

Your legislative update from...

Waialeale, Village Park, Royal Kunia, Makakilo, Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, and portions of Ko 'Olina & Waipahu



Mike

Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District



Hawaii State Senate

February 2009

Aloha Friends,

I hope you and your family are well. The Legislative Session began on January 21st and things are moving very quickly at the Capitol. During the next three months, I'll be focusing my efforts as Chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee to steer us away from our dependence on foreign oil by increasing renewable energy and protecting our precious environment. Here's an update on some things that are going on.



Sen. Gabbard's Listen-Story meeting at Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale on January 10, 2009.

Listen-Story

Mike

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at the Kunia Starbucks at the Kunia Shopping Center (94-673 Kupuohi Street) on Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 am. Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and my phone number is 586-6830.

Senate Energy and Environment Committee Powers Up

Although it's still very early in the session, we've already been able to pass out several good bills from the Energy and Environment Committee (ENE). Here are a few that might interest you and your family.



- **Plastic Bag Ban** – SB 584 would ban plastic shopping bags beginning January 1, 2011. There would be an exemption for biodegradable plastic shopping bags.
- **Landfill Ban** – SB 701, a bill MG authored, would prohibit any new municipal and private landfills from being constructed on the Waianae Coast.
- **Clotheslines Use for Energy Efficiency** – SB 1338 would allow the use of clotheslines at any single-family home, but would authorize reasonable restrictions as long as the clotheslines have access to adequate sunlight and wind.
- **Hybrid Vehicle Incentive** – SB 295, a bill MG authored, would allow hybrid vehicle owners to use the zipper lane regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.



Sen. Gabbard addressed the audience at UH West Oahu's "Samoa Ala Mai Conference" on Saturday January 31, 2009.

Parking Changes for Haumea Street

I was contacted by a Kapolei resident who requested that we find out from the City whether they could convert a few of the parking stalls on Haumea Street fronting the Campbell Building to disabled parking. The constituent had expressed to me the problems he faced in getting in and out of Kapolei's busy post office.

We were recently notified by the City's Department of Transportation that they wouldn't be installing disabled parking stalls, but that they would be putting up signs to restrict parking in this area to make it easier for "vehicles to actively load and unload passengers along Haumea Street." I appreciate the City taking a serious look at this issue and making this needed change.

Key Renewable Energy Legislation

Each year, the Democratic Caucus of the State Senate develops a package of bills that represent some of our key goals for the session. This year, renewable energy was chosen as one of our top priorities. Two of the renewable energy related bills that I authored, SB 1671 and SB 1675, were chosen for inclusion in the package.

SB 1671 would align our energy policy with a clean energy and sustainable future by prohibiting new or expanded fossil fuel power plants beginning July 1, 2009. There would be an exemption for fossil-fuel based electric generation units of up to 2 MW (megawatts) for emergency purposes. If this bill passes into law, it will be the first in the nation.



Sen. Gabbard honored Waipio's Tony Group Autoplex on February 23rd upon the blessing ceremony for a 298 kW solar electric system by REC Solar, which powers all 3 dealerships.

The Legislature enacted the net energy metering (NEM) law as an incentive for the rapid development of renewable electricity self-generation at low cost to the public. NEM allows people with renewable energy systems (photovoltaic, wind, etc.) to make their electricity meters turn backwards, thus lowering their bills. A net energy metered customer can zero out their bill. SB 1675 would increase the consumer capacity limit on net metering, eliminate the total capacity limit on net metering, and permit existing net metered customers to remain with the program as long as they wish. This would allow more people to zero out their monthly electricity bills.



Makakilo resident John Kapopolu, 1st Counselor at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Makakilo Stake in Kalaeloa, delivered the official invocation to the Hawaii State Senate on January 30th. With him is his wife Charlene.

Another one of my bills, SB 1174, would require the state to adopt the California "Clean Car" standards to foster the purchase of fuel efficient vehicles. In 2002, California passed the nation's first law to cut global warming pollution from tailpipes. Since then, 13 states have adopted these same standards. The bill would require automakers to cut emissions by nearly a third by 2016 – the equivalent of boosting the average fuel economy of cars and light trucks to 35 miles per gallon from the current average of 27.

State Roadway Update

Mahalo to Councilman Todd Apo for his efforts to host the Ewa Transportation Coalition, which brings together key stakeholders to focus on making sure transportation improvements for our community stay on-track. Here are some updates of several important road projects that were provided by the Department of Transportation at the February 3rd meeting.

Project Title	Project Description	Estimated Completion
H-1 PM Contraflow Lane	Westbound PM contraflow lane - Waialeale off-ramp to Waiawa Interchange	March 2012
H-1 PM Contraflow Lane, Phase II	Westbound PM contraflow lane - Waiawa Interchange to Pearl Harbor Interchange	July 2011
H-1 Palailai Interchange to Makakilo Interchange (Kapolei Interchange Complex), Phase 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East-bound off-ramp from H-1 to Wakea Street. (old Bus terminal near Kapolei Zippy's). 2. East-bound on-ramp to H-1 from Wakea Street. 3. West-bound on-ramp to H-1 from Makakilo Drive. 4. West-bound off-ramp to Farrington Highway. 5. Right turn lane along Farrington Highway near Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. 	December 2010
Leeward Bikeway, Phase 1, Waipio Point Access Road to Hawaii Railroad Society Train Station	10-foot wide asphalt concrete bike path	June 2012
Fort Barrette Road Widening, Farrington Hwy to Barbers Point Gate	Widening Fort Barrette Road to a 4-lane divided roadway	June 2015
North South Road	4-lane roadway from Kapolei Parkway to Farrington Highway with H-1 diamond interchange	January 2010



UH West Oahu Groundbreaking

I joined Governor Lingle, Chancellor Gene Awakuni and many other notable West Oahu leaders at the groundbreaking for the new UH West Oahu campus on January 14th. As you may have heard in the news, the project has been delayed a little bit because of difficulties caused by our faltering economy. However, the first phase of the campus is still planned to open by Spring 2011. I'll be working with my colleagues at the Legislature this session in the hopes that we can secure an additional \$48 million in funding for the construction of the new campus & water tank.



Celebrating the DHHL's 1st "Green Subdivision"

I was happy to join Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and Rep. Sharon Har in congratulating Micah Kane, the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and the many families that will now have homes in the Kanehili subdivision in East Kapolei (photo below).

This is DHHL's first "green" subdivision and will save homeowners up to 50% on their electricity bills. When completed, the new subdivision will include 403 homes.



Hosting International Exchange Students

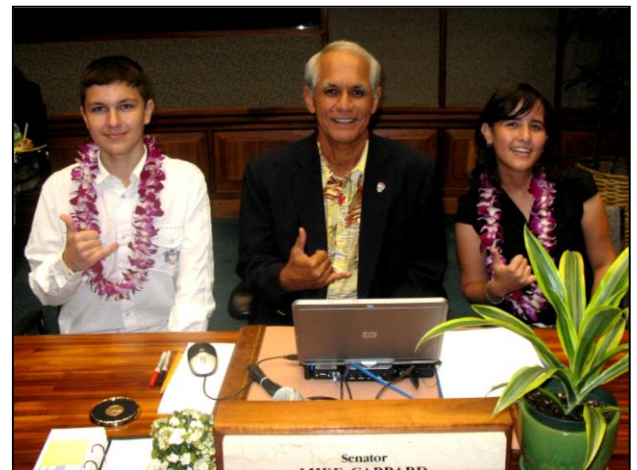
I hosted two international exchange students as interns for a day at the Capitol on January 23rd. Both Nigar Sharfili of Sheki, Azerbaijan and Nikita Yakovenko of Astrakhan, Russia are participants in the Hawaii Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program and are currently attending Kapolei High School for the year.

Each year 58,000 high school students from the 12 Eurasian countries of the former Soviet Union apply for only 1,200 scholarships to live and study in the U.S. for one year. The

objectives of the FLEX program are to give students a first-hand understanding of the important elements of a civil society, including the rule of law, volunteerism, community service, and the involvement of citizens in solving societal problems.

The participants acquire the values and skills that will enable them to serve as agents of change in their home countries. They also have an important opportunity to interact with American families and develop an appreciation of our culture while sharing their own with us. Nigar's host mom happens to be Kapolei High teacher Judy Kaupp and Nikita is staying with Kapolei resident Doug Brown.

I really enjoyed having Nigar and Nikita shadow me for the day at the Capitol. Both of them are outstanding young ambassadors to their countries. A special mahalo to their host families for opening their homes to these deserving students.



2009 Legislative Timetable

February

- 16th Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 20th First Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
- 26th to March 4th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March

- 6th First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber
- 12th First Crossover (Bills)
- 16th Budget Decking
- 18th Budget Crossover
- 18th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 27th Second Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber

April

- 3rd (Senate) & 7th (House): First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
- 9th Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills in non-originating body
- 10th Holiday: Good Friday
- 16th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
- 17th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 24th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 27th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 30th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 7th Adjournment Sine Die



Senator Mike Gabbard got to pop in on Francis Smith's Kenpo-Karate Kung Fu class at Kamokila Park in Honokai Hale on January 10, 2009. Sensei Smith teaches keiki the values of self confidence, discipline, physical fitness and, of course... fun!



Barbers Point Elementary students visited the State Capitol on February 2nd. They learned about the legislative process with Sen. Gabbard, got to ask him questions, and even found out the legal penalties if they decide to quit school early!

Senator Gabbard's Staff is at Your Service!

Photo at left from left: Rock Riggs (Office Manager), Tyrell Ma'ae (Intern, UH West Oahu Student Body VP), Erika Moon (Community Liaison), Kehau Gasper (Legislative Aide), and Carlton Saito (Committee Clerk).

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