



*Aloha e Friends,*

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. It's been a busy session with 3,142 bills being introduced: 1,545 by the Senate and 1,597 by the House. That's 800+ more than last year. *First Crossover* is March 7 when the bills that pass Third Reading in the Senate will then be heard by their respective committees on the House side, and House bills that pass Third Reading will be heard by the Senate.

I encourage you to visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) to track the bills you're interested in and weigh-in when you can, either by submitting written testimony or by showing up in person to testify. As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@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 [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](http://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

## **LISTEN STORY**

**March 23, 2019**

**EWA DISTRICT PARK**

**91-1205 Renton Rd.**

**Ewa Beach**

**9-10AM**

### Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Awards

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) aims to implement statewide invasive species prevention, early detection and control programs for terrestrial and aquatic invaders. The efforts of HISC partners are crucial in controlling invasives, the greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people. But they aren't doing it alone! I was honored to present the O'ahu MVP 2019 award

February 15 in the Governor's office to Pauline Sato and the Mālama Learning Center and the Business Leader 2019 award to Kamehameha Schools. Pauline was recognized by HISC for her efforts to raise awareness about the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) through the Mālama Learning Center (MLC), where she is the Executive Director. The MLC is working closely with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to heighten awareness about this horned beetle throughout West O'ahu communities, and lead residents to take action to reduce habitats for these invasive pests. MLC's specific outreach in the West O'ahu communities and schools has been instrumental in educating residents, students, and businesses within the infested area. MLC is raising awareness about CRB impacts, how to report the damage, and how to prevent these critters from spreading.

The Business Leader Award recognizes an individual in the private sector or a business that has demonstrated leadership in their role of protecting Hawai'i from invasive species. HISC recognized Kamehameha Schools for their collaborative efforts to eradicate CRBs from Hawai'i. (continued p. 4.)



Sen. Gabbard awarded Pauline Sato and Mālama Learning Center "O'ahu MVP" on Feb. 15 for their excellent outreach & education programming about the invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, during the Governor's Proclamation and Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Award Ceremony in Honor of Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month 2019 .



# LEGISLATIVE NEWS



Sen. Gabbard chaired the Agriculture and Environment Committee Hearing on Feb. 13 and passed out the Carbon Pricing Bill (SB1463), with Senators Brian Taniguchi, Laura Thielen, Jarrett Keohakole, Russell Ruderman, and Karl Rhoades.

## Talk Story with Sustainable Leaders

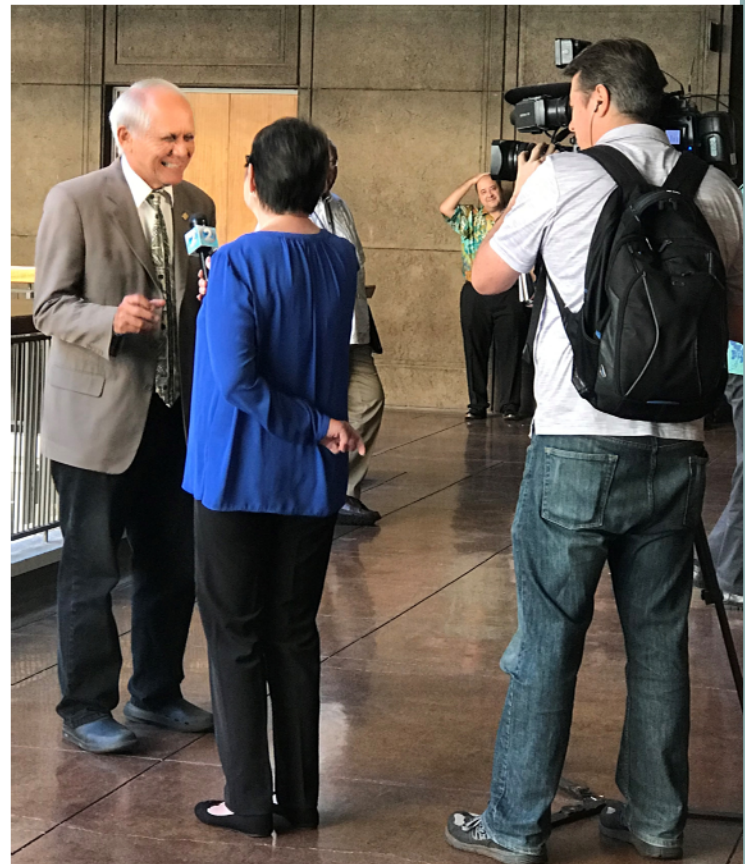
On February 23, I attended *“Talk Story with Sustainable Leaders”* at the Luka Pila Estate in Mililani, featuring Kumu Ramsay Taum, Cultural Sustainable Planner and Matt Lynch, UH System Sustainability Coordinator. Some of the topics included cultural sustainability, current obstacles we’re facing, and what we can do to live a more sustainable lifestyle. It was an awesome gathering of government, business, and community—all coming together to support the future of Hawai’i nei. The event took place on a 128-acre Mililani agricultural estate and brought together members of various sustainability sectors. Mahalo to [SmartLiving Hawai’i](#) for organizing and putting on the event.

## Citizen's Guide to Understanding the Legislature: ‘Defective Dates’

I’ve been getting a few emails asking about defective dates on bills. It’s not unusual for a bill to have its effective date (the date it becomes law) changed to a date far in the future in order to facilitate further discussion. A so-called “defective date” (or “defective effective date”) would not render the measure invalid if enacted, though it would prevent the measure from taking effect in the near future and may make parts of it subject to change. When a committee designates a bill date defective, they don’t expect the bill to get enacted in its current form. In fact, the committee report often explains that the reason for the change of the effective date is for “further discussion.”

What does that mean? Say, for example, Senate Bill XXX Senate Draft 2 has crossed over to the House with a ‘defective date’ of July 1, 2050. While the House could pass this bill without any changes, it wouldn’t have any immediate effect. So, if the House wants to pass this bill and have it take effect sooner, they would have to change the effective date. Here’s how that stimulates discussion: If the bill that passes third read-

ing in the House differs from the bill that passed third reading in the Senate (SD2 in this case), the Senate may disagree with the House’s changes and the bill would go to a Conference Committee near the end of session. In Conference Committee, not only the effective date, but other elements of the various drafts can be discussed and negotiated.



Sen. Gabbard was interviewed Feb. 15 by Erica Engle of the Star Advertiser on his bill to reduce plastics (SB522).

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS



On Ag Day 2019, Feb. 6, Senator Gabbard worked with 'Ōlelo Community Media to interview the folks at numerous participating booths and showcase their support for agricultural in Hawai'i. He's pictured here with Dr. Chrissy Morgan of CTAHR (College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources) at UH-Manoa as she shares the importance of Hawai'i's Honey Bees.

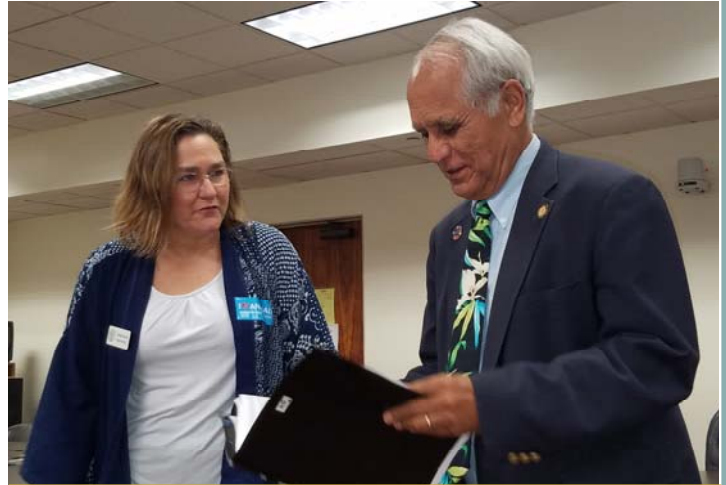
## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ag Day at the Capitol

On February 6, I participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual "Agricultural Day at the Capitol." There were dozens of agriculture, environment and eco-friendly groups and organizations providing information to the public, hosting interactive activities, serving food, and giving out souvenirs. Mahalo to all the Chairs and Vice Chairs, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for hosting the event. Special kudos to Lindsey Allred, a volunteer with 'Ōlelo Community Media, for shadowing me while I visited and talked story with representatives at the various booths and getting it all on video! We'll share the finished version on my YouTube channel, so stay tuned. 😊

## Legislative Priorities

My priorities for this legislative session continue to be to increase local agriculture and to reduce single-use plastics. I'm hopeful that Senate Bill 522, a measure I introduced to decrease the use of plastics, will make it to the finish line. This bill prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and plastic straws by state

and county agencies after July 1, 2021, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022. It also bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023 and creates the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging, and appropriates funds.



Sen. Gabbard spoke at the Hawaiian Humane Society Lobby Day on Feb. 4, where he is often recognized for his humane legislation in support of our non-human friends. (Pictured with Steph Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate for HHS.)

## Calling all Junior High School Girls!

The 74-year-old program, ALA HAWAII Girls State (ALAHGS), is currently seeking females that are juniors in high school to apply for the limited spots for this extremely prestigious youth leadership program. Hawai'i will accept about twenty girls in 2019. ALAHGS encourages ALL juniors in high school (that are female) to apply, as they are seeking strengths in a variety of areas. The DEADLINE TO APPLY is March 31, 2019.



Sen. Gabbard with SEEQS (The School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability) student, Sanoe Forsgren in the Capitol Rotunda on Feb. 25, after the students visited his office to support his bill to reduce plastic (SB522).

For more information, [www.hawaiigirlsstate.org/](http://www.hawaiigirlsstate.org/)

# HONORARY CERTIFICATE



Sen. Gabbard honored RiceUp Farmers, Inc. on the Senate Chamber floor on Feb. 19.

## RiceUp Farmers, Inc.

Dreams can be made with only a handful of pesos. Just ask Elvin Laceda, who as a young farm boy in 2016, left the Philippines with a meager \$47.81 that his grandmother gave him, and traveled to the U.S. He came to Hawai'i to study at BYU Laie with the aid of a scholarship grant, and in 2017, RiceUp Farmers, Inc. was born. Its vision is to improve the livelihood of Filipino Farmers through innovative agriculture. They accomplish this by empowering farmers through training, helping them embrace innovative technology, and enriching their lives through integrated family farm practices. From the initial 50 farmers who joined the RiceUp network, there are now more than 300 farmers benefitting from the program. By the end of this year,

there will be 2,800 farmers that will be part of the social enterprise.

On February 19, I recognized the founding members of RiceUp Farmers, Inc. on the Senate Chamber floor and presented them with an Honorary Certificate. Starting with a small team in Hawai'i, RiceUp now has more than 40 students who are part of the movement, with more than 30 local and international partners. One farmer, Mr. David, who has been farming for more than 40 years said of the RiceUp program, "No organization has ever produced such excitement within us to change our vision in farming, than RiceUp. Initially, we did not believe these young people would help us improve our livelihood. We have been in the industry for decades even before these kids were born. But as we discovered their sincerity and commitment, we feel this is unique. This is more than a business. We are a community, a family."

*(continued from p. 1)* To address issues of infestations of CRB in the Waiawa Kai area of O'ahu, Kamehameha Schools has taken a multi-pronged approach to their involvement in the area through: 1) fostering relationships between leasees and the CRB Eradication Project, 2) working with the CRB Eradication Project to identify new methods and means to control infestations on KS properties, and 3) engaging in the development and funding of a comprehensive green waste management plan for mitigation of invasive pests. Mahalo to KS for their dedication to our beautiful paradise and our irreplaceable Hawai'i nei.



Sen. Gabbard enjoyed meeting NJ Assemblywoman (D) Gabriela Mosquera, her husband Mark Bodrog, and their 15-month old daughter, Isabella. Ms. Mosquera has served in the NJ General Assembly since 2012, where she represents the 4th Legislative District, and is the Chair for the Committee on Women and Children.