scores as they walk for 18 holes each day. Your efforts will support this Friends of Hawai'i Charities event. Morning and afternoon shifts are available on April 15th, 16th, and 17th. Morning shifts are available on April 18th and 19th. For more information, please contact the Standards Chairperson, Ben Brennan, at 782-3402.

Hawai'i Green Collar Institute Program on Ocean Conservation and Careers

The Hawai'i Green Collar Institute (HGCI) is recruiting Leeward O'ahu high school students for a Spring intercession program from March 17th-21st, 2014, which will focus on ocean conservation and careers. The program will include field visits to a native Hawaiian fishpond, a sea urchin breeding facility, and the new headquarters for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It will also involve hands-on projects, such as rebuilding a lo'i kalo (taro patch) and removing invasive algae. HGCI is an educational partnership between the Malama Learning Center and Leeward Community College's Native Hawaiian Student Support Program. The program fee is \$20 per student and the registration deadline is February 7th. For more information, please call 692-8200 ext. 2267, email chelsey@malamalearningcenter.org, or visit malamalearningcenter.org.



Invasive Species: A Serious Threat to Our Way of Life

This is my 6th year as Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee. In addition to focusing on kicking our addiction to foreign oil and using more clean renewable energy, I'm also putting more emphasis on protecting the environment. I'm specifically concerned about invasive species, such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, miconia, albizia, coqui frogs, and many others. During the last several months, I've participated in tours led by the managers of the island-based Invasive Species Committees on O'ahu, Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i to see up close the impact that invasive species are having on our environment. On January 8th, I co-chaired an informational briefing where we got an update on invasive species threats to Hawai'i. Little fire ants have recently been discovered on O'ahu in hapuu logs (Hawaiian tree ferns) that came from Hawai'i Island. Additionally, we were able to get invasive species included in the Joint Senate/House Majority Legislative Package as SB 2343 with a proposed appropriation of \$5,000,000 in General Funds for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The Governor also stated in his State of the State address that he endorses this plan.

Energy Priority Bills

Here are a few of the priority bills I've introduced for the 2014 session.

- ◆ **Barrel Tax (SB 2196)** – Right now, 70 cents of the barrel tax (\$1.05) is going to the General Fund, even though the purpose of the tax is to clean up oil spills and to support energy and food security. This bill would direct that 70 cents back to funding the programs it was originally intended to serve.
- ◆ **Grid Modernization (SB 2656)** – In light of the recent policy changes made by Hawaiian Electric which have greatly slowed the growth of the solar industry, this legislation would require Hawaiian Electric to make the necessary grid upgrades to ensure that people can continue to install solar PV in a timely manner.
- ◆ **Energy Storage (SB 2932)** – One of the big roadblocks to us moving forward with more solar and wind on the grid is that this type of energy is intermittent and is hard for the utilities to manage. The answer is to have energy storage so we can store the energy created during the day and use it at night (or vice versa). This legislation will set goals for our utilities to meet as it applies to energy storage.
- ◆ **Hawai'i Community-Based Renewable Energy Program (SB 2934)** – This bill would establish a community-based solar program to enable folks to purchase PV panels at an off-site location and receive a credit for the energy generated to lower their electricity bill. This one is especially cool and similar to what they have in Rifle, Colorado, where they have an 858 kW system near the airport with 3,575 PV panels owned by Jimmy's Pizza, Montessori School, and various families and individuals.



Legendary San Francisco 49ers wide receiver, Jerry Rice, gave autographed footballs to participants in the ground blessing for the Ka Makana Ali'i mall in Kapolei on January 24th. Pictured (L to R) are Senator Gabbard, Ed Kobel (President/COO DeBartolo Development), Jobie Masagatani (Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands), Jerry Rice, Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui, Governor Neil Abercrombie, and Mike Formby (Director, Department of Transportation Services).



Senator Mike Gabbard hosted Anastasiia Rubtsova, a Nakakuli High School exchange student from Kurgan, Russia, as part of the Future Leaders Exchange Program's Legislative "Shadow" Day at the Capitol on January 24th.

Legislation Focuses on Preventing Future Molasses Spill

On September 9, 2013, an estimated 233,000 gallons of molasses leaked from a break in a corroded pipe owned by Matson and spilled into Honolulu Harbor. At least 26,000 fish died and it also caused bleaching of marine corals. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently investigating the spill. Rep. Lee, Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, and I held a news conference on January 27th to announce that we had introduced legislation in the hopes of preventing future spills. One of my bills, SB 3016, would update a 1996 oil spill report conducted by the UH Sea Grant College, and another, SB 3017, would create the Coral Reef and Marine Life Conservation Special Fund to direct fines and mitigation compensation for the benefit of marine resources. The bottom line is that both industry and government were unprepared to deal with this type of environmental accident. We need to do our best to make sure these spills don't happen again, but if they do, we should have the necessary laws in place to act as quickly as possible to clean up the mess.

Senator Mike Gabbard spoke at a news conference held at the State Capitol Jan. 27th. The news conference focused on legislation introduced this session to address issues relating to ocean-harbor spills in the aftermath of the September 2013 molasses spill in Honolulu Harbor. Other legislators who participated were (L to R): Rep. Ryan Yamane, Rep. Faye Hanohano, Rep. Cindy Evans, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Chris Lee, Rep. Justin Woodson, and Rep. Nicole Lowen.



~~ January 15, 2014 - Legislative Session Opening Day ~~



Senator Gabbard and his wife Carol celebrating his birthday on Opening Day 2014.



Deborah and Gabriella Barbour dancing hula for Senator Gabbard's birthday present on Opening Day.



Senator Gabbard with staff of Council Member Kymberly Pine's office. Pictured from left to right are Louis Galdeira-Community Liaison (Waianae Coast); Kau'i Alapa-Executive Secretary/Office Manager; Jamé Schaedel-Community Liaison (Ewa Beach, Makakilo, Kapolei); Kiran Polk-Chief of Staff; and Matt Caires-Policy Advisor.



Senator Gabbard and Daniel Anthony of Mana Ai. Daniel was a main organizer for bringing 2000 pounds of kalo to the Capitol for the public to experience poi pounding.



Senator Gabbard and his wife Carol with Risa Ka'awa (Kya Sustainability Assistant), Nicole Fisher (Kya Sustainability Specialist), Ella Aki (Kya Sustainability Assistant), Dane Tamayori (Kya Sustainability Assistant).



Carol Gabbard, Matt Lynch, Donna Lay, Gregory Amero, Kaleo Ten, Drew Wilkinson, and Rachel Elias and Senator Gabbard at the Permablitz Seed Share Station.

How to... Submit testimony online

Anyone on a computer connected to the internet can use the Legislature's web-form to submit testimony.

1. **Type up your testimony and save it on your computer.**
2. Go online (open your web browser) and go to the **Legislature's website:** www.capitol.hawaii.gov

If you've used the sign-in feature of the website before, skip to step 6. If this is your first time using the sign-in feature of the website, continued with step 3.

3. Click on "Register" (upper right-hand corner of the page) and enter your name, email address and the password you'd like to use for the website. Adding your organization and phone number is optional.
4. Read the terms and conditions and then click to agree to them.
5. Go to your email account and open the email sent to you by the website, and follow the instructions for confirming your account.

You're all set to go! Continue to step 6.

If you already have an email and password registered with the website:

6. **Click on "Sign In"** (upper right-hand corner of the page) and enter your email address and password.
7. **Click on the "Submit Testimony"** icon located in center screen.
8. **Enter the bill number** you're testifying on. (Enter the prefix and the number, no draft numbers and no spaces. For example, enter "HB123" rather than "HB 123 HD1 SD1.")

The hearing information (committee name, hearing room and date of hearing) will pop up. (If there's not a hearing scheduled for that measure, you won't be able to continue. Check to make sure you typed in the correct measure number.)

9. Your name and email address will appear in the form. Provide additional information such as whether you are testifying as an organization or individual, your position on the measure and whether you plan on being present at the hearing.
10. Add your testimony. **Click on "Choose File" to find and select the document on your computer in which you've saved your testimony.**

(Alternative: If you'd like to submit your testimony in the body of the email, rather than attaching a file, just type your testimony into the "Additional Comments" box.)

11. **Don't forget to agree to the privacy terms before you click "submit" to send your testimony on its way!** You'll get an email confirmation that it has been received.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Enter Information". It contains several input fields and radio buttons. The fields are: "Name" (required), "Email address" (required), "Verify email address" (required), "Organization" (radio button), "Individual" (radio button), "Testifier position" (radio buttons for Support, Oppose, Comments Only), "Will you be present at the hearing?" (radio buttons for Yes, No), "Testimony file to upload (10mb max)" (with a "Choose File" button and "No file chosen" text), "Proposed amendments to upload (10mb max)" (with a "Choose File" button and "No file chosen" text), and "Additional Comments (alphanumeric and punctuation characters only)" (a text area). Red arrows point from the text in the instructions to the "Choose File" buttons and the "Additional Comments" text area.