



# Senator Mike Gabbard *August 2009*

*Aloha Friends,*

*It's been a very busy summer so far. We had our first Special Session on July 15th to override many of the bills Governor Lingle chose to veto. We'll also have a second one this month to consider the Governor's nominee for Chief Judge, Intermediate Court of Appeals. (Please see story on Page 2). Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.*

*Please contact me if I can help you. My email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov), and my phone number is 586-6830.*

*Senator Mike Gabbard, 19th District*

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## Listen-Story

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at the Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 - 10:00 am.

## Veto Override Special Session

Governor Lingle vetoed an unprecedented 57 bills this year. The Legislature disagreed with many of the vetoes, choosing to override 4 of them during the Regular Legislative Session and 34 of them during a one day Special Session on July 15th. I voted in favor of all of the overrides, except HB 1747 (Act 60). This bill increases the income tax from 8.25% to up to 11% on single taxpayers who make \$150,000 or more a year, heads of households who earn \$225,000 or more a year, and couples who make \$300,000 or more a year. My main concern with this new law is that raising the income tax will really hurt small business because many of them report their business income through their personal income tax filings. Other notable veto overrides that I did support included:

**SB 605 (Act 25)** – directs the Department of Health to add dBC to its sound level measurement system to regulate low-frequency sound (bass in music) in urban areas where loud music is known to cause windows and even re-bars in buildings to vibrate.

**SB 420 (Act 22)** – updates the definition and scope of naturopathic medicine by modernizing the naturopathic law and enabling these doctors to be more effective at serving those interested in preventive medicine.

**HB 989 (Act 8)** – restores Keiki Care, a public-private partnership, which provides basic healthcare for children not covered by public or private health insurance.

*Senator Gabbard served as a panelist at the Sakamaki Extraordinary Lectures Series on June 24, 2009 at UH Manoa. The focus of his speech and the evening's discussion was on Native Hawaiian perspectives on renewable energy development. Pictured at right (L to R) are Ramsay Taum (UH Manoa), Mike Kaleikini (Puna Geothermal Venture), Noe Kalipi (First Wind), Davianna McGregor (UH Manoa), Myron Thompson (21st Century Technologies), Rep. Mina Morita, Sen. Gabbard, and Pono Shim (Enterprise Honolulu).*



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MAKAKILO  
KALAELOA  
HONOKAI HALE  
AND PORTIONS OF  
WAIPAHU & KO 'OLINA

## Special Session for Nomination of Craig Nakamura as Chief Judge

On July 22nd, Governor Lingle announced that she was nominating Craig Nakamura to serve as Chief Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Mr. Nakamura lives in Manoa and graduated from UH and Harvard Law School. Since 2004, he has been an Associate Judge with the Intermediate Court of Appeals. He also worked as an Assistant United States Attorney here locally.

This position is now vacant because the previous occupant, Mark Recktenwald, is serving on Hawaii's Supreme Court. By law, the Senate is charged with approving the nomination of judges. We have 30 days (until August 21st) to hold a public hearing and vote to either approve or reject Mr. Nakamura's nomination. As a member of the Senate's Judiciary & Government Operations Committee, I'll have an opportunity to weigh in on Mr. Nakamura's nomination before it goes to a vote before the full State Senate. If you'd like to testify or would like more information about Mr. Nakamura's nomination, please contact my office.

## North South Road Update

After 30 years of waiting, I'm happy to announce that the long awaited North South Road is set to open soon. As you are most likely aware, this 4-lane roadway will stretch from Kapolei Parkway to Farrington Highway with an H-1 diamond interchange. The portion from Farrington Hwy to H-1 is expected to open on September 15th and the rest of the road will be open by January 2010. Additionally, we were able to secure \$15 million in state funding this session for a future section of the road which will link to Kalaeloa. The North South Road will greatly reduce traffic congestion in Kapolei because Ewa commuters will no longer have to use Ft. Barrette as a by-pass to avoid Ft. Weaver Road.

## Visit to First Wind on Maui

UH West Oahu Chancellor Gene Awakuni and I had the opportunity to check out First Wind's Kaheawa wind farm on July 13th. It was amazing to see these massive 280 ft. tall wind turbines up close. The wind farm was launched in 2006 and is located in the West Maui Mountains. Each one of its 20 turbines generates 1.5 MW of renewable energy, totaling 30 MW.



The Kaheawa project supplies power to roughly 11,000 homes and meets 9% of Maui's energy needs. In addition to helping us break our addiction to foreign oil, Kaheawa also happens to be the first wind project in the United States to establish a habitat conservation plan. One of the main goals of this plan is to protect birds and bats from being killed by the wind turbines. First Wind is planning to build a second wind farm on Maui called Kaheawa II, which will supply an additional 21 MW of power for that island. They also are planning to put in a 30 MW wind farm at Kahuku on Oahu and a 200 MW wind farm on Molokai.

## Kapolei Middle Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On July 1st, Rep. Sharon Har and I surprised Kapolei Middle School Principal Annette Nishikawa and her staff with a certificate from the State Legislature to commemorate their 10th Anniversary. Kapolei Middle continues to have a clear vision of a student-centered, safe, and supportive environment that encourages school pride and high expectations. It has grown immensely and currently has 170 staff members, three vice principals, and 1,600 students following a multi-track schedule. Mahalo to all the administrators, teachers, librarians, counselors and all of the other dedicated workers who have been a part of KMS for the last 10 years. *Pictured from left are 6th grade Vice Principal Dana Kobashigawa, 7th grade Vice Principal Derrick Tsuruda, Rep. Har, Ms. Nishikawa, Sen. Gabbard, PCNC Facilitator Terry Bunkley, and 8th grade Vice Principal Poe Sua'ava.*



*Senator Mike Gabbard presented Honokai Hale resident and recent Kapolei High graduate, Richard Peyton, with an Honorary Certificate on behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on July 17, 2009. The ceremony took place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Makakilo Stake in Kalaeloa with family, friends, and fellow scouts.*





### Easter Seals Hawaii's *Napuakea*: A Welcome Addition for Kapolei

Rep. Sharon Har, Rep. Karl Rhodes, Rep. Karen Awana and I were honored to be a part of the preview event for Easter Seals Hawaii's new *Napuakea* project in Kapolei on July 18th with their president and CEO John Howell (center). If you're unfamiliar, Easter Seals is one of the oldest and most respected non-profits in the state. They provide a wide variety of services to children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs.

*Napuakea* is a two-story, 20,000 square foot facility located on 3.3 acres of land next to St. Jude Catholic Church. The \$8 million building will house 3 large therapy rooms, a multi-media training room, 2 kitchens, 20 offices, 9 bathrooms, an adaptive playground, and an information technology center. It will serve over 500 West Oahu families through its programs which include early intervention, youth services, adult day health, and workforce development. I worked to help secure \$1 million (2007) and \$275,000 (2009) in state funding for this very important addition to our community. You're welcome to attend their grand opening ceremony and blessing on August 27th at 10am. For more information, please call Easter Seals at 536-1015.



### Change of Command at Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point

It was a privilege to participate in the Change of Command ceremony for Captain Brad Bean at Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point on July 16th. Captain Bean has selflessly served his state and country with *aloha* as the Commanding Officer at the Air Station since 2006.

Captain Bean has been responsible for Coast Guard aviation support for the Central Pacific and crews deployed throughout the world. He has been in charge of 270 military, civil service, and contract personnel. During the last 3 years Captain Bean's air station has flown over 15,000 flight hours and prosecuted 548 Search and Rescue cases, which saved and assisted 234 lives. Over 3,000 hours were dedicated to law enforcement resulting in numerous high visibility fisheries, drug, and illegal migrant seizures. A big mahalo nui loa to Captain Bean for his dedication to defending our seas. His sacrifices and service to Hawaii'i and our nation will not be forgotten.



### Blue Moon Men's Kailua Night Doubles 2009 Tennis Tournament

My Chief of Staff, Rock Riggs, and I recently took time out to play the Blue Moon Men's Kailua Night Doubles 2009 Tennis Tournament. We did our best to represent West Oahu by winning our first match on June 26th against Oahu residents Jason Kawaguchi and Brandon Sakata by a score of 6-4, 6-4. The next night we came up short against Ross Sugiyama and Stephen Royalty, UH Hilo tennis teammates, who defeated us 6-1, 6-2. This is the 39th annual Night Doubles tournament which is held each year at the Kailua Racquet Club on Oahu. This is a great event and I hope to be back in action next year.



*Pictured from left:*

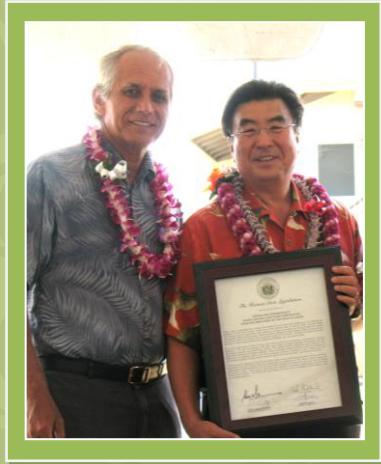
*Ross Sugiyama, Stephen Royalty, Sen. Gabbard, and Rock Riggs.*



**Villas of A'eloā to Provide Affordable Housing in Kapolei**

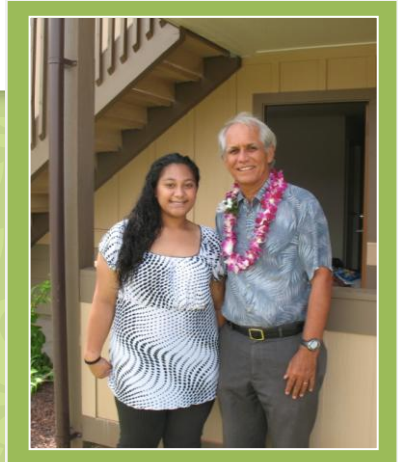
It was nice to be a part of the July 30th dedication for the newest affordable housing community in Kapolei, The Villas at A'eloā. It will provide a new home for many people that have been praying for affordable, safe, and quality housing. The A'eloā development includes 72 apartments with an option for one-bedroom, two-bedroom, or three-bedroom units.

The apartments are equipped with solar water heaters to reduce electricity consumption and take advantage of Kapolei's year-round sunny weather. The residents will also benefit from access to the first-class recreational facilities at the Villages of Kapolei. Congratulations to Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation's Executive Director Marvin Awaya (at right), Kapolei Pacific Limited Partnership, and all of the other individuals and entities that had a hand in making this project a reality.



Council Chair Todd Apo, Rep. Sharon Har, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and Governor Linda Lingle participated in the blessing of the new apartments by Kahu Kelekona Bishaw at The Villas at A'eloā.

Anina Uhatafe and I were all smiles at the dedication ceremony. Before moving into this apartment with her grandparents, Akata and Amini Tuifua, they were struggling to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Anina and I first met at a presentation I gave at her school several years ago. Anina and her grandparents called my office to ask for assistance with getting into a better housing situation, and they're now the fortunate recipients of an apartment at A'eloā, which has a green, park-like setting, is safe, and has a close-knit community feel.



UH West Oahu Chancellor, Gene Awakuni, Chris Lee, and Senator Mike Gabbard attended the West Oahu Economic Development Association (WOEDA) luncheon at the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa Ko Olina on July 29th. Mr. Lee, an internationally known movie producer and founder of the UH Academy for Creative Media, gave an exciting presentation on his vision of how West Oahu could be transformed into a film production and creative media center.



June 26th graduation for the Hawaii National Guard's Health and Education Programs – clockwise from back row left: Johnny Manriquez, Cal Higa, Sen. Gabbard, John Gollner, Colonel Ted Daligdig, Maj. General Lee, Kimmie Timson, Lehua Kaauwai-Krueger, Arviella Benavides, Monalisa Siofele.

**Congratulations** to my community liaison, Erika Moon, who will be marrying Franklin Tsuji on August 7th at a private ceremony at the historic Byodo-In Temple in Kaneohe. The rest of my staff, my family and I wish Erika and Frank all the best in their marriage & happiness for years to come.

