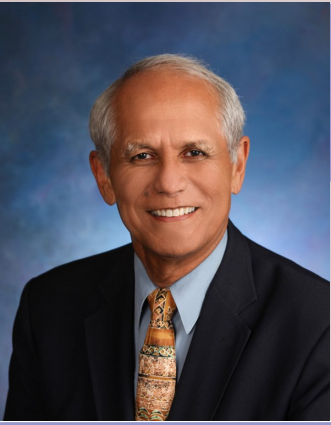


Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha e Friends,

Happy 4th of July! Have a great celebration remembering the significance of what it means to be an American. But please stay safe and don't let your friends and family drink and drive! Carol and I will be visiting our daughter Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard in July in Washington D.C. and also attending the wedding of my nephew, Mike Gabbard. As always, 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

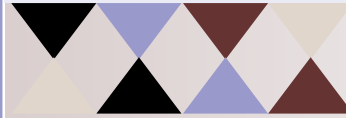
* Education

District 20

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



Senator Gabbard hosted his June 28th "Listen Story" meeting at the Ewa Mahiko District Park .



"Listen-Story" Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at Kapolei High Teacher's Lounge on July 26th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Kalaeloa East Energy Corridor Essential for the Redevelopment of Kalaeloa

During the 2012 session, as the State Senator for the Kalaeloa area, I included a \$5 million request for the Kalaeloa East Energy Corridor among my top 3 construction project requests to Senate Ways and Means—our money committee. In the end, the project received \$3.5 million in funding which is now being used to construct the Energy Corridor. In reviewing the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and obtaining additional information from HCDA, Hawaiian Electric, and area residents, I continue to see this project as a positive for our community. To be clear, this is a 12-kV power line that will be constructed along Essex Road (on the east side of Barbers Point Golf Course). It will replace an existing Navy power line. The bottom line is that we need to bring Hawaiian Electric power into the district because the Navy wants out of Kalaeloa. The project will benefit the Coast Guard, Barbers Point Golf Course, the future Kalaeloa Regional Park, and solar farms, as well as development in the area. The deadline for public comments on the draft EA was extended to July 15th. If you'd like to submit written comments, please email them to Joanne Hiramatsu at BeltCollinsHawaii@jhiramatsu.com.

Kapolei Hale Eyed as Possible "City Hall"

Big news! The City Council is considering Resolution 14-107, which would require Mayor Caldwell's Administration to conduct a study on the feasibility of moving City Hall to Kapolei Hale. Two of the reasons this is being looked at is that the existing Honolulu Hale doesn't have adequate space to expand and would also be too expensive to renovate given its present condition. Resolution 14-107 passed the Budget Committee on June 25th unanimously and will be up for a final vote on July 9th.



Senator Gabbard gave a pep talk to the 93 Spring 2014 graduates of Class 40 of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy at their headquarters in Kalaeloa on June 19th, a day before their graduation ceremony at Kroc Community Center.

Governor Abercrombie Releases Construction Funding for District 20

I was pleased that Governor Abercrombie released \$6,914,500 in construction funding for District 20 during the month of June. Here's a breakdown of those projects:

School Improvements (Barbers Point EI, Kapolei EI, Kapolei High, Kapolei Middle, Makakilo EI, Mauka Lani EI, Waipahu Intermediate)	\$1,791,000
Kapolei High, Equipment for Po'okela Special Day Program Portables	\$34,000
Army Aviation Support Facility	\$4,511,000
Kalaeloa Airport, Hangar 110 Renovation	\$578,500

‘Ilima at Leihano Brings Senior Assisted Living to Kapolei

I gave a speech at the groundbreaking for the ‘Ilima at Leihano project on June 27th. It will be Kapolei's first full-service assisted living community with 84-units located at the corner of Kama'aha Avenue and Kapolei Parkway on 40-acres of land. The project is being developed by Kisco Senior Living and Kiewit Building Group. The community will include studios and one and two bedroom apartments. Both CS Wo Furniture and First Hawaiian Bank will also be tenants. The project will employ 75 people once it's completed by Summer 2015 .

Kalaeloa Heritage Park Will Preserve Our History

I took a tour of the Kalaeloa Heritage Park on June 21st. The park is being managed by the non-profit, Kalaeloa Legacy and Heritage Foundation, on 77-acres of land off Coral Sea in Kalaeloa. Their vision is to uncover and preserve the cultural artifacts found on the land, including burials, haies, karst caves, and native plants. The conceptual plan for the park was approved by the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, which oversees the redevelopment of Kalaeloa, at their June 18th meeting. When completed, the park will have an interpretive area with cultural sites, a Kauhale (village), greenhouse and aquaponics, a 16,300 square foot cultural center with solar PV panels, and a farmer's market. The Kalaeloa Heritage Park's draft Environmental Assessment will be posted on the Office of Environmental Quality Control website on July 8th. Comments on the EA can be submitted to Gabrielle Sham of Townscape, Inc. at gabrielle@townscapeinc.com.



Governor Neil Abercrombie signed several bills related to agriculture and invasive species into law in his Ceremonial Room on June 19th. One of those bills, HB 1716, was spearheaded by Senator Mike Gabbard and will direct \$5 million to the detection, prevention, control, outreach, and research of invasive species. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Chris Lee, Governor Abercrombie, Scott Enright (Director, Department of Agriculture), Senator Gabbard, and Senator Clarence Nishihara.



Senator Gabbard gave a speech at the groundbreaking for the ‘Ilima at Leihano project on June 27th, to celebrate what will be Kapolei's first full-service assisted living community. The project will employ 75 people upon completion, Summer 2015. (Pictured L-R: Mitch Brown, Kisco Senior Living Chief Development Officer; Sen. Gabbard; Senator Will Espero; and Kahu Curtis Kekuna)



Senator Gabbard (3rd from left) was given a tour of the Kalaeloa Heritage Park in Kalaeloa on June 21st. The tour was led by Shad Kane (far left), who is a Board member of the Kalaeloa Heritage and Legacy Foundation, which manages the park.

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Approves Fiscal Year 2015 Budget



I attended my first meeting as a newly appointed non-voting member of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) on June 26th. HISC brings together various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Office of Planning, and UH, to address our invasive species problem. Going into the budget making process, there were 4 main priorities that grant applicants were told to focus on: Little Fire Ant detection and research, coconut rhinoceros beetle detection and research, biocontrol research, and early detection and rapid response capacity. HISC received a total of 60 grant applications requesting \$10.4 million in funding. However, HISC was forced to whittle that amount down to \$5.75 million. I tasked the HISC staff with working with the community to come up with legislative recommendations for the 2015 session to improve interisland biosecurity. We need to develop a better system for preventing Little Fire Ants from hopping on Hawaiian tree fern logs that are sold by nurseries and end up spreading from island to island.

Aloha Tofu Honored at TASTE Awards



I surprised Aloha Tofu President, Paul Uyehara, with a certificate from the State Senate on June 23rd for his company being named an Innovate Hawai'i Manufacturer of the Year Finalist (Small Company) at the TASTE Award. Aloha Tofu Factory was selected for displaying innovation and growth in the last year through increased hiring, sales growth, or investments in the food manufacturing industry. The Aloha Tofu Factory opened in 1950, when Paul's grandparents, Kamesaburo and Tsuruko Uyehara agreed to take over a friend's tofu factory. The first generation of the Uyehara family who ran the tofu factory didn't set out to become the largest Hawai'i tofu manufacturer in the islands. Instead, the patriarch Kamesaburo just wanted to provide for his family's needs. In 1966, a fire destroyed the factory, but with determination and help from family and friends the Aloha Tofu Factory was rebuilt on Akepo Lane in Kalihi where it remains today. Mahalo to the Aloha Tofu Factory ohana for humbly and loyally producing quality tofu products since 1950. We wish you good fortune and longevity.

Waipahu High Students Honored for Community Service

Congratulations to the students from Waipahu High School's Cisco Academy of Information Technology for being honored by Supreme Court Justice Mark Recktenwald and the state Judiciary on May 5th. The students, Cesar Catchin, Jimwel Aquinaldo, Ariel Dela Pena, John Guerrero Cia Monique Dela Cruz, and Renz Sagabaen, helped install a new security system at the Hale Hilinai. Their teacher, Cindy Takara, was also recognized for her leadership. The Hale Hilinai is a detention home for juveniles, which provides community-based services and programs for troubled youth.



Senator Gabbard joins Larry Price and Michael Perry of the Perry & Price Show, KSSK morning radio, at Jade Dynasty Restaurant on May 31st as they interview 15-year old Rose Marques, Miss Jr. Teen Hawai'i and 7-year old Angel Guerrero, Little Miss Hawai'i. (L to R) Senator Gabbard, Larry Price, Michael Perry, Rose Marques, and Angel Guerrero. (Photo courtesy of Laura Marques)



Senator Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates from the State Senate to 15-year old Rose Marques, and 7-year old Angel Guerrero, during the Perry and Price Show at Jade Dynasty Restaurant on May 31st. The girls were commended for their outstanding achievements in community service and for being awarded the titles, Miss Jr. Teen Hawai'i, and Little Miss Hawai'i, respectively. They are expanding their community involvement to the mainland with "Two Hearts, One Vision," an organization they've formed jointly that encourages positive role models for girls who are less fortunate. (Photo courtesy of Laura Marques)



Senator Gabbard surprised Pastor SonHye Kim with a certificate from the State Senate at her last sermon as Pastor of the Kapolei Korean United Methodist Church in Kalaeloa on June 15th. Pastor Kim will now serve as Pastor at Echo Park United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

Pastor SonHye Kim Bids "Aloha" to Kalaeloa

I surprised Pastor SonHye Kim with a certificate from the State Senate at her final sermon given at the Kapolei Korean United Methodist Church in Kalaeloa on June 15th. Pastor SonHye has brightened the Kapolei community with her loving spirit and giving heart. Those who ventured to Kalaeloa for one of the church's free car wash found Pastor SonHye and other parishioners happily washing cars while offering refreshments and genuine smiles to all. The Kapolei Korean United Methodist Church is appreciated for hosting community dinners that provide a warm nourishing meal as well as companionship. Pastor SonHye is unique in that she's not trying to bring in new church members by hosting these outreach events; rather, she said she is sincerely trying to spread the love of God, with no strings attached. We wish her well as Pastor SonHye moves to her new appointment with Echo Park United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.



De Smets Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

I presented a certificate from the State Senate to Ray and Roni De Smet at their 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration on May 31st. As part of the celebration, a vow renewal and mass were held at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Makakilo. A reception was also held at the Salvation Army Kroc Center. Ray and Roni were both born in Detroit, Michigan and met at a wedding. They were married in 1965. Children immediately followed as their oldest, also named Ray, was born in 1965, Michael in 1968, and Christopher in 1970. In 1976, after a second honeymoon in Hawai'i, Ray and Roni decided that life wasn't challenging enough so they picked up their family and moved here. With the help and love of their "hanai" (adopted) family, the kids flourished, Roni pursued her education in the medical field and Ray continued to work his financial and engineering magic. Eventually both Ray and Roni retired and are now enjoying their seven grandchildren immensely. Thank you both Ray and Roni for who you are and what you have accomplished. May you be blessed with happiness and aloha for the rest of your years together.



Senators Mike Gabbard and Suzanne Chun Oakland congratulated Ray & Roni De Smet upon their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 31st. As part of the celebration, a vow renewal and mass were held at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Makakilo. A reception was also held at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, where Senator Gabbard presented the De Smets with a surprise certificate from the State Senate.



Senator Gabbard went on the Ride Rail Route tour on June 20th which included a stop at the pre-cast construction yard in Kalaeloa where the rail platforms are being constructed. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Greg Takayama, Sen. Dovovan Dela Cruz, Sen. Gabbard, and Rep. Calvin Say.