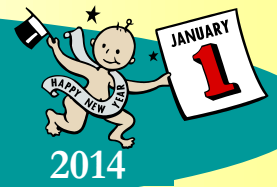


Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard



*Aloha friends,*

Happy New Year to you and your ohana! The 2014 Legislative Session kicks off on Wednesday, January 15th, at 10am. It's also my 66<sup>th</sup> birthday, so stop by my office at Rm. 201 at the State Capitol to talk story and have some toffee and cake. Please let me know if I can ever help you or your family in any way. I can be reached at [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) or 586-6830.

*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 Pray Eat Love Café (533 Manawai Street #304, Wai'anae side directly across from Kapolei High School) at 9am on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you can't make it, drop me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.



### Staffing Set for 2014 Legislative Session

I'm fully staffed and ready to serve you in 2014! Rock Riggs will continue on as my Office Manager and can assist you with any constituent problems or issues you want to bring to my attention. Carlton Saito will return as the Committee Clerk in assisting me as I begin my 6th year as Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee. Donna Lay, who is currently my scheduler, will move over to the position of Assistant Committee Clerk. I've hired Visakha Gibbons as my new receptionist and scheduler. We're also fortunate to have Indiana-native, Cassie Swinney, as an intern for the session. She's interested in possibly applying to the UH Law School in the fall 2014 and wants to learn more about the legislative process.

### Supporting Key City Road Improvements

I offered testimony in support of Resolution 13-273, CD1, which was heard by the Honolulu City Council on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This resolution passed by a unanimous vote and approved the City's list of projects for consideration in the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Project (TIP). The TIP is an important document that contains all the transportation projects that are eligible to obtain federal funding. I was very pleased that Farrington Highway Improvements, Kapolei Parkway Extension, and Makakilo Drive Extension were all included in the list. These projects will have a huge impact on increasing the mobility and connectivity of Kapolei area residents. In my testimony, I singled out the importance of the Makakilo Drive Extension because it's critical to the health and safety of thousands of Makakilo residents who currently only have one way in and one way out of their community.



## Legislation Intended to Help Late Born Keiki Enter Kindergarten

I've been working with a constituent from Kapolei on some important legislation to help late-born keiki who don't currently meet the age cut-off for entering kindergarten. In 2012 we, at the Legislature, passed SB 2545, which was enacted as Act 178. This law eliminated junior kindergarten, which means starting in 2014 that keiki have to be at least 5 years old by July 31<sup>st</sup>. It's estimated that this change will negatively impact about 5,000 keiki who will turn 5 after the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. These keiki would have to wait another year before they could enter kindergarten. To remedy this situation, I plan to introduce legislation that would do the following:

- Would give the Early Learning Advisory Board the power to determine whether a child who is ineligible for kindergarten due to age, but will be 5 by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the school year, should be allowed to attend kindergarten.
- It directs the Early Learning Advisory Board to establish procedures by which a parent may seek their determination
- The Early Learning Advisory Board's determination shall be based on appropriate assessments based on the child's academic, physical, social, and emotional abilities.
- The Early Learning Advisory Board's determination shall be final and shall not be appealed.

## UH West O'ahu Facilities Manager Received 2013 President's Award

A big congratulations to James "Kimo" Yamaguchi for being selected as a recipient of the 2013 President's Award for Excellence in Building and Grounds Maintenance. Kimo is the current facilities manager for UH West O'ahu and played a key role in transitioning the university from Pearl City to its new home in Kapolei. The award honors a UH employee who exhibits dedication and sustained superior performance in a maintenance, landscaping, custodial, shop or trucking position. The award will be presented to Kimo at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UH Board of Regents.



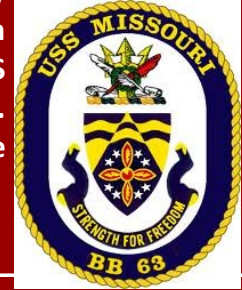
## Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Training Set for 2014

I promised Don Harlor and Randy Boucher that I would continue to help get the word out about the important work they are doing with the Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee. The following are some upcoming dates for C.E.R.T training classes being put on by the City's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for 2014. Please note that you need to sign up two weeks before the first day of the training session. To sign up, call 723-8960. If you have any questions about the classes, contact Jeffrey Spencer, the C.E.R.T coordinator at 723-8955.

- ◆ January 11<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm – 10:00pm (DEM Emergency Operations Center)
- ◆ January 18<sup>th</sup> - 2:00pm – 10:00pm (DEM Emergency Operations Center)
- ◆ January 25<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm – 5:00pm (Battery Hollow)

## Images at War's End Exhibit

The Kapolei Public Library is hosting the Images at War's End Exhibit through February 22, 2014. The exhibit features rare photographic images of the end of World War II in Asia and the Pacific Islands and documentary film recordings taken aboard the USS Missouri at the formal ceremony ending the war in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. The photos are from the National Archives. The exhibit is a collaboration between the Battleship Missouri Memorial and Kapolei High School.



## Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park Powers Up



It's great news that the Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park is now up and running after 4 years of development and construction. The project was officially placed in service on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and a blessing was held on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The 5MW, utility-scale solar park includes approximately 20,000 solar panels on 20-acres of land leased by Hunt Development Corporation in Kalaeloa. The project will supply power to roughly 1,000 homes.

Scatec Solar North America, which acquired the project in 2012 to facilitate development will operate the facility for a period of twenty years. Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates, Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park will produce enough power to prevent nearly 11,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Hanwha Q Cells USA, owner of the Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park, is part of the South Korean Hanwha Group, one of the world's leading photovoltaics companies that offers a wide range of high quality photovoltaic solutions from solar cells and modules to power plants. PNC Energy Capital facilitated this project by providing sale-leaseback financing.



Senator Gabbard with Ed Chojnowski, MRMA President



Senator Mike Gabbard spoke at the Moili'ili Resident Managers' Association (MRMA) monthly luncheon on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Senator Gabbard was invited to discuss community-based solar programs, which allow utility customers to purchase PV panels at an off-site location and be credited for the energy to reduce their electricity bills. Pictured (L to R) are Ben Merritt (Waikiki Yacht Club Resident Manager), and Malia Mansanas (MRMA Associate Sponsor).

## Training Offered for Court Interpreter Certification

Looking to make some extra money and use your skills as someone who speaks another language besides English? You might want to consider becoming a Court Interpreter. The Office of Equality and Access to the Courts is holding a series of court interpreter workshops in 2014. Court interpreters are independent contractors who can make between \$25 to \$55 an hour. In order to qualify to be an interpreter, folks have to submit a Court Interpreter Certification Program Application Form (available at: [www.courts.state.hi.us/courtinterpreting](http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courtinterpreting)), attend a 2-day Basic Orientation Workshop, pass written English and Basic Ethics exams, and clear a criminal background check. Here are the dates for the upcoming workshops on O'ahu: February 15-16, 2014 and March 15-16, 2014. The registration fee for the workshop is \$75 if received by January 9th or \$95 by January 30th. For more information, call 539-4860 or email [oeac@courts.hawaii.gov](mailto:oeac@courts.hawaii.gov)



## Cloudbreak Hawai'i to Provide More Veteran Housing

I submitted testimony in support of Cloudbreak Hawaii's permit application at a Hawai'i Community Development Corporation (HCDA) hearing on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Cloudbreak is planning to build a 4-story 50 unit building to house veterans at the U.S. Vets facility in Kalaeloa. U.S. Vets has been a significant part of Kalaeloa and has served a very important role in caring for our veterans who have faced various difficulties in making a transition to civilian life. These veterans deserve our thanks and support for the incredible sacrifices they've made for our state and country. Cloudbreak has been a critical part of these efforts because they've been the ones who have actually built the facilities to house the veterans that U.S. Vets serve. I was very pleased that HCDA voted 5-0 to approve the project.

## 2014 Legislative Timetable

### January

- 15<sup>th</sup> Opening Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 20<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> State-of-the-State Address
- Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills
- 31<sup>st</sup> Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

### February

- 6<sup>th</sup> Triple Referral Filing deadline
- 14<sup>th</sup> First Lateral
- 17<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>: Mandatory 5-Day Recess
- 28<sup>th</sup> First Decking

### March

- 6<sup>th</sup> First Crossover
- 7<sup>th</sup> Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 10<sup>th</sup> Budget Decking
- 12<sup>th</sup> Budget Crossover
- 13<sup>th</sup> Second Triple Referral Filing deadline
- 21<sup>st</sup> Second Lateral
- 25<sup>th</sup> First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
- 26<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Kuhio Day

### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 4<sup>th</sup> Second Decking
- 10<sup>th</sup> Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
- 17<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Good Friday
- 21<sup>st</sup> Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 24<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 25<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)



Senator Mike Gabbard visited Kaua'i on December 12<sup>th</sup> to get a firsthand look at the challenges that island faces with invasive species. Here Senator Gabbard (front seat) is pictured with Keren Gundersen (Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee Manager) and Rep. Chris Lee as they take off to view miconia and albizia infected areas.