



*Aloha e Friends,*

The 2019 legislative session is off to a running start! Mahalo to everyone who stopped by my office on January 16<sup>th</sup>, Opening Day, to meet and talk story, and enjoy vegan pupus and homemade toffee. Be sure to check out my [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#) album to see pictures from Opening Day. As always, please contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [sen-gabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sen-gabbard@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 at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

#### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

#### DISTRICT 20

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

## Key Legislation

My top two priorities for 2019 as AEN Chair are to increase local food production and decrease our use of single-use plastics.

### Local Food Production

The Governor has a goal to double local food production by 2020. I wish we could say that the proposed budget had an increase in funding for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), but that didn't happen. The HDOA budget is still at 0.3%. I was encouraged that the Governor is proposing \$7.5 million

### 2019 SESSION STAFF



**Meg Turner, Office Manager; Shelly Wilkinson, Leg. Assist.; Sautia Tanoa, UH Manoa Intern; Thomas Rounds, Committee Asst., and Rock Riggs, Committee Clerk.**

in FY 20 and \$5 million in FY 21 for the Agriculture Loan Revolving Fund. I continue to agree with HDOA that their most important program is the "Ag Loan Revolving



**Sen. Gabbard was interviewed by Waipahu Intermediate student, Rachel Ross, during the Opening Day festivities January 16, about his Legislative Priorities for the 2019 Session. Assisting was 'Ōlelo staffer, Justin Kuwamura and Waipahu Intermediate student, Ashley Wegesend.**

Fund" because it helps farmers get up and running and assists them in times of natural disasters.

### Food Security Metrics System (SB 488)

This bill directs the HDOA to conduct a study to accurately determine how much food is produced locally and how much is imported. The study would analyze dollar value in

terms of total sales and weight of locally-produced food. HDOA would need to submit a report to the Leg. before the 2021 session. The bill would appropriate \$400,000 in FY 19-20 to HDOA to study and consult with a firm specializing in local food production metrics.

### Hemp Program Revamp (SB 1353)

Act 228 (2016) established an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program to allow the cultivation of industrial hemp and distribution of its seed in Hawai'i. On December 20, 2018, two years later.... drum roll please - the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law, which included removal of industrial hemp from the Schedule 1 Controlled Substance list, thus legalizing it and paving the way for a successful hemp industry in Hawai'i. SB 1353 would make updates to our pilot project to align with the changes made in the Farm Bill and pave the way for a full commercial hemp program. This will help get our hemp industry off the ground.

## LISTEN STORY

March 23, 2019

EWA DISTRICT PARK

91-1205 Renton Rd.

Ewa Beach

9-10AM



# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## Single-use Plastic Reduction

Plastic pollution is greatly impacting our oceans, marine life, and environment in general. (See the CBS special on 60 minutes: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-great-pacific-garbage-patch-cleaning-up-the-plastic-in-the-ocean-60-minutes/> and check out their recent report on plastic pollution around the world.) To bring attention to this problem, Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship sailed to Hawai'i on October 11, 2018, after visiting the Great Pacific Garbage Patch - the largest accumulation of ocean plastic in the world, located between Hawai'i and California. Greenpeace reported that microplastic particles, which are not easy to clean up, make up the majority of the Garbage Patch, which now stretches for a distance twice the length of Texas.

Arctic Sunrise returned to Honolulu from Kaho'olawe on October 24, 2018, with an estimated 2.5 tons of debris! Coca-Cola and Nestle topped the list of brands found on beverage containers, bottle caps, toothbrushes, soap and shampoo bottles, and household cleaning product packaging. Unilever, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, Colgate- Palmolive and Johnson & Johnson were also found among the marine debris at Kaho'olawe. The crew also found a significant amount of discarded commercial fishing gear, including crates, buoys, fish traps and nets.

## Zero Waste (SB 522)

Most of the world's plastic waste is generated in Asia, but America, Japan, and the EU are the world's largest producers



**Greenpeace Arctic Sunrise returned to Honolulu from Kaho'olawe on October 24, 2018, after collecting an estimated 2.5 tons of debris!**



**Sen. Gabbard was invited aboard the Greenpeace Arctic Sunrise Ship at Brewers pier 12 Honolulu on October 29, 2018, to discuss plastic pollution with Greenpeace and other local leaders.**

of plastic packaging waste per capita. The world's ability to cope with plastic waste is already overwhelmed as seen by the closing of recycling markets in China and Thailand. Even when recycling markets were open, only 9% of the 9 billion tons of plastic produced has been recycled. If the growth in plastic production continues at its current rate, the plastics industry will likely account for 20% of the world's total oil consumption by 2050.

Globally, 95% of plastic packaging is discarded after a single use, at a cost of \$80 to \$120 billion. Zero waste plastic reduction plans are moving forward all over the world, including within the EU, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, and municipalities across the US. In January 2019, San Diego passed legislation to phase out polystyrene foam and other single use plastics. The Hawai'i State Department of Health has already produced a trash management plan that shows that polystyrene foams and plastic bags are the top two contributors to the waste stream and must be removed from storm drains on a regular basis, at a cost to the department.

This bill would prohibit any state or county agency to purchase, use, sell, or distribute single-use plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, or straws after July 1, 2021; and ban restaurants, hotels, standard bars, or any other business where food or beverages are sold to use, sell, or distribute single-use plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, or straws after July 1, 2022.

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## GET INVOLVED!

I encourage each of you to participate in the political process. You can track bills, get signed up to receive hearing notices, and submit testimony at the Capitol website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

## HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY ONLINE

1. If you have not done so already, [register with the Hawaii Legislature website](#). This will allow you to submit testimony and to receive hearing notifications by e-mail
2. Visit <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> and enter the Bill # into the "Bill Status/ Measure Status" box, then click "GO".
3. Click "Submit Testimony" to enter your details, *mark whether or not you support or oppose this bill*, and add your testimony/reasons why.

### *(Zero Waste, Continued p. 2.... )*

It would also prohibit any individual or business from distributing, selling, or otherwise providing any form of plastic bag after July 1, 2023; and prohibit any individual or business to distribute, sell, or otherwise provide any form of single-use plastic beverage containers after July 1, 2025. The bill would establish a plastic source reduction working group that would need to submit a report, including recommendations for pilot projects for Hawai'i businesses to phase out single-use plastic packaging, promote reuse, and find sustainable alternative for packaging, before the 2021 session. The working group would cease to exist on June 30, 2022. The bill would appropriate \$25,000 in FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 to HDOH for the expenses of the working group. Effective date would be July 1, 2019.

On January 28, Senator Gabbard was visited by a team of students from Duksung Women's University in Seoul, Korea, who won their school competition when they proposed to interview him on his first-in-the-world law to ban the toxic chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate, in sunscreen (SB 2571, Act 104). Pictured L-R: Rina, Hanna, Sen. Gabbard, Gian, and Seohui.

## 2019 Legislative Timetable

### February

- 7<sup>th</sup> Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 15<sup>th</sup> First Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
- 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Mandatory 5-Day Recess

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> First Decking: Last day to file bills for Third Reading in originating chamber
- 7<sup>th</sup> First Crossover (Bills)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 11<sup>th</sup> Budget Decking
- 13<sup>th</sup> Budget Crossover
- 14<sup>th</sup> Second Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Second Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber
- 28<sup>th</sup> First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

### April

- 4<sup>th</sup> First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 5<sup>th</sup> Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
- 11<sup>th</sup> Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
- 15<sup>th</sup> Second Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Second Crossover Concurrent Resolutions
- 25<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 26<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)



# DISTRICT NEWS

## Academy for Creative Media

UH West O'ahu held a groundbreaking for the Academy for Creative Media building on January 11th. The \$33.3 million, two-story building is scheduled for completion in June 2020 and will be the seventh structure built on the Kapolei campus. UH West O'ahu moved to its current home in 2012 and for the past two years has been named the fastest-growing public baccalaureate institution in the nation.



Senator Gabbard read aloud to young keiki at the Keiki O ka Aina Early Childhood Education event at the Hawai'i Capitol Rotunda on January 24.

## Got Junk Vehicle?

Want to get rid of that old vehicle you no longer use? You can request the city haul it away for free by filling out the appropriate form at Satellite City Halls, or online at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/csd/onlineforms/cslmvr202.pdf>. Bring your plates, registration, and title to any Satellite City Hall. Remove any debris or rubbish from the vehicle, and make it so that it's easily accessible for the tow to remove it. The vehicle must also have at least two inflated tires, either in the front or the rear, depending on which end is accessible to the tow truck. The vehicle may be parked at the owner's home or it can be legally parked on a public street or public property.



On January 25, during the Secondary Student Conference at the Capitol, Sen. Gabbard discussed his session priorities with Kapolei High School students: L-R: Megan Chew, Queenie Abarcar, Trisha Anne Dayrit, and Student Activities Coordinator, Mr. Daryl Madela.



The Senator's 'Ohana and Staff on Opening Day, January 16. (Pictured L-R: Rock Riggs, Chief of Staff; Leon Siu; Bill Davis (brother-in-law); Kimi and Bhakti Gabbard; Lila and Jai Gabbard; Nancy Cardinet and Kelly (sisters-in-law); Sen. and Carol Gabbard; Shelly Wilkinson, Leg. Asst.; Thomas Rounds, Asst. Comm. Clerk; and Sautia Tanoa, UH Manoa Session Intern.)



STAFF MEETING



Sen. Gabbard, official toffee taster, made his infamous toffee on January 15 (his birthday!) for Opening Day guests at the Capitol.



OFFICIAL TOFFEE TASTER