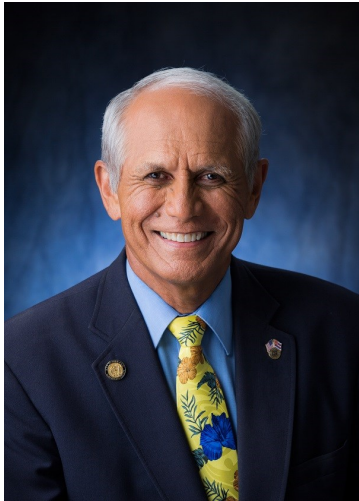




Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



ALOHA FRIENDS....

Schools are back in session and of course this means more traffic on the H1, so please plan ahead.

The good news is that the state Department of Transportation (DOT) has made a few low-cost improvements to relieve some of the congestion.

As you'll notice for eastbound morning commuters, the Zipper Lane has expanded to two lanes and is now

open until 9am instead of 8:30am. Also, we can now use the shoulder lane on the eastbound H1 from Kualaka'i Parkway to Kunia Road.

A special mahalo shout-out to DOT Director, Ford Fuchigami, for his efforts to help Westside commuters. Why not drop him a line and say mahalo too. Send your email to dotpao@hawaii.gov.

And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way.

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

Follow me on social media....



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, Kalaheo and Waipahu

NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "listen story" meeting will be held at the Kapolei High School Teacher's Lounge meeting room on September 24th from 9:00am to 10:00am.

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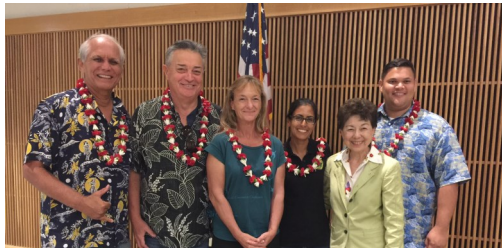
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PUEO INFORMATIONAL MEETING

I co-hosted a meeting with Rep. Ty Cullen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on the pueo, a subspecies of the short-eared owl, at UH West O'ahu on August 18th. Close to 90 people from the community attended the meeting to hear from experts on future studies that are planned on this endemic species. One of the positive outcomes of the event was that during the lead-up to the meeting, both DLNR and USFWS realized that they were



both starting surveys on the pueo. Now, they're comparing notes to see how they can coordinate their future research efforts.



L-R: Sen. Gabbard, Michael Kumukauoha Lee-Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner and Cultural Descendant, Jenny Hoskins – Hawai'i Bird Lead for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, Afsheen Siddiqi-Wildlife Biologist, DLNR, Dr. Doris Ching-UHWO Interim Chancellor, Rep. Cullen.

My perspective is that it's key to get the results of these studies in order to make decisions based on the best available science. As the Chair of the Senate' Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee, I'll continue dialoguing with DLNR, USFWS, and the community on this important issue and welcome your feedback.

AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRE ALARMS FOR SENIORS

I'm helping to get the word out about how the American Red Cross is working with the Honolulu Fire Department to install free Smoke Alarms in homes of seniors.

Consider these facts: On average, 7 people die every day in a home fire in the U.S. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%.

If you would like to be a part of this free program, call the Red Cross at 739-8111, leave your name, phone number, and address. The Red Cross will call you back to schedule an appointment to install the smoke alarms. Pretty cool program!

WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR HAWAII

You've probably caught wind that our state is hosting some kind of big conference this month. There have been articles in the newspaper and on the news about how traffic is going to be snarled in the downtown area a bit in early September. That's the bad news. The good news is that Hawai'i is hosting the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) from September 1 – 10, 2016 at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

The WCC is considered to be the Superbowl of conservation conferences and it's a big honor that we're hosting this event. This is the first time the WCC is being hosted in the United States 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. It's estimated that roughly 5,000 delegates from 123 countries will participate. The WCC is expected to generate as much as \$62 million in total economic impact.

I'll be participating in various panel discussions and receptions during the WCC. This is an amazing opportunity to showcase Hawai'i as an island model for integrated green growth and sustainability, and to build lasting global partnerships. Hawai'i can collectively leverage the investment in hosting the WCC to make progress toward our statewide 2030 sustainability goals.



6TH ANNUAL "GET READY EWA BEACH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR"

The Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee is hosting the 6th Annual "Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair" on September 10th from 9am to 1pm at Ewa Makai Middle School (91-6291 Kapolei Parkway).

The theme of this year's fair is "Get Trained" and the event is free.

The event will include informational booths, seminars, and hands-on training.

For more information, please contact, Ray Cordeiro at 682-0111 or Jackie Dawson at getreadyewabeach@gmail.com.



Photo by Tony Hunstiger, NSEFU Wildlife

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON FOR ACT 125: THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING LAW

I'll be speaking at a luncheon to celebrate Act 125: The Wildlife Trafficking Law as part of the World Conservation Congress on September 5th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Hawai'i Pacific Pavilion in the Hawai'i Convention Center. The luncheon is free and open to the public, so come join me if you have the chance.

Other speakers will include Rep. Ryan Yamane, Keith Swindle, Agent in Charge for US Fish and Wildlife Service, Suzanne Case, Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Jared Axelrod, Government Affairs Manager for Vulcan Inc.

The luncheon is being sponsored by Vulcan Inc., Humane Society of the U.S., Global March for Elephants and Rhinos, Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and the Sierra Club.

As background, 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, lions, pangolins, cheetah, jaguar, or leopard and the following marine species: sea turtles, monk seals, narwhal, whales, or walrus.

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!

BIG NEWS: JUNE JONES OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR FOR KAPOLEI HIGH FOOTBALL

You might have heard that former UH football coach, June Jones, is back in Hawai'i after his stint at the helm of Southern Methodist University's football team and is the offensive coordinator for the Kapolei High School Hurricanes football team.

June did a great job at UH taking the undefeated warriors in 2007 to the Sugar Bowl and we're very excited to see what exciting things are in store for The Hurricanes with June.

It seems like a match made in heaven that June will be working with sophomore quarterback, Taulia Tagovailoa, who has already been offered a football scholarship to Alabama and has amassed 1,126 yards passing in the first 4 games of the season.

The Hurricanes have looked solid and is 3-1 with wins over Campbell, Leilehua, and Castle, and their only loss was to Waianae. I wish Coach Darren Hernandez, June, and the rest of the Hurricanes coaches and players good luck in the rest of the 2016 season.



NEW HIGHWAY PROJECT'S ON HOLD

You might have seen in the news that the state Department of Transportation (DOT) made the decision to defer various new highway projects because of a lack of funding and to instead focus on the maintenance of existing roadways.

Included on the list for deferral are the Ft. Barrette Road Widening and Kualaka'i Parkway Extension to Roosevelt Avenue projects in Kapolei. Traffic continues to be a huge issue for West O'ahu residents and our area continues to see rapid growth. So obviously it's not good news to hear that DOT is planning to defer the new highway projects. The best scenario is for DOT to find a good balance between the new highway projects and maintenance, because without keeping the roads up it also causes big problems. The failure of the legislation last session, SB 2398, to increase the gas tax and the vehicle weight fee is part of the discussion as to why the new projects are on hold.

I'd like to see exactly what projects those funds would go to if the Legislature was to take another look at that proposal. I also think DOT should continue focusing on the use of federal funds, because there's still \$524 million that can be put to good use. The balance of federal funds in DOT's coffers had reached \$940 million in 2010. As an aside, the state gets about \$171 million each year from the feds for roads. The state has to keep a \$450 million balance in the fund to pay invoices on on-going road projects.



Use GoAkamai.org to check the traffic before you leave home or work to see the current conditions on Oahu's freeways and highways.

BLUE ZONES PROJECT COMING TO EWA/KAPOLEI

I've been working with Councilmember Kym Pine and the Blue Zones Project to bring a well-being improvement initiative to Ewa/Kapolei. We'll have a community meeting set up on September 26th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Kapolei High School Cafeteria and hope you can join us.

The Blue Zones Project is being funded by HMSA and was inspired by the book, *The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest*, written by Dan Buettner. The book focused on the five places in the world – “Blue Zones” – where people live the longest and are healthiest (Ikaria, Greece; Loma Linda, California; Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; and Nicoya, Costa Rica.) The book has now evolved into a global movement.

The Project goal is to inspire people to live longer, more active lives with lower rates of chronic disease. The Pro-

ject is dedicated to helping towns become better places to live, work and play.

So far, East Hawai'i Island, North Hawai'i Island, Windward Oahu, and Kaua'i are the places in our state that have been designated Blue Zones Demonstration Communities. The meeting on September 26th will begin the process of reaching out to community leaders to help us show why Ewa/Kapolei should be selected to participate in this great program. We'll have break-out sessions and a stimulating conversation on how we can improve the lives and well-being of those in our community by being a part of the Blue Zones Project.

