

*Aloha e Friends,*

First, mahalo to all the folks in Senate District 21 who came out to vote. I'm thrilled for the win and honored to have been given another four years to call you my boss. To all who voted for me to continue serving as your senator at the State Capitol, I'll try my best to help you in any way I can. For those of you who didn't vote for me, or didn't vote at all, I'll be your voice in the State Senate for the next four years, so don't hesitate to contact me for any reason at (808) 586-6830, or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov). I also invite you to follow me on social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#). Best wishes to you and your 'ohana.

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIR**

**AGRICULTURE &  
ENVIRONMENT**

**MEMBER**

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

**DISTRICT 21**

Portion of  
Fernandez Village,  
a portion of Ewa,  
Kapolei, Makakilo,  
and Kalaeloa

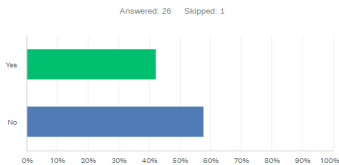
## DISTRICT 20 COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Listen Story Community Meeting

On Saturday, Oct. 22, 9-10am I held my second in-person Listen Story since the shut down in 2020. The meeting was a hybrid, so people attended in-person at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge, and via Zoom. Our Special Guest was **Corporal Roland Pagan**, who provided an update on the current staffing shortage of HPD District #8 and discussed how folks can get engaged in a Neighborhood Watch. We had a meaningful and lively discussion! Following Corporal Pagan's presentation, I gave some quick community updates. [You can view the zoom recording by clicking here.](#)

## Constituent Survey on Crime

Q4 Have you been personally affected by a crime in your neighborhood?



I recently sent out a brief survey to find out how residents in District 21 feel about crime in our communities.

Out of 30 responses: most of the people lived in Makakilo (17); followed by Kapolei (7); 'Ewa, Kalaeloa (2); and Waipahu (1). Of the 30, 83% feel crime has increased over the past year. Almost half (42%) feel this is due to lenient judgments in the court system; 25% feel this is due to a lack of police presence. Only 38% said they've been personally affected by crime; 62% said they hadn't. Theft and break-ins are the biggest concern (77%) followed by drugs (10%) and other (13%): loud racing cars every weekend at night on Makakilo Dr. and H1; catalytic converter theft; and meth.

**Community Survey Question #4 on Sen. Gabbard's community crime survey sent out to constituents in October.**

## Red Hill Fuel Tank Advisory Committee

I've been a member of the Red Hill Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) since 2014. The Committee was formed by the Hawai'i State Legislature in response to a fuel release in January 2014 of approximately **27,000 gallons** of jet fuel at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The backstory is that twenty tanks were built into a mountainside near Pearl Harbor to store fuel during World War II, and the facility sits just 100 ft. above O'ahu's primary drinking water aquifer. The release occurred following routine maintenance and repair work during the course of refilling Red Hill Storage Tank #5. The Navy reported the release to the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), which led to a task force being created to investigate what happened to cause the release and what the Navy intended to do to prevent it from ever happening again. After an arduous process, sparked by public outrage at every step, a long and tumultuous eight-year journey ensued. Sadly, it took disastrous consequences and a catastrophe so nightmarish, the Navy has been forced to concede responsibility and admit the absolute necessity of defueling the tanks. (cont. p4)

# DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES



On Nov. 5, Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate on behalf of the 31st Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to DreamHouse founder and CEO, Alex Teece, and the DreamHouse community, in recognition of their 10-year anniversary. Sen. Gabbard pictured with Alex Teece, founder and CEO, and mini Teece 😊

## DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach 10-Year Anniversary

As a former high school English teacher, headmaster of a small private school, and Community College Dean, it feels like teaching has always been in my blood. So, when I first learned that a new public charter school was opening right down the street from where I live in Kalaeloa, I couldn't help but take notice. On my daily walks, I'd check it out, as it was coming together...seeing the former Barbers Pt. NAS buildings being recycled into new creations has always been a cool thing to watch during the 18 years we've lived in Kalaeloa. And then, in Oct. 2020 I took my first tour of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Charter School.

Founded in 2012 by a group of committed educators, parents, and community leaders, DreamHouse really is a dream come true for the educational community it serves... After seven years of planning, development, setbacks, and wins, DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach, located on Franklin D. Roosevelt Avenue, adjacent to Barbers Point Elementary School and Wakea Garden Apartments, opened its doors to a founding class of 100 6th-grade children in 2019. With a new high school in the works, set to open in 2024, DreamHouse has become a safe, protected place of learning and leading, where students are encouraged to become the very best version of themselves.

It was my distinct honor and pleasure to present an Honorary Certificate on behalf of the 31st Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to DreamHouse founder and CEO, Alex Teece, and the DreamHouse community, in recognition of their 10-year anniversary. Over 300 people turned out to celebrate at the Hoakalei Country Club in Ewa Beach, on November 5. Mahalo to all involved for creating an educational environment that emphasizes respect, responsibility, and servant leadership. Our world desperately needs young people committed to continuously reflecting and improving to be their best, in service to their communities. We wish DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach many more years of growth and success.

## FDR/Kalaeloa Construction Update

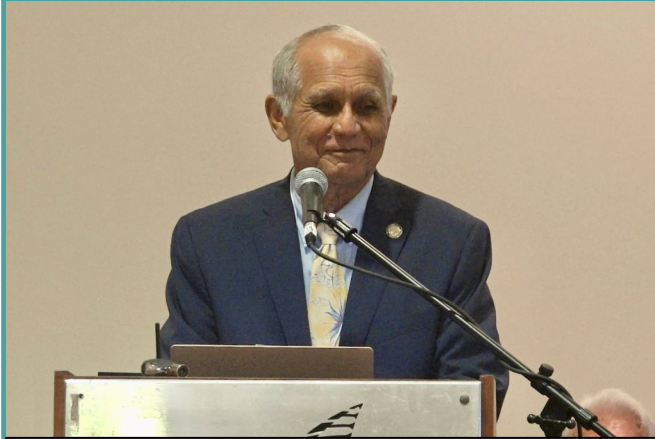
Improvements to Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) Avenue are ongoing. Two new mauka (mountainside) lanes of FDR Ave. will remain closed to ensure the safety of contractors while they continue construction. Two makai (oceanside) lanes are open for public access. Additionally, Hunt contractors have made significant progress on the Kamokila Boulevard extension and Boxer Road relocation. FDR Ave., the Kamokila Blvd. extension, and the new Boxer Road are scheduled to open to the public early next year. Copahoe Avenue will be closed to the public through at least mid-2023. Access to Barbers Point Elementary School remains unchanged via Tulagi Avenue. Hunt representatives continue to work with school administrators to minimize disruption to the campus.



Legend: Closed (Red), Drive with Caution (Yellow), Street Indicator (Blue). The Image Group courtesy of Goodfellow Bros.

## Kalaeloa Construction Update, Nov. 1, 2022, Hunt Construction

# DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES



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## 2022 Stars of Oceania

As a 2009 University of Hawai'i Stars of Oceania recipient, I was honored by the opportunity to speak at the inspiring Stars of Oceania event on Oct 17 at the Hawai'i Convention Center. So many wonderful individuals, organizations, institutions, natural kin, and symbols of life were honored and recognized for their service that is rooted in aloha, mana, and 'ohana. These Stars of Oceania were not all born and raised in Oceania, but their aloha and service are a testimony to their love and aloha for the islands, oceans, and Mother Earth. To watch my speech, click [here](#).

## Capital Improvement Project Funding Released (CIP)

I'm pleased to announce I received a letter from the governor today, informing me that he released \$1.8 million in funding for CIP funds I requested to finance the construction costs to renovate the airport control tower at Kalaeloa Airport. The total estimated project cost is \$2.8 million, and the estimated completion is in June 2023. In addition, \$300K was released for the East Kapolei Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan, to finance the conceptual urban design schemes for DLNR's (Department of Land and Natural Resources) East Kapolei Lands, scheduled to be completed in June 2023. Mahalo, Gov! I heard your last day of work is December 5 at noon. Best wishes to you and your 'ohana in whatever path you choose. You're much too young for retirement! 😊

## The Salvation Army Kroc Center 10-Year Anniversary

I enjoyed some special moments October 29 at The Salvation Army Kroc Center on their 10-year anniversary and presented them with an Honorary Certificate on behalf of the 31st Legislature of the State of Hawai'i. I was there in 2012 for their Grand Opening, so it was nice to be able to congratulate them on 10 years of serving the community. Mahalo to Major Osei Stewart (Corps Officer, Hawai'i Kroc Corps & Community Center, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division) for inviting me, and to Dan Abella, Development Coordinator; David Sayre, President Sayre Public Relations, LLC; and Betsy Kim, Director of Corporate Engagement and Government Relations.

Here's some info about this wonderful community center: The Salvation Army Kroc Center Hawai'i in Kapolei was made possible by a \$110 million combined capital and endowment grant from a bequest to The Salvation Army by the late Mrs. Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Kapolei had to compete with 19 other cities around the country to get our community center built. The 200,000-square-foot facility cost an estimated \$69 million to build. On 15 acres of land in the West O'ahu community, it's the largest community center of its kind in the state. To learn more, please visit [The Salvation Army Kroc Center – Hawai'i](#).



On Oct 29, Sen. Gabbard attended Salvation Army Kroc Center Hawai'i's 10 year anniversary celebration and presented them with an Honorary Certificate from the Legislature. Pictured with (left to right); Rickie Tan, Assistant Center Director for Programs; Rick Ahn, Ministry Director; Major Osei Stewart, Corps Officer, Major Lynn Stewart, Corps Officer.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## ACT 170

The Hawaiian language is Hawai'i's indigenous and first language, as well as the original language of Hawai'i's executive, judicial, and legislative branches. During his reign, King Kamehameha III famously declared, "He aupuni palapala kofifli," or "Mine is the kingdom of education," referring to the high literacy rate in the Kingdom of Hawai'i at the time. In fact, according to the 1910 US Census, 95.3 percent of Native Hawaiians were literate. Unfortunately, due to political, economic, and social forces, the Hawaiian language was gradually excluded from public and civic spaces. Due to the Hawaiian language community's efforts and resilience, the Hawaiian language was maintained and eventually restored for future generations. On June 27 of this year, Gov. Ige signed into law Act 170, requiring that State of Hawai'i websites and letterheads include the departments' name in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. The Governor's office update can now be seen as: Ke'ena = Office, and Kia'āina = Governor. You'll begin seeing changes on state websites and official document letterheads as this policy is implemented.



On Oct. 20, Sen. Gabbard joined a surprise going-away mahalo luncheon for Senator Bennette Misalucha, pictured here: (Left side) Sen. Laura Acasio, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Sen. Stanley Chang, Sen. Bennette Misalucha, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, (Right side) Sen. Dru Kanuha, Sen. Gil Riviere, Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Sen. Joy Buenaventura, Sen. Roz Baker, Sen. Michelle Kidani.

## Red Hill Fuel Tank Advisory Committee

(cont. from P1) This past May, another fuel leak occurred which contaminated the Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system, causing widespread sickness among the military families who used it. Finally, the Pentagon ordered the World War II-era fuel facility to be permanently shut down.

On Oct. 25, the Joint Task Force - Red Hill (JTF-RH) began the "unpacking" of fuel pipelines, emptying all the fuel from the lines connecting the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) with fuel points on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Approximately 1 million gallons of three different grades of fuel were removed. JTF-RH now enters the next phase of defueling: completing repairs, modifications and enhancements to the Red Hill facility before the actual defueling takes place, to reduce any risk during the defueling process. The Navy expects repairs to be completed by the end of 2023 and anticipates the actual defueling to begin in 2024, when they plan to drain 104 million gallons from the tanks in 4 months.

On Nov. 9, the FTAC held its 9th meeting since the 2014 debacle. The main takeaways were 1) There needs to be better community engagement; 2) There should be stronger coordination among the DOH, Navy, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other stakeholders; and 3) It's time for "all hands-on deck" ...it's urgent that we all make this a priority.

[Here's a brief video that describes the next steps](#) from the Navy's perspective. A detailed [Red Hill Tank Closure Plan](#) was submitted to the Hawai'i DOH on Nov. 1. The plan contains 1) an analysis of the alternatives for permanent closure, with each alternative evaluated for engineering feasibility, practical pros and cons, schedule, and cost; and 2) a detailed schedule for cleaning each tank and the Spill Response Plan requirements for the cleaning task. In addition, the Navy will also explore options for non-fuel reuse. Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett said that future uses for Red Hill include storage, producing hydroelectric power, or even turning it into a movie set. In considering how to permanently close the facility, the Navy analyzed: 1) simply closing the facility, 2) closing the facility and using the tanks for a non-fuel purpose, 3) closing the facility and filling the tanks with an inert material, and 4) removing the tanks' steel liners and filling the tanks with an inert material. A third-party analysis of these four alternatives is being written and will be provided to the DOH in Dec. 2022.