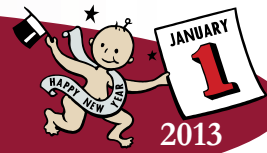


Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you can join me for refreshments at my office (State Capitol, Room 201) at Noon for the Opening Day of the State Legislature on Wednesday, January 16th. Please contact me at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way. Here are some things happening in our community.



COMMITTEE CHAIR

* Energy and Environment

MEMBER

* Judiciary and Labor

* Transportation and International Affairs

* Technology and the Arts

District 20

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

"Listen Story" Meeting

My next meeting will be on Saturday, January 12th at the Ewa Zippy's (91-1717 Fort Weaver Road) at 9am.

Final Farewell to U.S. Senator Dan Inouye



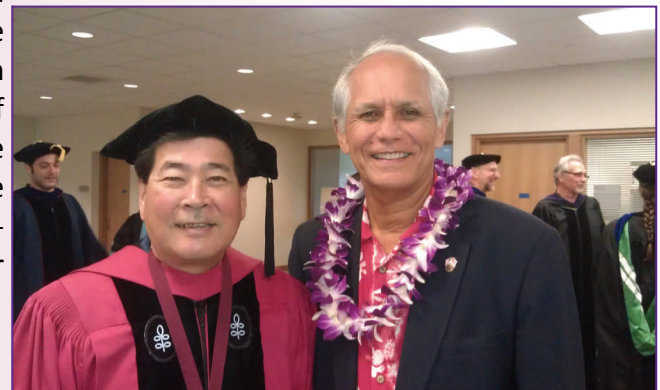
On December 22nd, I joined other government leaders and members of the public at the State Capitol Rotunda for the Lying-In-State ceremony to pay our final respects to U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, an American hero who inspired many across the nation with his integrity and compassion. Senator Inouye also received the rare honor (only the 32nd person in U.S. history) of lying in state at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on December 20th. Senator Inouye passed away on December 17th due to respiratory complications at the age of 88. He was the most senior member of the U.S. Senate and the President Pro-Tempore -- third in line to the presidency. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962 and was serving his ninth consecutive term when he died. Our community is reeling from the loss of our beloved Senator and our prayers and thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

UH West O'ahu Holds First Graduation at New Campus



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII WEST O'AHU

I attended the fall 2012 graduation at UH West O'ahu on December 8th. This was the first graduation held at the new Kapolei campus. In other related UHWO news, the UH Board of Regents approved the sale of 39-acres of land next to the UHWO campus to the Roman Catholic Church for \$32 million on November 28th. The sale of land will allow for the development of a church and private school and will also include infrastructure development in the area. UHWO plans to use the proceeds from the land sale to construct a \$6 million administration building. This is great news for educational opportunities in our community.



Makakilo Resident Achieves Eagle Scout Honor

I honored 13-year-old Lefolasalifa "Lifa" Alapati Taputu of Makakilo with a certificate from the State Senate at his Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at the LDS Chapel in Kapolei on November 28th. Lifa was recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and for also being a candidate for the Boy Scouts of America Heroism Medal with Crossed Palms for rescuing his brother Lafotasilaumati. Grandson of Samuelu Taputu and Sa Taputu of Tula/Masausi and BBC Valovalo Aoelua and Lusila Aoelua of Afono/Aua and the oldest child of Faamati and Barbara Taputu, Lifa has been raised well to be a loving and contributing member of his community. If Lefolasalifa's first 13 years are anything like the next 13 years, he will undoubtedly be an amazing teenager and young adult who will accomplish great things.

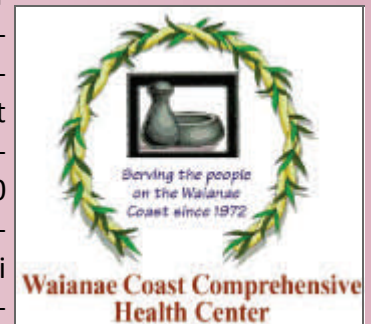


Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary

I joined with Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Senator Susie Chun Oakland, and Rep. Jo Jordan in sponsoring an honorary certificate from the State Legislature to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center on November 30th.

After a humble start in 1972, with one doctor and 5 employees, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center was developed by community members who had a vision for comprehensive health services for the iso-

lated Waianae Coast. Their founding vision continues to guide the Health Center today. Over the past 40 years the Health Center has never wavered from its commitment to serve not only their patients, but to improve the health and wellness of the community. Today, the Health Center proudly employs over 500 employees and serves 29,000 patients annually through its main center in Wai'anae and four satellite clinics in surrounding areas, including Kapolei and Waipahu. Mahalo to President/CEO Rich Bettini and his team for their hardwork and dedication to the health and well-being of the people of the Wai'anae Coast.



World Largest Human Peace Sign at Kapiolani Park

I recently met with Eric Butler and learned about his goal of breaking the world record for the largest human peace sign. He's hoping to get over 6,000 people to join together for this effort at end of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Kapiolani Park on January 21st at 10am. His goal is to use this effort as a way to publicize in work in helping to "end poverty and illiteracy to attain world peace." If you'd like to get more information about the event, please contact Eric at 284-3577.

Rail Gets Federal Funding Commitment

The U.S. Department of Transportation signed the full-funding agreement for the Honolulu Rapid Transit project during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. on December 19th. This guarantees that Honolulu will receive \$1.55 billion in federal dollars to help bring the \$5 billion rail project to fruition. No matter how you stand on rail, it's a big win that we'll see this investment in our state. The 20-mile rail line will go from East Kapolei to Ala Moana and is scheduled to be completed by 2019. Presently, construction of the project is on hold until the City can complete a full archeological study, which was ordered by the courts. My district will host 5 of the rail stops: 3 in Kapolei (Kroc Center, UH West O'ahu, and Ho'opili) and 2 in Waipahu (West Loch and Waipahu Transit Center). Congratulations to Mayor Carlisle and our congressional delegation, especially the late Senator Inouye, for seeing this through.



Best Buy Stepping Up Big for Recycling

I had the opportunity to tour the in-store electronics recycling facilities at Best Buy's Iwilei store on November 14th. Iwilei store manager Sean Oliver and Aiea store manager Dean Willis were nice enough to show me around. Both Best Buy's O'ahu stores allow customers to bring in three electronic items per day for recycling. These items include TVs up to 32-inches in size, cameras, camcorders, computers, mobile phones, and video games. When a customer buys a TV or other appliance for home delivery, Best Buy will also haul away the old TV or appliance with no size limit. As a manufacturer of electronics, Best Buy has a 50% recovery rate in Hawai'i.

In 2011, Best Buy collected 230,000 pounds of electronic waste for recycling. The electronic devices are placed on pallets and shrink-wrapped for shipment to California in containers. Given that this is a voluntary program, my hat's off to the folks at Best Buy for going above and beyond the call of duty to do the right thing for our environment.



St. Francis Intergenerational Center Opening in Early 2013

The St. Francis Intergenerational Center in Ewa Villages will be completed by the end of January 2013. The Center will provide preschool and adult daycare services and be run by the St. Francis Healthcare Systems of Hawai'i. It will be located on 1.25 acres of land across from Franciscan Vistas Ewa on O'ohao Street. Construction on the facility started in March 2011 and will have a price tag of \$8 million. The preschool will have the capacity of 92 students and the adult daycare can service up to 42 seniors. For more information, please contact St. Francis at 547-6883.

Making School Lunches Healthier for Our Keiki

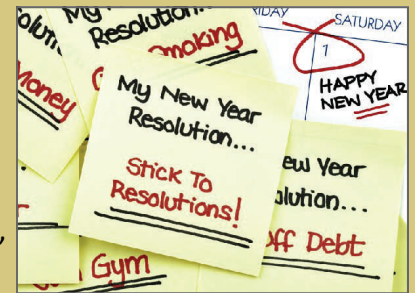
I presented John Cadman (Food Service Director for Kamehameha Schools, Maui Campus) an honorary certificate from the State Senate for promoting healthy vegetarian meal options in our schools. The presentation was at the Vegetarian Society of Hawai'i's monthly meeting at the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse on December 11th. Working as a food service manager in our public schools for 15 years, John has been stepping forward to let the public know that the National School Lunch Program, which mass feeds 30 million school children a day in this country, is in desperate need of reform. With subsidies and handouts of surplus commodities plus other foods from government sources, this is the most popular, yet flawed social welfare program in our nation's history. I'm working with him and the Vegetarian Society to encourage our state to offer students vegetarian lunch options in our public schools.



Tips for Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions

Here are 6 good tips I saw online at Forbes Magazine's website that I thought might help you keep your New Year's resolutions in 2013.

1. **Get Specific** - a common mistake people make is setting big, nebulous goals like, "I'll be healthier." Instead, make your resolution specific, with a tangible, achievable outcome.
2. **Write it Down** - write down your goals and outline the small, manageable steps you'll need to take in order to achieve them.
3. **Make Time** - be sure to set aside ample time for yourself to achieve your goals.
4. **Move Past Doubt** - keep tabs on how often you "unset" your goals with your thoughts. Pay attention to self-sabotaging mind chatter, like: "I'm not good enough" or "I can't do it."
5. **Get a Partner** - having a group, partner, friend, or professional to encourage you can be a great way to keep you going.
6. **Be Still** - you're more likely to slip on your goals when you're stressed or overwhelmed, so spend time every day getting out of your thoughts and reconnecting with yourself. Try a breathing exercise, meditation, yoga, or just going out for a walk.



Elected officials took in the festivities at the 12th Annual Kapolei City Lights Electric Light Parade on December 8th at Kapolei Hale. Pictured (L to R) Brian Ryglowski (husband of Councilmember-elect Pine), Councilmember-elect Kym Pine, Judy Carlisle (wife of Mayor Carlisle), Mayor Peter Carlisle, Councilman Nestor Garcia and his wife Karen, and Senator Gabbard.



Senator Gabbard was paid a visit by his friend, Louis Moscovitz, at the State Capitol on November 14th. Louis is a police officer with the Chicago Police Department.