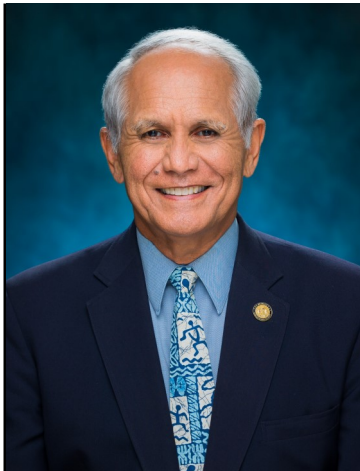


# The Senate

STATE CAPITOL

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

## Senator Mike Gabbard *Legislative update...*



*Aloha e Friends,*

A big congrats to all the high school grads of James Campbell High, Kapolei High, Waipahu High, Island Pacific Academy, and American Renaissance Academy. I wish these grads great success in their chosen paths in life. The 2017 Legislative Session ended on May 4th. One of the highlights of the session for Senate District 20 was that we were able to secure \$77 million for the construction of East Kapolei Middle School. The new school will be located behind the Kroc Center and is scheduled to open for the 2019-2020 school year. We also appropriated \$27 million to complete a new classroom building to lessen overcrowding at Campbell High School. Here's a wrap-up of some of the major highlights of the session. 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. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

### 2017 LEGISLATION SESSION OVERVIEW

There was a total of 2,918 bills introduced during the 2017 Legislative Session (1,601 in the House and 1,317 in the Senate.) Of those, 229 bills passed the Legislature. The bills that didn't make it through are still alive for next session. The Governor has three choices for the 229 bills that did pass: he can sign the bills into law, allow the bills to become law without his signature, or veto the bills. Here are the next major deadlines:

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for the Governor to notify the Legislature if he intends to veto any of the bills.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for the Governor to veto bills and for the Legislature to come back into Special Session to override any of those vetoes. (If he decides to veto any of the bills, it will take 2/3 of the House and Senate to override the veto).



Sen. Gabbard's 2017 Session Staff on May 4, L-R: Meg Turner, Office Mgr; Arecia Mickens, volunteer; Donna Lay, Asst. Committee Clerk; Lorraine Ako, Legislative Asst.; Kendall Andrews, Hawai'i Pacific University intern; Rock Riggs, Committee Clerk and Chief of Staff .

Please let the Governor know how you feel about any of the legislation by calling him at 586-0034 or filling out the "Contact Us" form here:

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/comments-on-legislation/>

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ◆ Agriculture & Environment

#### VICE CHAIR

- ◆ Water and Land

#### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary & Labor

#### DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

#### NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be on Saturday, June 17th from 9:00-10:00 am at the Ewa Mahiko District Park Meeting Room.

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## MY LEGISLATION

This session I was able to get 3 bills and 1 resolution that I authored through the legislative process. Here's a quick summary of each:

### Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (SB 808)

- ◆ This bill would appropriate \$450,000 in both Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) to improve farm practices, reduce erosion, improve ocean and drinking water quality, fight invasive species, and conserve water.
- ◆ HACD is made up of 16 soil and conservation districts representing every community on all major islands of our state.

### Cannabis (SB 786)

- ◆ This bill would change all references to "medical marijuana" and "medical use of marijuana" to "medical cannabis" in state law and Administrative Rules.
- ◆ The term marijuana has no scientific basis and carries prejudicial implications rooted in racial stereotypes from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Industrial Hemp (SB 773)

- ◆ This bill would improve the existing industrial hemp pilot program law by allowing farmers to apply for hemp licenses year round instead of just from January to April, requiring the counties to recognize the cultivation of industrial hemp, limiting the cultivation of hemp to licensees on agricultural lands, and repealing the requirement of having to get a movement permit to transport hemp plants or material.

### Bona Fide Agricultural Producer Definition (SCR 77)

- ◆ This resolution requests that the Department of Agriculture establish a temporary task force for the purpose of creating a single definition of "bona fide agricultural producer" and to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature before the 2019 session.
- ◆ The definition of bona fide agricultural producer is needed to help address the proliferation of gentleman farms on our precious agricultural lands.



As Senate Agriculture and Environment Chair, Sen. Gabbard had the opportunity to visit many farms island-wide prior to session starting and plans to continue his tours this summer.

## RAIL FUNDING STILL NOT RESOLVED

The proposal to fund rail by extending the general excise tax (GET) surcharge for O'ahu residents was a controversial topic during the session. In the end, the House and Senate couldn't come to an agreement and the legislation failed. I've been a supporter of the rail project because it will benefit our community by creating another transportation option. At the same time, I've been very disappointed with how the City and HART have managed the project with cost estimates going from \$5.26 billion in 2014 to \$10 billion today. The City and HART should be thinking out of the box and looking for creative solutions to make the project work. Changing to mag-lev technology, building the project at-grade (street level) from Middle Street, and public-private partnerships are all alternatives that should at least be seriously considered. There's much talk about a Special Session to see if the House and Senate can reach agreement on additional funds for rail. Stay tuned!



Sen. Gabbard was given a tour of Ma'o Organic Farms Dec. 19, by Kamuela Enos, Social Enterprises Director and presented his team with an Honorary Certificate on the Senate floor March 9.

# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Construction Funding for Senate District 20

I was pleased that we were able to secure \$109.3m in the state biennium budget for Fiscal Years 2017-2019 for schools, the Kalaeloa Airport, and infrastructure in Senate District 20.

Here's a quick rundown of that funding:

- ◆ **East Kapolei Middle School**—Construction of a New School - \$77m (projected school opening is 2019-2020 school year; located on parcel of land behind Kroc Center)
- ◆ **Kalaeloa Airport**
  - ◇ Construction of T-Hangars—\$8m
  - ◇ Design and Construction of Runway Lighting—\$3.3m
  - ◇ Construction of Utility System Improvements—\$10m
- ◆ **Kalaeloa Enterprise Avenue Energy Corridor Design and Construction to Midway Road**—\$3m (will complete project to Kalaeloa Airport; construction to start this summer)
- ◆ **National Kidney Foundation Grant-in-Aid for Kapolei facility** —\$1 million
- ◆ **O'ahu Bikeways**—Land Acquisition for a Multi-Use Path from Waipio Point Access Road to Lualualei Naval Road - \$2m
- ◆ **UH West O'ahu**
  - ◇ Renovation of Maintenance Building—\$2.5m
  - ◇ Repair and Renovation of Library—\$50,000
- ◆ **Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan of State**—Owned Parcels Near Proposed Rail Stations in Kapolei area - \$1 m
- ◆ **Youth Challenge Academy**—Design and Construction for Replacement of Balcony and Stairway Guardrails - \$800,000
- ◆ **Waipahu Intermediate School**—Plans and Design for Additional Multi-Purpose Play Courts - \$600,000



Sen. Gabbard attended the Island Pacific Academy Commencement Ceremony at the Four Seasons Resort in Ko Olina on May 27, after sponsoring Honorary Certificates for their Valedictorians on May 24. (Dancers L-R: Shaina Duran, Megan Bobilin, and Caitlin Komatsu.)



Sen. Gabbard spoke to cadets of the Youth Challenge Academy during their tour of the Hawai'i State Capitol February 13.



Sen. Gabbard has been working with other Kapolei area legislators, the Department of Transportation, and the James Campbell Company to make sure Phase 2 of the Kapolei Interchange project stays on track. (Photo credit: Jobeth Devera, Reporter Hawai'i News Now).



Sen. Gabbard attended the Kapolei High School Graduation, Class of 2017 on May 20. Afterwards, he looked for the Valedictorians as he does each year, to personally present them with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate.

## Kapolei High School Sports Accolades

A big shout-out to the Kapolei High Judo for winning their 4th straight team title at the 2017 Atlas Insurance Agency Judo Championships at the Stan Sheriff Center on May 6th. Andre Pagurayan of Kapolei High won 1st place in the 114 lb. judo division. Congrats also to the Kapolei Boys Soccer and Wrestling teams for winning the OIA Conference titles this year.

# SENATE HONOREES



Sen. Gabbard honored Dr. Harry Ako, who was the Principal Investigator of the UH Manoa Industrial Hemp Research Project, and his team March 29. (Pictured L-R: Shauna McHugh, Associate; Alan Yoshimoto, Associate; Melody Heidel, Associate; and Dr. Harry Ako, Principal Investigator.)

## CTAHR 29th Annual Awards Banquet

As the Chair of the Senate's Agriculture and Environment Committee, I sponsored Honorary Certificates from the State Senate to Outstanding Alumni, Dr. Ernest Harris, and Ka Lei Hano Heritage Award winner, Mr. Eric Tanouye at the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' (CTAHR) 29th Annual Awards Banquet on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

As background, CTAHR provides exceptional education, research, and extension programs in tropical agriculture and food systems, family and consumer



Dave Shoji, alongside his wife Mary, was honored on the Senate floor for his years of dedication and devotion to the State of Hawai'i and to UH Mānoa as the Wahine Volleyball head coach.

science, and natural resource management for Hawai'i and the international community. CTAHR cultivates innovative scientific inquiry, solves real world challenges, and provides experiential learning in an interdisciplinary setting with global impacts.

CTAHR confers its Outstanding Alumnus Award on individuals who have used their CTAHR education to make significant and inspiring contributions in their profession and within their communities. Dr. Ernest J. Harris is a CTAHR graduate who used his doctorate in entomology to tackle destructive agricultural pests through novel methods including sterile fly release, male annihilation, and augmentative biological control.

CTAHR confers its Ka Lei Hano Heritage Award on individuals whose commitment and service greatly enhance the college's efforts to support a diverse economy, healthy environment, and strong communities. Eric Tanouye, President and General Manager of Green Point Nurseries in Hilo, has become the first second-generation recipient of the Ka Lei Hano Heritage Award, which was conferred upon his father in 2011. Eric has partnered with CTAHR scientists in developing new varieties of tropical flowers, assisted CTAHR students through scholarships and other support, and provided invaluable advice and counsel to CTAHR administrators.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Mama T and Robert Daguio on April 6 for the grand re-opening of 'Umeke Market.

## Grand Re-Opening of 'Umeke Market

I surprised owners Robert Daguio and "Mama T" with an Honorary Certificate at the Grand Re-Opening of Umeke Market at their location in downtown Honolulu on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Not only is Umeke's menu 100% plant-based, but great efforts are made to source locally, as many of the ingredients as possible. 'Umeke uses compostable trays for their takeout items—no Styrofoam here! And to top it off, they've partnered with a local farm to take their scraps away to compost them back into precious soil. And did we mention the ono food? The hot entrée buffet style with grab 'n go salads and desserts, and freshly made smoothies, will make this a place you'll want to come back to again and again. 'Umeke Market—a.k.a "Mama T's Ital Kitchen"—has been quietly operating since their soft launch on March 6. Now, they're one of the most sustainable and unique additions to the downtown Honolulu restaurant scene!