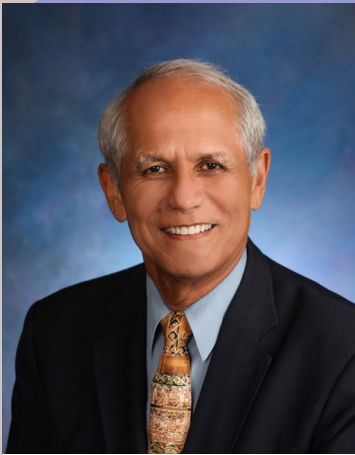


# Senator Mike Gabbard



## *Aloha e Friends,*

I just launched my new official "State Senate Facebook Page! If you're on Facebook, be sure to follow me at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>. "Like" my page to keep up with all my daily activities as your State Senator. You can also post newsworthy items you think my "followers" might want to know. On another note, a heads up that Farrington Highway, from Kualaka'i Parkway to Old Fort Weaver Loop, will be closed from November 1st to the end of January 2015 as part of the rail project construction. As always, please contact me at 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way.



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Energy & Environment**

### MEMBER

**Judiciary & Labor**

**Transportation & International Affairs**

**Education**

### District 20

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

### **Environmental Court Happening Soon**

During my sixth session as Energy and Environment Chair I worked to pass SB 632, which became Act 218.

This new law directs the Judiciary to establish an environmental court at the District and Circuit court levels by July 1, 2015. The bill also requires the Judiciary to set up a working group to look at the best way to implement the environmental court. To give you some background, a report authored by George and Catherine Pring called "Greening Justice: Creating and Improving Environmental Courts and Tribunals" has found there to be 354 jurisdictions around the world with environmental courts. Vermont is the only statewide system in the country.

Thirteen other states have environmental courts at the local government level: (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia). On October 24th, I gave a speech at the 2014 Hawai'i State Bar Convention and Annual Meeting to share my thoughts on the legislative process which allowed the environmental court bill to move forward.

Before the legislative session started in mid-January, the members of the Majority Party in both the House and Senate came together and agreed on a Joint Majority Package which identifies our major priorities for the session. In 2014, the two major themes we decided on were protecting our kupauna and the environment. So having the environment front and center was key – the two pieces of legislation that we put in the joint package was a bill to dedicate \$5 million to the detection, prevention, control outreach, and research of invasive species and a bill that put into place a Climate Change Adaptation Planning Law.

Another big factor in passing SB 632, in my opinion, is that we had several high profile environmental events that were in the minds of the public and especially legislators. These issues included illegal dumping in Wai'anae, the Matson molasses spill, the Navy jet fuel spill at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, and the discovery of Little Fire Ants in Waimanalo. All in all, in the short and long term, the Environmental Court will be a very good thing for our island home.



Senator Gabbard attended a luncheon and spoke at the "Outdoor Circle Celebration Party" for the Passage of SB 632, establishing environmental courts.

## Special Session

We held a Special Session from October 22nd to October 23rd to confirm three judges. I joined with my colleagues in the State Senate in voting unanimously to support their confirmations. Margaret Masunaga will serve as District Court Judge for the County of Hawai'i. She has been serving as Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai'i. Jeffrey Crabtree has been in private practice with the Law Offices of Jeff Crabtree and will now be a Circuit Court Judge for Honolulu. Christine Kuriyama has been a judge on the O'ahu Family Court Bench since 2004 and on a per diem basis since 1994. She also has served as a Deputy Attorney General and staff attorney for the late Senator Dan Inouye. Ms. Kuriyama will now be a Circuit Court Judge for Honolulu. (Pictured L-R: Margaret Masunaga, Jeffrey Crabtree, and Christine Kuriyama)



## Congratulations to Home Depot – Kapolei

A big congrats to Home Depot – Kapolei for being named an Outstanding Employer of the Year at the Ala Moana Hotel on October 23rd. Home Depot was recognized by the Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for providing employment opportunities for people with physical challenges. Home Depot – Kapolei employee, Michelle Freitas, was also honored as an Outstanding Employee of the Year.

## U.S. Vets Glow Run

Mark your calendars for November 15<sup>th</sup> and come out to support the *U.S. Vets' 10<sup>th</sup> annual Patriotic Glow 5K Run* at Pointer Field in Kalaeloa. From 4-7:30 p.m. enjoy keiki activities, a vendor fair, fun contests and more! At 6 p.m. the 3.1-mile run begins. Participants can compete for cash prizes in three different categories. Afterwards, there's a celebration from 7-8:30 p.m. with more contests, prizes, food, and live entertainment with DJs. Here's an event that's sure to please the whole family, while supporting a good cause. Registration fee is \$55 for the general public, \$40 online; and \$45 for the military, \$35 online. (Children under 10 can run for free.) The goal is to raise \$100,000, which will go towards helping previously homeless vets get back on their feet again. For more info, call 672-2984 or visit [usvetinc.org/barberspoint](http://usvetinc.org/barberspoint).

## Makakilo Brushfires

I've been getting feedback from my constituents in the Makakilo area, concerning the recent brushfire that put many homes in danger's way. Some of them suggested that the Honolulu Fire Department consider policy changes that could improve public safety. We've been communicating with Captain Brett Lomont of the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding this matter and I wrote Fire Chief Manny Neves on October 15th asking him to:

- ◆ Assess whether existing firebreaks are being sufficiently maintained to protect O'ahu neighborhoods from brushfires.
- ◆ Assess whether the current requirements for firebreaks are sufficient when the firebreaks are maintained.
- ◆ Consider whether the fire code should be amended to require firebreaks of more than 30 feet.
- ◆ Consider whether the HFD should as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) require additional firebreaks of up to 100 feet as allowed by fire code.
- ◆ Consider whether more public education regarding brushfire mitigation and safety is needed for homeowners and owners of brush land adjacent to homes.

I hope to use the information we get back from the Chief to possibly craft legislation for the 2015 session to better protect public safety.

WEAR YOUR NEON RED, WHITE, & BLUE



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FOOD TRUCK GLOW CONTEST

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ROUND TRIP INTER ISLAND TICKETS

REGISTER TODAY: [WWW.USVETSINC.ORG/BARBERSPOINT](http://WWW.USVETSINC.ORG/BARBERSPOINT)

Call 808.672.2984 for sponsorship information!





## Art and Aquaponics Symposium

The Malama Learning Center is hosting an Art and Aquaponics Symposium on November 15th from 10am to 3pm at the Kapolei High School Cafetorium. This symposium will feature presentations by artists, teachers, and aquaponics experts. Solomon Enos will kick-off the symposium with an innovative talk and will also lead a mural project that will be at the heart of a peace garden. The cost, which includes a lunch provided by the Kapolei High Culinary Arts Program, will be \$10 for students, \$25 for teachers, and \$30 for members of the community. In order to participate, you need to register via the Malama Learning Center website: [www.malamalearningcenter.org](http://www.malamalearningcenter.org). For more information, please call 808-305-8287.



## UH West O'ahu Update

I was stoked to hear the news that UH West O'ahu has the highest enrollment in its history with 2,704 students at the Kapolei campus this fall. This was the 7th straight year they had a double-digit enrollment percentage increase and a 13% increase since last year. In other good news, UHWO was awarded \$14.2 million in Title III grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education for the construction of Native Hawaiian health and wellness facilities, and the further development of Native Hawaiian student support services. The campus also received a grant from Kamehameha Schools' 'Aina-Based Education Department to support research and program development for a Sustainable Community Food Systems academic concentration. To date, Kamehameha Schools has donated a total of \$285,000 for sustainability efforts at UHWO.

Sen. Gabbard co-presented an Honorary Certificate to See's CEO Brad Kinseler on October 10, at their Grand Opening in the Kapolei Shopping Center. (Pictured L-R: Kahu Blake Keaka "Brutus" La Benz; Rep. Sharon Har; Brad Kinseler, See's CEO; Karen Patterson, See's Regional Manager; and Sen. Gabbard.)



Senator Gabbard attended the Grand Opening celebration for the new stretch of Kapolei Parkway on Oct. 7. (Pictured L-R: Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Councilmember Kymberly Pine, Councilmember Ron Menor, Sen. Gabbard, Rep. Sharon Har, and Kahu Shad Kane.)

## See's Candies Opens in Kapolei

I joined with Rep. Sharon Har in presenting an honorary certificate from the State Legislature in recognition of the Grand Opening of See's Candies in the Kapolei Shopping Center (next to the Panda's Express) on October 10, 2014. The first See's Candies shop was opened in Los Angeles in 1921. They now have over 200 hundred locations around the country. See's Candies Kapolei sells 100 varieties of chocolates and candies and is their 5th location in Hawai'i.







**Honoring World-Renowned Author Dr. T. Colin Campbell**

I surprised Dr. T. Colin Campbell with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate on October 14th at a Vegetarian Society meeting at the Ala Wai Golf Course. An impressive audience of almost 500 turned out to hear him speak. Dr. Campbell is something of a rock star within the world of nutrition and wellness. He was educated in conventional Western medicine, but became fascinated with scientific studies that demonstrate that people who eat plant-based diets are less likely to be plagued by heart disease, diabetes,



In addition to surprising world-renowned author, Dr. T. Colin Campbell with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate, Senator Gabbard spoke to an audience of almost 500 people about the status of school lunches in Hawai'i, the move toward more plant-based options for students, and legislation that he put forth last year, which would require doctors to take continuing education courses in nutrition and lifestyle choices.

and cancer. Dr. Campbell was trained at Cornell and MIT in nutrition, biochemistry and toxicology. He co-authored the book "The China Study: The Most Comprehensive Study of Nutrition Ever Conducted and the Startling Implications for Diet, Weight Loss, and Long-Term Health" in 2005 with his son, Tom. "The China Study" became one of America's best-selling books about nutrition. Since its publication, Dr. Campbell has given more than 500 lectures both in the U.S. and abroad. More recently, he published "Whole: Rethinking the Science of Nutrition", as well as a new smaller book, "Low Carb Fraud." In 2007 Dr. Campbell founded the nonprofit, T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies, which, in collaboration with eCornell, began offering a Certificate in Plant Based Nutrition. The certificate program has become a nationally-recognized nutrition education program, enrolling thousands of students who have gone on to use their knowledge in a variety of endeavors. I wish him continued success and good health.



Sen. Gabbard presented a surprise Honorary Certificate from the State Senate to Dr. T. Colin Campbell, author of the "China Study" on October 14, 2014, at the Vegetarian Society of Hawaii's (VSH) free monthly lecture series at the Ali Wai Golf Course Club House. (Pictured L-R: Lorraine Sakaguchi, VSH President; Sen. Mike Gabbard; T. Colin Campbell; Dr. Terry Shintani; and Mark Ferguson, CEO Down to Earth.)

As a member of the Education Committee, Sen. Gabbard, along with colleague and Committee Chair, Sen. Jill Tokuda,



spoke with over 175 students last week from Mid-Pac Institute, who were touring the Capitol.

Gabbard said, "I'm heartened by this bright group of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, some of whom claimed they actually want to go into politics when they grow up!"

