



*Aloha e Friends,*

Happy 4th of July to you and your ohana. You might want to check out the Ko Olina Westside Summer Fest. It's from 9am to 12pm on July 14th at Ko Olina's Ulua Lagoon Grand Lawn. The Summer Fest will feature the best of O'ahu's westside (Kapolei to Ka'ena), from cultural artisans and fresh-farmed produce, to local musicians, halau and food truck favorites. As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [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 [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](http://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

## Governor's Potential Veto List

On June 24, 2019, Governor Ige released a list of 20 bills, as required by the State Constitution that he might potentially veto. Those bills included SB 1292 which would require vacation rental platforms, such as Airbnb, to collect taxes from vacation rental owners. I voted in favor of this bill with reservations because the bill was estimated to bring in \$46 million for the state and its passage was tied to many Agriculture and Environmental bills that needed funding. Another bill on the list is my commercial hemp program bill, SB 1353, which the Governor called premature and unenforceable. I admit that the bill isn't perfect, but I'd like it to become law so that our state doesn't fall further behind on the economic benefits our farmers will see with hemp. If the Governor does veto these and any of the other 18 bills on his list, then the Legislature would need to come into a Special Session on July 9th to override those bills if they so choose. It takes 17 votes in the Senate and 34 votes in the House to override a veto.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

#### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

#### DISTRICT 20

- ◆ Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

## "Listen Story"

My next Listen Story community meeting will be on Saturday, August 24, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Ewa Mahiko District Park Meeting Room.



On June 18, Sen. Gabbard was interviewed for a documentary on clean oceans by Sea Inspirations, partnering with Ocean Voyages Institute. OVI collected over 40 tons of ghost nets, plastic, and garbage in 10 days, just to the east of Hawai'i. They're distributing tracking devices about the size of a bowling ball to mariners who sail the oceans and asking them to attach them to garbage patches as they encounter them. OVI checks the satellite to find out where the garbage is and they pick it up and dispose of it. They brought the 40 tons to Honolulu, where it was transported to H-power, a waste-to-energy facility that converts garbage into electricity.



# DISTRICT SITE VISITS



**Ball Corporation Kapolei Plant tour on June 5. Pictured L-R: Jeff Matthijssen - Manager, Senator Kurt Fevella, Senator Mike Gabbard, and Simi Leo - Ball Corporation Kapolei Plant Logistics.**

## Ball Corporation Tour

I toured the Ball Corporation aluminum packaging facility in Campbell Industrial Park with Senator Fevella on June 5th. Ball Corporation, founded in 1880, is the world's largest aluminum beverage and aluminum aerosol can maker. They employ 18,300 people in 90 manufacturing locations with operations in North and Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In Kapolei, 40 people work at the manufacturing plant. Reducing single-use plastics is a huge priority of mine as the Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair. As the #1 beverage container in the world, aluminum cans are a viable alternative to single-use plastic beverage containers. Metals are infinitely recyclable and within 60 days aluminum can be recycled and be back on the store shelves. Ball made 220 million aluminum cans last year. During the tour, I learned that we have a state law that prohibits bottled water from being sold in a can unless the water has its own exclusive line. This means you can't put soft drinks and water through the same line, which makes bottling water in cans cost-prohibitive. This law

seems a bit outdated given the need to move away from plastics, so I'll be looking at legislation in 2020 to repeal that section of law so that water can be sold in aluminum cans here locally.

## Kunia Loa Ridge Farm Lands Tour

I had the opportunity to get a tour of Kunia Loa Ridge Farm Lands with Senator Gil Riviere on June 20th. Kunia Loa is a non-profit organization, formed in 2013, and has 854 acres of agricultural land, subdivided into 99 Lots on 99 year renewable leases. The lots range from 5 to 35 acres. Kunia Loa is located at the northern edge of my Senate district, accessible from Kunia Road through a gated entry, neighboring Fat Law Farms, Syngenta, Monsanto, US Army, and across from Hawai'i Country Club. There has been a lot of controversy and media coverage about Kunia Loa in the past several years related to illegal structures and City permitting violations. The situation at Kunia Loa is that no dwellings are permitted and that there are no public utilities, such as water, sewer, and electricity. They use non-potable water supplied by the Kunia Water Association for agriculture. There are many different fruits, herbs, and flowers grown at Kunia Loa, including avocados, mangoes, jackfruit, breadfruit, and mamaki. While there are still violations being cleared up at Kunia Loa, I was impressed by the dedication of the Board of Directors, including their President Alan Sitt, to make things right and to move agriculture forward in our state.



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Smart Choices to Stay Cool this Summer

From the looks of it, it's going to be a hot summer! So you may be looking for ways to cool down. Hawai'i Energy, our public benefits fee administrator, receives funding from a fee tacked onto our electrical bill. They use this funding to help families and businesses save money and benefit the environment through energy efficiency measures. They are offering the following incentives:

- ◆ \$250 rebate when your mini split AC system is installed by one of their participating contractors.
- ◆ \$100 rebate on an AC tune-up performed by a participating contractor.
- ◆ \$50 rebate when you purchase a qualified ENERGY STAR window AC and trade in your old, working AC for recycling.

For more information and to find out the participating contractors, visit [hawaiienergy.com](http://hawaiienergy.com).

## 'Ilima at Leihano's Third Annual Kupuna Wellness Fair

A heads up that 'Ilima at Leihano Senior Living Community, located off Ft. Barrette Road near the Kapolei Parkway intersection in Kapolei, will host its Third Annual Kupuna Wellness Fair on July 20th from 9am to 12pm. This free event will feature food, crafts, activities, live entertainment and notable comedian, Frank De Lima, who will perform at 11am. There will be complementary valet parking provided for attendees and the first 150 guests will also receive a tote bag. For more information, please visit [www.ilimaatleihano.com](http://www.ilimaatleihano.com) or call 674-8022.

## Blood Bank 'Tough Enough' Campaign

Blood Bank of Hawai'i is launching its 'Tough Enough' campaign in July to help save lives with over 70 blood drives on O'ahu. The need for donors is especially high as blood donations drop by more than 15% every summer when students are out of school and families go on vacation. Anyone who donates blood will receive a temporary 'Tough Enough' tattoo and complimentary donations from Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, and Dave's Ice Cream. In order to donate blood you need be in good health, be 18 years of age or older (16-17 year old donors with signed Blood Bank of Hawaii parent/legal guardian consent), weigh 110 pounds or more (additional height/weight requirements apply for female donors 16-18 years old), and also bring photo ID with date of birth.

## Blood Drive Dates in West O'ahu

07/01/19	James Campbell Building (Kapolei)	7:45am-11:45am
07/08/19	Waikele Center - Leonard's Malasada's Truck	3:00pm-7:00pm
07/09/19	Lighthouse Outreach Center (Waipahu)	8:00am-1:00pm
07/10/19	State of Hawaii Kakuhihewa - DAGS (Kapolei)	8:00am-1:00pm
07/13/19	Kapolei Shopping Center (Kapolei)	7:00am-12:00pm
07/13/19	LDS Honolulu Hawaii West Stake (Kapolei)	8:00am-1:00pm
07/14/19	Waikele Center - Leonard's Malasada's Truck	7:00am-11:00am
07/20/19	Ko Olina Beach & Sports Club (Kapolei)	8:00am-12:00pm
07/21/19	Laulani Village Shopping Center (Ewa Beach)	7:00am-12:00pm
07/22/19	Waikele Center- Leonard's Malasada Truck	3:00pm-7:00pm
07/27/19	UFC Gym Waikele (Waikele)	10:00am-2:00pm
07/28/19	New Hope Leeward-Kapolei Campus (Kapolei)	7:00am-1:00pm



On June 13, Sen. Gabbard participated in the 7th Annual Po'okela Awards Night at Kapolei Middle School.

## Volunteer for Kapapahu Point Park Restoration

HOH808.org is a non-profit organization that's mission is to improve Kapapahu Point Park, located in West Loch in Ewa Beach, through the following activities: restore park shoreline & historic fish ponds, educate, paint gazebos and picnic tables, and remove trash & invasive species. They have many community work days coming up and need your help. Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. Refreshments and gloves will be provided. Please contact Tony with any questions at [hoh808info@gmail.com](mailto:hoh808info@gmail.com). Here are those dates (from 9am to 12pm) to volunteer:

**H O H 8 0 8** HUI O HO'OHONUA  
- IMPOSSIBLE IS WHERE WE START -

### Kapapahu Point Park Restoration

HOH808.org is a 501 C3 non-profit organization

**Upcoming Events:**  
9am-12pm

- August 23, 2019
- September 28, 2019 (Beginning of Mālama Pu'uloa Month)
- October 26, 2019 (Mālama Pu'uloa Festival)
- November 16, 2019
- December 14, 2019
- January 25, 2020
- February 22, 2020
- March 21, 2020
- April 25, 2020
- May 23, 2020
- June 27, 2020
- July 25, 2020

**Mission:**

- Restore Park Shore Line • Educate
- Paint gazibos and picnic tables • Remove trash
- Remove invasive species • Restore historic fish ponds

**Wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Refreshments and gloves will be provided.**

Contact Tony with any questions at [hoh808info@gmail.com](mailto:hoh808info@gmail.com)

Day in Hawai'i. The companion bill, House Bill 349, was introduced by House Speaker Scott Saiki and has the same noble purpose. HB 349 passed the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Ige on June 25, 2019. International Day of Yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of June 21st as it is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, shortest in the southern hemisphere, and shares a special significance in many parts of the world. The first International Day of Yoga was observed around the world on June 21st, 2015. In India 35,985 people, including Narendra Modi and dignitaries from 84 nations, performed 21 yoga asanas for 35 minutes in New Delhi. They established two Guinness World Records for the largest yoga class and for the largest number of participating nationalities. In San Francisco, 5,000 participants gathered in Marina Green park to practice yoga. The day was observed by millions across the world. The practice of yoga is beneficial to the people of Hawai'i, including children, as it lowers stress, reduces health problems and health insurance costs, as well as promotes healthy living among adults and the elderly population.



On June 21, Sen. Gabbard attended an International Yoga Day celebration at Still & Moving Yoga Studio in Honolulu where he presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature to Dr. Raj Kumar, President of the Gandhi International Institute for Peace.

## International Yoga Day Celebration

I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate to the Gandhi International Institute of Peace to recognize their work in organizing the inaugural Hawai'i Celebration of International Yoga Day at the Still & Moving Center yoga studio in Honolulu on June 21st. I was the author of SB 267 in 2019, which designates June 21 of each year as International Yoga