

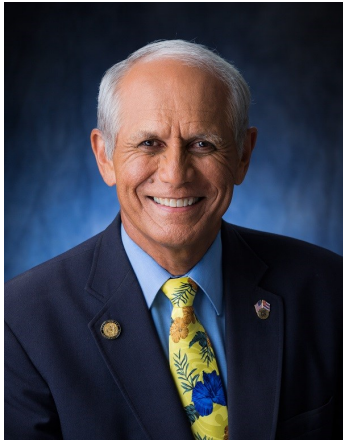
The Senate

STATE CAPITOL

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## Legislative update...



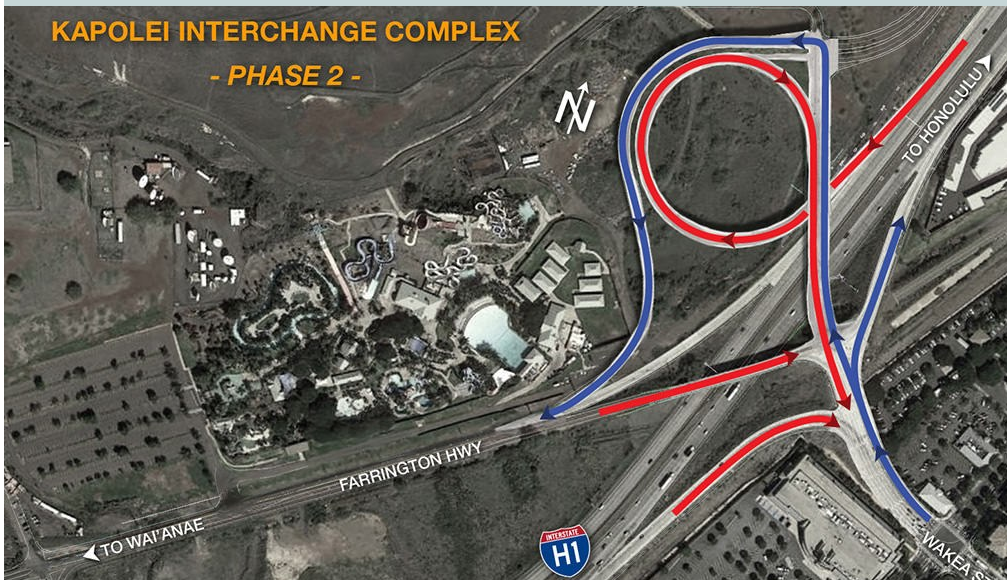
*Aloha e friends,*

Newsflash! Get ready to do some major shopping because Kapolei's Ka Makana Ali'i Shopping Center is opening on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The mall will be anchored by Macy's and the state's first Hampton Inn & Suites. More than half of the 100 planned stores will be opening that day. And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way.

*Mike*

### Kapolei Interchange Complex – Phase 2 Moving Forward

You might have noticed the construction on the mauka side of the H-1 freeway between the Makakilo/Kapolei and Kalaeloa exits. That's Phase 2 of the Kapolei Interchange Complex, which is a \$60 million joint project between the Department of Transportation and Kapolei Properties Division. The project will include an east-bound H-1 exit ramp to Wakea Street and an overpass to allow commuters to go west on the H-1 from Wakea. Construction got underway in January 2016 and is scheduled to last until mid-2018.



*P.S. Click [HERE](#) to check out my Senate webpage*

*Follow me on social media....*



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### COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ◆ Water, Land and Agriculture

### MEMBER

- ◆ Transportation and Energy
- ◆ Judiciary and Labor
- ◆ Higher Education & the Arts

### DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

### NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "listen story" meeting will be held at the Ewa Mahiko District Park meeting room on November 5th from 9:00am to 10:00am.

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# WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS: A MAJOR SUCCESS



**Pictured L-R: Inga Gibson - Hawaii Director The Humane Society of the United States, Ginny Tiu, Rep. Matt LoPresti, Rep. Karl Rhoads, Tony Hunstiger - Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Rep. Ryan Yamane, and Sen. Gabbard. — at the Hawaii Convention Center.**

Our state hosted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) from September 1 – 10, at the Hawai‘i Convention Center. The WCC is considered to be the Superbowl of conservation events. This was the first time the WCC was hosted in the U.S. in the meeting’s 60 year history. The WCC brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. There were 10,100 delegates from 192 countries who participated. The WCC generated as much as \$62 million in total economic impact. This was an amazing opportunity to showcase Hawai‘i as an island model for integrated green growth and sustainability, and to build lasting global partnerships.

I participated and spoke at several events during the Conference. I was a panelist at the Aha Moku Advisory Committee Forum on Sept. 4th. In 2012, the Legislature passed Act 288, which set up the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, attached to the DLNR, to provide a systematic way for DLNR to incorporate native Hawaiian knowledge of land and water management into its more western based decision-making process. Aha Moku is unique in that no similar entity has been created in the U.S. where other indigenous cultures, like Native Americans and Native Alaskans, live. Aha Moku aims to mesh modern knowledge with the valuable traditional cultural knowledge to better protect and care for our land and water.

I also spoke at a luncheon to celebrate Act 125, the wildlife species trafficking law, on Sept. 5th. As back-

ground, I introduced SB 2647, which became Act 125, this past session to help address Hawai‘i’s dubious role in the illegal wildlife trade. According to a 2008 study, Hawai‘i has the nation’s third largest market for ivory, after New York and California.

Act 125 will go into effect on July 1, 2017 and will ban people selling any part or product from the following animal species: elephant, rhino, hippo, tigers, great apes, lions, pangolins, cheetah, jaguar, or leopard and the following marine species: sea turtles, monk seals, narwhal, whales, walrus, sharks and manta rays. The new law goes after those involved in this illegal wildlife trade and in no way impacts the possession of ivory by the many Hawai‘i families who own these items. Act 125 is considered to be the broadest subnational wildlife trafficking ban in the U.S!



**Annelie Amaral - President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Suzanne Case - Chair Hawaii DLNR (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Sam Ohu Gon III - The Nature Conservancy, and Aaron Mahi - Maestro, Kahu, Native Hawaiian Practitioner.**

## THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

The State Senate held our third Special Session on September 13 – 14, 2016 to confirm two new judges. The two judges confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Senate were Dakota "Cody" Frenz and Michael Soong.

Judge Frenz will serve a six-year term as a District-Family Court Judge for the Third Circuit on Hawai'i Island.

Judge Soong will serve a six-year term in the District Court of the Fifth Circuit on Kaua'i. As a member of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee, I participated in the decision-making hearing to recommend that the Senate vote to confirm these two judges. I wish them much success in their new roles.

## VEGFEST O'AHU 2016 A BIG SUCCESS

I was stoked to see hundreds of people who showed up at *VegFest O'ahu* on the grounds of Honolulu Hale on September 24th. The event was a celebration of plant-based sustainable living and included chef demos, speakers, vegan food booths, music entertainment, and healthy vendors.



Sen. Gabbard, Joy Waters, Michael Wall

advocate for plant-based living, she produced the TV show, *Tasty and Meatless*, long before Hawai'i had its first vegetarian restaurant.

She has joyfully shared vegetarian food and love with the homeless in Honolulu for over 10 years with another one of her projects, *Street Angels of Hawai'i*. Joy is the organizer of the *O'ahu Vegan Meetup* and Group Leader of the *Honolulu PlantPurePod*. She decided to produce *VegFest O'ahu* because she believes the event will strengthen the local, plant-based community and be the tipping point towards more sustainable local perspectives.

I surprised organizer, Joy Waters, with a Senate Honorary Certificate at the event. Joy is the entrepreneur behind *Positive Media Hawai'i* which produces useful web videos, orchestrates community events, designs inspirational workshops, and consults on media strategy. She teaches video production on skills to youth, as well as encourages them to be healthy.

Her program, *Keiki Voices*, engages students in media projects that prepare them for success in today's digital world. She is also an advocate for reducing our clothing footprint on the planet by upcycling--refashioning of existing clothes into something more fashionable and functional, instead of buying new.

A vegan foodie and longtime ad-

ocate for plant-based living, she produced the TV show, *Tasty and Meatless*, long before Hawai'i had its first vegetarian restaurant.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE, MANAGER, AND TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARDS

A big congrats to Ewa Makai Middle School's cafeteria manager, Francis Santa Monica, for being named the Department of Education's (DOE) 2016 Manager of the Year on September 9th.

Same goes for the Kapolei Elementary School Office Team, composed of Karie Gomban, Wanda Goo, Denise Lee, Alyson Manuel, Muriel Takanono, and Leslie Veazie, which received the DOE's Team Excellence Award of Merit.

## EDUCATION UPDATES

Last month, the Department of Education (DOE) announced they are requesting \$705 million in construction funding be included in the next state budget.

This request includes \$26.7 million for a new classroom building at Campbell High School, which happens to be the DOE's top priority.

Also, included in the funding-ask is \$30.8 million for a new classroom building at Kapolei High School. I'll be supporting both of these projects.

The DOE is also moving forward with the installation of air conditioning in our schools as a result of the \$100 million the Legislature appropriated last session. Ewa Beach Elementary, Ilima Elementary, and Campbell High are the top three priorities for school AC. Barbers Point Elementary is 15th on the priority list.

## HO‘OPILI GROUNDBREAKING



On September 8th, DR Horton Hawai‘i held the ground breaking on Ho‘opili-- its 11,750 homes master-planned community, which includes single-family homes, townhomes, FLEX® homes (live and work in the same unit), rentals, and condos.

It’s true that this project will take away farmland and that's a valid concern which has been brought up during the debate and comes as a result of our growing population. However, DR Horton Hawai‘i has stepped up with an innovative plan to keep at least 200 acres in farmland and community gardens.

Overall, this project is a big step in the direction for sustainability. Residents will be able to take the rail from one of the 3 rail stops in the area. They'll have both UH West O‘ahu and Tokai International College within walking distance to get themselves a college degree or just to take a class or two.

Each of the single-family homes will be PV-solar ready and also fitted with ENERGY STAR appliances, solar hot water, and efficient lighting, which are expected to offset between 15% and 30% of a typical household’s annual electricity usage.

DR Horton donated 50+ acres to the state for 5 new public schools to ensure that the families of Ho‘opili will have convenient access to educational options for their keiki. They also donated 5 acres of land for a Humane Society run dog park, the first one of its kind on the Westside. Also, an acre was donated to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for a new community health center, which will include primary care for adults and children, behavioral health services, pharmacy, radiology lab, and dental services.

In addition, there will be 70+ acres incorporating open spaces, natural areas, green belts and parks throughout the community. The open space will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and their West O‘ahu neighbors. These are the kinds of amenities that will make Ho‘opili much more than several thousand "master planned" homes.

## HONORING CHRIS LOWE

I presented Chris Lowe with a surprise Senate Honorary Certificate at a concert to celebrate the release of his debut album at New Life Church Honolulu on September 10th.

Chris is director, conductor, vocal coach, composer, orchestrator, performer and director of music at American Renaissance Academy in Kalaeloa. He has been featured in several musicals, concerts, oratorio, and guest performances in Nebraska, California, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Samoa. He has had the honor of soloing with The Honolulu Symphony, The Hawai‘i Opera Studio, the BYU Hawai‘i Concert Choir and University Chorale among other ensembles.

Chris has performed for dignitaries such as Former President George Bush Sr., President Gaston Flosse of French Polynesia, and former Governor Ben Cayetano. His booming voice wowed audiences as a guest performer on the stages of the Historic Hawai‘i Theater, the Blaisdell Concert Hall, and as the featured singer at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Mr. Lowe has received the International Thespian Society’s award for dedication and service to theater, the Hiki No Award for providing musical service to the military, and is also a Morning Music Club scholarship winner. Congrats, Chris!

