



Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...

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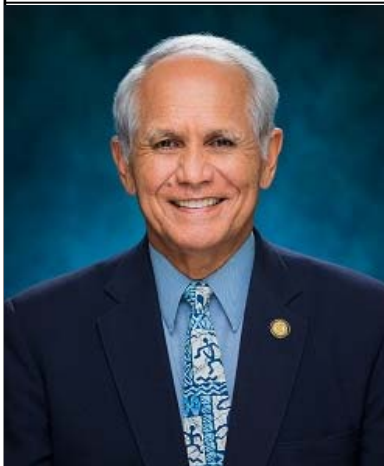
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SENATE DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and
portions of Ewa,
Kalaeloa and Waipahu

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Aloha e Friends,

Hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing Thanksgiving... And now for some Breaking News! OK, I hope you’re sitting down for potentially the best “great news” story of the decade. No, I’m not retiring from political office. 😊

And by the way, I’m not up for re-election until 2020.

Back to the news...Furthermore, this announcement is not “fake news.” Drumroll please! Trumpets please! Ladies and gentlemen, especially residents of Kapolei, the City will finally start working on the repaving of Kamokila Boulevard/Farrington Highway from the Kapolei Golf Course to Zippy’s in Kapolei on November 6th. The portion from Zippy’s to Ft. Barrette Road will be done at night to minimize traffic impacts to area residents. Farrington Highway from Walmart to Kapolei Golf Course will be repaved during the day due to the proximity to nearby residents. Obviously, we’re all stoked that we won’t have to deal with those cavernous pot-holes anymore. Aloha and mahalo to the City and County! 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. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

Mike

Ideas for Legislation

I can't believe it, but we'll soon be coming to the end of 2016. This means our legislative session, which will begin on January 17th, is just around the corner. As always, I'm interested in your ideas if you would like to offer suggestions for changes or improvements in how our state government operates. You don't have to have a full-fledged bill written out, just a few bullet points to get us started and we'll take it from there. Please let me know.



Sen. Gabbard and Pua Kaohelauli’i of the state Dept. of Health Kauai District Health Office harvest micro arugula during his visit to the Agriculture and Aquaculture program, run by teacher Greg Harding, at Waimea High School on October 26. Photo courtesy of Dennis Fujimoto / The Garden Island.



Disaster Preparedness Townhall Meeting

Senator Will Espero and I will be hosting a Disaster Preparedness Townhall Meeting on November 13th from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Kapolei High School Cafetorium. In light of recent concerns regarding North Korean nuclear and missile tests, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) will discuss what the agency is doing to prepare our state for the nuclear threat, what efforts are being conducted among the counties and what steps it is taking to educate the public and our community. The event is free and open to the public.

Kapolei City Lights Just Around the Corner

Kapolei City Lights will be on December 9th from 5pm to 9pm. The Street festival will start at Kapolei Hale at 5pm and end at 9pm. The parade will commence at 6pm around Ft. Barrette Road at Kapolei Parkway and will come down Kapolei Parkway until right before it hits Kamokila Boulevard. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at 7:15pm.

Embassy Suites Opens in Kapolei

I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate to Embassy Suites by Hilton upon the Grand Opening of their new 180-room hotel in Kapolei on Manawai Street on October 18th. They had a soft opening on September 21st. Utah Development firms, Western States Lodging and Management and Thackeray Garn Co. developed the \$60 million project. As you know, there's already a 175-room Hampton Inn and Suites Hotel that opened last year at Ka Makana Ali'i. There was also an unofficial Ground Breaking on October 17th for a new Marriott Residence Inn in Kapolei, which will be located at Ilima at Leihano near the Embassy Suites Hotel. The Marriott Residence is expected to be completed by late Spring 2019.



TOWNHALL MEETING

Disaster Preparedness

In light of recent concerns regarding North Korean nuclear and missile tests, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) will discuss what the agency is doing to prepare our state for the nuclear threat, what efforts are being conducted among the counties and what steps it is taking to educate the public and our community.

Hosted by
Senator Will Espero
and
Senator Mike Gabbard

Date:

Monday, November 13

Time:

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Venue:

Kapolei High School
Cafetorium

**Free and open
to the public.**



American Savings Bank Branch Opens

A new 3,500 square foot branch of American Savings Bank opened on September 29th in Kapolei behind Foodland. I was off-island for the Grand Opening, but was able to attend their Groundbreaking Ceremony on December 2, 2016. I wish them the best of luck in our growing City of Kapolei.



On October 20, Sen. Gabbard spoke to 40 third graders at Island Pacific Academy, a private school in his district, about government and democracy. He received a lei from Miriel Trotter-Fields, with Lisa Lariscy (Elementary Curriculum Coordinator), in the background.

Senate District 20 Construction Funding Released

I received an email on September 29, 2017 letting me know that the Governor released the following funding for construction projects in Senate District 20:

- ◆ Kapolei Middle School – Reroofing of Buildings A, G, and H - \$2.6 million (will be completed by December 2018)
- ◆ Mauka Lani Elementary – ADA Improvements - \$1.045 million (will be completed by March 2019)
- ◆ UH West Oahu New Creative Media Facility (two-story, 20,00 sq. ft. state of the art facility) - \$35 million (\$2.45 million was already released for design; will be completed by June 2020)
- ◆ Waiahole Water Systems Improvements – portion in Kunia - \$4 million (will be completed by December 2019)

Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency Getting the Word Out

In 2016, O’ahu voters approved a City Charter amendment by a 54.9% to 37.9% margin to create an Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. Josh Stanbro has been appointed by Mayor Caldwell to lead the office as its Executive Director and the City’s first ever Chief Resilience Officer. The office has the following mandate:

- Develop or coordinate city policies and programs that will improve environmental performance of city operations and advance environmental priorities
- Integrate sustainable and environmental values into city plans programs and policies
- Promote resiliency of communities in coastal areas
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies regarding climate change, sustainability and the environment

The office is also leading the City’s efforts as part of the 100 Resilient Cities program to create a Resilience Strategy for O’ahu. In doing so, the office will be visiting all 33 neighborhood boards throughout the island to brief the community on their planned work and to get feedback. They have a survey that they’re asking the community to fill out to help guide their work, which you can access at www.bitly.com/oahuresiliencesurvey.



Sen. Gabbard at Hilton Hawaiian Village with Vern Miyagi, Hawaii'i Emergency Management Chief, at the First Meeting of the Climate Commission, October 11.



Sen. Gabbard at Mālama Learning Center "Sponsor Day" October 21, with Pauline Sato - Program Dir., and Sam 'Olu Gon - Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor at the Hawaii'i Nature Conservancy of Hawaii'i.

Bahá'í Community of 'Ewa's Celebration

Senator Espero, Representative LoPresti, and I presented an Honorary Certificate at the Bahá'í Community of 'Ewa's Celebration upon the 200th anniversary of the birth of their founder, Bahá'u'lláh, at the Franciscan Vistas Ewa Community Center on October 22nd. In these trying times of conflict and confusion, the Bahá'í faith appropriately emphasizes the crucial need facing humanity to find a unifying vision for the future. The Bahá'í Faith is a religion teaching the essential worth of all religions, as well as the unity and equality of all people. Established by Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) in 1863, it initially grew in the Middle East and now has between five and seven million adherents, known as Bahá'ís, spread out into most of the world's countries and territories. Bahá'u'lláh endured 40 years of imprisonment, torture, and exile. Bahá'ís regard the major religions as fundamentally unified in purpose, though varied in social practices and interpretations.



Rep. LoPresti, Sen. Gabbard, Carter Smith—Chairman of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Ewa, and Sen. Espero.

There is a similar emphasis on the unity of all people, openly rejecting notions of racism and nationalism. At the heart of Bahá'í teachings is the goal of a unified world order that ensures the prosperity of all nations, races, creeds, and classes. It is inspiring that Bahá'ís believe in the oneness of the entire human race, the common origin, and unity of purpose of all world religions, and the elimination of all forms of prejudice.

20th Annual Air Cargo Day



Sen. Gabbard, Fred Spencer-President ACAH, and Rep. Onishi.

I offered some remarks and presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature at the 20th Annual Air Cargo Day on October 11th at the Japanese Cultural Center in Honolulu. The Air Cargo Association of Hawai'i (ACAH) is a non-profit organization represented by airlines, freight forwarders, customs firms, ocean

transport, cargo handling services, and other cargo related industries. ACAH supports the air, ocean, and ground transport industry by providing a network for sharing information, which enables the best possible service within the cargo transportation industry. The mission of ACAH is to promote the exchange of common ideas, information, and resources for cargo transportation in and out of Hawai'i. ACAH members have an opportunity to participate in monthly luncheon meetings, which includes the participation of speakers who promote discussions and educational programs relating to the cargo transportation industry and related fields. The theme of this year's Annual Air Cargo Day was "New Markets; New Opportunities." The program is a unique opportunity to learn the latest issues affecting Hawai'i's air and sea commerce and provides a forum to network with leaders in the shipping industry.

Leonae Rodrigues' Retirement Party 🥳 🙌 🌸 🤔 🧡 🎉 🎵 🍷 🌸 🎁 🌟

I surprised Leonae Rodriguez with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate on October 22nd at the HMC Karaoke in Aiea. Leonae had a 44-year career as a Physical Therapist Aide with the Department of Education (DOE) and served as the Political Action Chairperson for the United Public Workers (UPW). Leonae began her illustrious career with the Department of Health in the former Waimano Training School and Hospital, an institutional facility in Pearl City for people with developmental disabilities. When it shutdown in 1999, Leonae transferred to the DOE as a Physical Therapist Aide, where she worked with teachers, faculty, and students across five different schools in Honolulu. Leonae worked the full spectrum—from minor developmentally delayed keiki to those who were classified as severely multiple impaired. Leonae has made a lasting impression on her UPW colleagues as well. Leonae mobilized and organized other members to participate in the legislative process. She often visited legislators on her own to be the voice for over 8,000 UPW members in O'ahu and 14,000 statewide.