



Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard



2014

*Aloha e friends,*

The 2014 Legislative Session came to a close on May 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the big news items was that we passed legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2018. We also included \$40 million in funding to preserve 665 acres of land at Turtle Bay on the North Shore. I was especially pleased that we were also able to include \$5 million in the budget for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, which will be dedicated to the detection, prevention, control, outreach, and research of invasive species. As you know, little fire ants have been a big concern since news broke earlier this year that these vicious little creatures were found in Waimanalo. Here are some other things from the session I'd like to share with you. Please let me know if I can ever help you or your family in any way.

I can be reached at 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov).



### COMMITTEE CHAIR

\* Energy and Environment

### MEMBER

\* Judiciary and Labor

\* Transportation and International Affairs

\* Education

### District 20

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

### **Listen-Story Meeting**

My next "Listen Story" meeting, a legislative session wrap-up, will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) at 9am on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. If you can't make it, send me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.



### **District 20 Does Well in Construction Funding**

It's great news that the Fiscal Years 2013 – 2015 State Budget included \$178,722,000 in construction projects for District 20 schools, UH West O'ahu, roads, non-profits, and other infrastructure. Here's a rundown of those projects.

#### **Transportation**

- Kualaka'i Parkway Extension – Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt Ave. - \$15,001,000
- H-1 Westbound PM Contraflow Lane - \$55M
- H-1, Modification of Makakilo to Palailai Interchange - \$5.7M
- Kunia Road - Third Lane over Farrington Highway to H-1 - \$3M
- H-1 Kunia Interchange Improvements - \$780,000
- Oahu Bikeways – Waipio Point Access Road to Lualualei Naval Road - \$11,932,000

#### **UH West O'ahu**

- University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Science Technology, and Creative Media Facility-\$2M
- University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Allied Health Building-\$28.8M
- University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Road B-UHWO to Kualaka'i Parkway-\$3.5M

#### **Schools**

- East Kapolei High School-\$5M
- East Kapolei Middle School-\$3M
- Mauka Lani Elementary School - Electrical Upgrades - \$700,000

#### **Grants-in-Aid to Non-Profits**

- Kapolei Community Development Corp. Grant in Aid (Heritage Center - \$1.15M
- Seagull Schools Childcare Center Grant in Aid (Kapolei Elementary School) - \$1.2M

#### **Kalaeloa Infrastructure**

- Kalaeloa Enterprise Energy Corridor - \$7M
- Youth Challenge Academy-Building 32 Repair and Improvements (Kalaeloa) - \$340,000
- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor New Fuel Pier - \$3M
- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor Turning Basin and Entrance Channel - \$400,000
- Army Aviation Support Facility - \$31,219,000

## Honoring Wayland Baptist University Graduates

I prepared certificates from the State Senate for eight outstanding graduates of Wayland Baptist University (WBU) Hawai'i Campus, which is headquartered in Mililani. The graduation took place at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here are the names of the students:

◇ Jiemily Pelekai	Summa Cum Laude
◇ Betty Akau	Magna Cum Laude
◇ Allen Henderson	Magna Cum Laude
◇ Brandi Phavorahith	Magna Cum Laude
◇ Rebecca Zaccheo	Magna Cum Laude
◇ Allyson Argyris	Cum Laude
◇ Juan Arroyo Velez	With Honors
◇ Devin Franzen	With Honors

WBU exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused, and Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning, and service to God and humankind. It has served the people of the United States since 1908 and has been in Hawai'i for the past 35 years. WBU's Hawai'i program meets the needs of military students by providing resources and services at most of the military installations on the island. But they also offer classes and degrees for any students wishing to continue their education. WBU Hawai'i has an outstanding faculty who don't just know their students by name, but understand where they've come from and where they want to go. Congratulations to these honorees and all the graduates of WBU.



### Jessica Wooley Confirmed as Director of Office of Environmental Quality Control

I'm very pleased to announce that the State Senate confirmed Jessica Wooley to be the next director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) on April 29<sup>th</sup>. OEQC has the responsibility of helping to stimulate, expand and coordinate efforts to maintain the optimum quality of the state's environment. There was considerable interest in her nomination since she was a sitting legislator and Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture at the time of her nomination and her confirmation. When the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, which I chair, heard her nomination (GM 585) on April 10<sup>th</sup>, all of the testimony that we received was in support. Jessica Wooley has earned a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley and worked for three years as a Deputy Attorney General representing the Hawai'i Department of Health's Clean Water, Drinking Water, and Wastewater Branches. She has served in the state House of Representatives since 2008, including as chairperson of the House Committee on Culture and the Arts from 2010 to 2012 and chairperson of the House Agriculture Committee since 2012. Jessica Wooley is well qualified to be director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, and I believe that she will do a great job. I wish her much success in this new role.



## West O'ahu 2014 Pet Walk

The West O'ahu 2014 Pet Walk will take place at the Ewa Mahiko District Park on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am. It will be a one or two mile walk for people with their pets of all species, breeds, ages, and abilities. This is a fundraiser for Poi Dogs and Popoki and the Big Fix, a mobile spray/neuter clinic. The registration fee is \$50 and the deadline to register is May 27<sup>th</sup>. All participants will receive a free t-shirt and a pet goody bag. Some of the activities will be a DR Horton Pet Trick Contest, Gentry Pet Look-Alike Contest, Haseko Pet Photo Contest, Animal House "Ask a Vet", pet products and services, microchip identification, animal welfare information, and dog wash & pool play. You can get more information and also registers at [www.poidogsandpopoki.org](http://www.poidogsandpopoki.org).

## My Legislation

Four bills that I authored made it through to the end of the legislative process. SB 2175 was already signed into law. The other bills are in the Governor's hands. He has until June 23<sup>rd</sup> to decide whether he'll sign them, allow them to become law without his signature, or veto them. Here are short descriptions of those bills.

- ◆ **SB 2175** (Act 56) - authorizes the Dean of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish a two year hemp remediation and biofuel research project. This starts us on the path of growing our own hemp, an incredible crop that is used in over 27,000 products. (I highly recommend a short documentary called *Bringing it Home*, if you're interested in finding out more about the potential of this amazing plant.)



Senator Gabbard donned his hemp aloha shirt and joined fellow legislators at Governor Neil Abercrombie's Bill Signing Ceremony for SB 2175 on April 30th. The new law will initiate a two-year research study of industrial hemp. Pictured from (L to R) Rep. Chris Lee, Rep. Richard Creagan, Rep. Angus McKelvey, Rep. Jessica Wooley, Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Beth Fukumoto, Rep. Aaron Johanson, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Governor Abercrombie, Senator Russell Ruderman, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Gabbard, Rep. Richard Onishi, Senator Sam Slom, and Senator Laura Thielen.

- ◆ **SB 2196** – would extend the barrel tax to 2030, which was scheduled to end in 2015. Some of these funds are dedicated to energy and food security. The bill would also reinstate the Energy Systems Develop Special Fund, which assists the UH based Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute secure federal funding for their important research.
- ◆ **SB 2657** – would set procedures for the continuation of roof guarantees and warranties when solar PV panels are installed on the roof of a home. There have been disagreements in some situations in the past and this will make things work more smoothly.
- ◆ **SB 2658** - would allow solar projects to be located on parcels of Class B & C lands greater than 20 acres as long as a special use permit is obtained through the Land Use Commission. A provision in the bill requires the solar developers to lease additional lands to farmers at 50% lower than the market rate to make it easier for agriculture to thrive.

## Hawai'i Furniture Bank Helps Family in Needs

As we all know, the cost of living in our paradise is very expensive. And for many families struggling to make ends meet, the thought of replacing that saggy bed or torn couch may seem beyond financial reach. But it doesn't have to be. Hawai'i Furniture Bank (HFB) is a non-profit organization committed to helping families and individuals get the furniture they need to live safely and securely. HFB provides essential home furnishings free or at very low cost to individuals and families in need. They get the home furnishings from hotels from around the state and currently have warehousing and storage space in Kalaeloa. By providing beds for reading & sleeping, tables for sharing meals, and couches for relaxing, the Hawai'i Furniture Bank helps families turn their houses into homes. If you need help or want to volunteer at HFB, please call Aunty Gladys at 808-388-5538.



Senator Gabbard made a presentation to the students of Eisenhower School for National Security & Resources Strategy on energy and environment issues at the State Capitol on April 11th. Pictured (L to R) Carlton Saito (Senator Gabbard's Committee Clerk), Leif Grotos (Department of Defense), Dr. Jean Mahan (Mil. Strategy & Logistics Department), Daniel Froats (Department of State), CDR Mark Knollmueller (U.S. Navy), COL. Karolyn Hooper (U.S. Army), COL. James Jennings (U.S. Army), Lt. Col Patrick Hittle (U.S. Marine Corps), Sara Eddy (Department of Defense), Senator Gabbard, COL. Daniel Townsend (Army National Guard), COL Ayman Rady (Egyptian Army), Lt. Col Chris Forsythe (U.S. Army), COL Marcus Vinicius Fontoura de Melo (Brazilian Army), Dr. Greg Foster (National Security Studies Department), Byron Hartle (National Security Studies Department), Lt. Col Charles Schoening (Army National Guard), Lt. Col Dwayne Robinson (U.S. Air Force), and Joel Maybury (Department of State).

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kapolei II Elementary School took place on April 2nd. Participating in the event were Don Horner (Board of Education Chairman); Raymond L'Heureux (Board of Education Assistant Superintendent); Lauren Dunn (Kapolei II Elementary Principal); Rep. Ty Cullen; Senator Gabbard; Rep. Sharon Har; Governor Neil Abercrombie; Heidi Armstrong (Board of Education Area Superintendent); Councilwoman Kym Pine; Sharon Thom (Kiewit Senior Vice President); Aika Fujimoto (Kiewit Project Manager); Bob Bruhl (D.R. Horton Hawai'i President); and Damon Gray (Kiewit Project Manager).



Senator Gabbard performed with the "Da Kolohe Bruddahs" at the Capitol Idol II fundraising event for the Hawai'i Foodbank at the State Capitol on April 14th. Pictured (L to R) Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Senator Russell Ruderman, and Senator Gabbard.



Senator Gabbard offered remarks at Blue Planet Foundation's Clean Energy Rally on Earth Day at the State Capitol on April 22nd.

Senator Gabbard addressed an almost-full Capitol Auditorium on April 8 at the public screening of *In Transition 2.0* sponsored by Transition O'ahu. The inspirational film featured innovative community-led projects worldwide that re-localize food, energy and economy, while building community. The panel discussion afterwards discussed related local initiatives. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Li)