

Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard



2013

## Aloha Friends,

Ah yes, it's August, which means school is back in session. As a former high school English teacher, I can almost smell those inquisitive minds hard at work in our public and private schools. Mahalo to everyone who is working hard to make sure it's a great year for our students and teachers. I was recently appointed to the Senate Education Committee and will be working with my colleagues, the Department of Education, Board of Education, and community to improve the education of our keiki this school year. Please contact me at 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way.



### 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 will be held at the Ewa Mahiko District Park meeting room (91-1205 Renton Road) at 9am on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Come for coffee and a chance to talk about your ideas and concerns, or just to listen and meet your neighbors from surrounding communities.



### Special Session for District Court Judge

The State Senate will hold a Special Session to consider the appointment of Jim Ashford to the District Court 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit of Honolulu. Mr. Ashford is an attorney and partner at the Honolulu law firm, Cades Schutte. He was appointed to the District Court by Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald for a 6-year term. Mr. Ashford is replacing Dean Ochiai who was appointed for a seat on the Circuit Court. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, my colleagues and I on the Judiciary & Labor Committee will hold a hearing on his appointment. On August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold our Special Session to take a vote on Mr. Ashford's appointment.

### Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee Announcements

I promised Ewa Beach resident and the Chair of the Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, Don Harlor, that I'd periodically put articles in my newsletter to update folks on what's going on with this important community organization. Here are some things to be aware of:

- Next Monthly Meeting - August 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm-8:30pm at the Ewa By Gentry Community Center
- Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee Community Preparedness Fair- September 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-1:00pm at the Ewa Makai Middle School
- Three Committee members have completed the Department of Emergency Management/FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Instructor Course.
- Members are active participants in the ongoing Hawai'i State Civil Defense Mass Care Conference.
- Committee is in the planning stages of providing an American Red Cross Volunteer Orientation and Overview course for Leeward Residents in October.

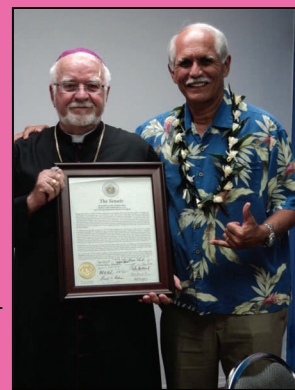
For more information or to get involved, please call Mr. Harlor at 682-0111.



Senator Gabbard and his wife Carol greeted actress Christine "Sissy" Unutoa at the premiere of the movie "Heart to Heart" at Weinberg Hall in Keehi Lagoon Park on July 24th. Sissy is the lead actress in the first full-length movie ever produced in American Samoa.

## Bishop John Frederick Retires from Coaching Football

I presented Bishop John Frederick of Wai'anae with an honorary certificate from the State Senate at the St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Catholic/Orthodox Church meeting room in Waipio on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, where he was recognized for his outstanding dedication upon his retirement from coaching youth football over many decades in Hawai'i. During his career, he coached everything from youth leagues to professional teams. Bishop John was the head coach for the Campbell High School JV team from 1976 to 1977. After a coaching break, he founded and coached Hawai'i's first indoor professional football team, the Honolulu Hurricanes in 1997. In 1999, Bishop John became the founder, owner and head coach of the Hawaiian Waves, our first women's professional tackle football team. He was inducted into the Minor League Football News Hall of Fame in 2004. Bishop John will always have the distinction of being the first Hawai'i coach enshrined into the American Youth Football Hall of Fame. Even his family life is remarkable; Bishop John has been married to Katherine Nakauauakalani (Kea) Lenchanko for 57 years. Together, they have 10 children and more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As Bishop John retires from coaching, he will be lovingly remembered by the thousands of players that he has taught, encouraged and prayed for, including the 42 players that he is personally responsible for sending on to play for colleges or professional teams. But perhaps Bishop John will be best loved for his role in founding, organizing and serving as the commissioner for the Hawai'i Big Boyz Youth Tackle Football League. Bishop John formed this league so that players 12 to 14 years old who weigh 110 pounds to 300 pounds would be able to play tackle football. Before Big Boyz was founded in 2005, these youth could not play tackle football until they reached high school.



## Kinimaka 2013 Family Reunion

My daughter Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and I presented commendations to the Kinimaka 'Ohana at their 2013 family reunion. This event brought together over 400 members of their family from across Hawai'i and the mainland. The celebration took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Iolani Palace. The Kinimaka family goes back 17 generations in Hawai'i and is descended from Hawaiian royalty. One accomplished Kinimaka was none other than Brevet Lieutenant Colonel David Leleo Kinimaka, the son of Chief Keaweamahi and Pai Kinimaka (High Chief of Honolulu). Lt. Colonel David Leleo left us the legacy of strength, integrity, humility, and a fierce loyalty to the monarchy that has forever cemented his place in Hawaiian history, as a man who brought much ho'ohanohano (honor) to the Kinimaka name. Another well-loved member of the 'ohana is the High Chiefess Kahikoloa of Maui who is responsible for the historic state seal featuring the warriors Ke'ei'moku and Kamanawa, who were uncles of Kamehameha I. She married Ka'pa'iwi Kinimaka. Their son, Keaweamahi Kinimaka, and his wife Pai Wahine raised King David Laamea Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani who, as we all know, later became the king and queen of Hawai'i. Nani Kinimaka-Davis was one of the event's main organizers and lives in Makakilo.



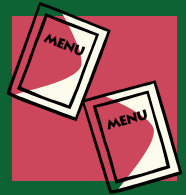
Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and State Senator Gabbard honored the Kinimaka Ohana at their 2013 family reunion, which brought together over 400 members of their family from across Hawai'i and the mainland. The celebration took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Iolani Palace. The Kinimaka family goes back 17 generations in Hawai'i and is descended from Hawaiian royalty. Nani Kinimaka-Davis was one of the event's main organizers and lives in Makakilo. Pictured (L to R) are Max & June Eckart, Senator Gabbard, Nani Kinimaka-Davis, Catherine Kanehiro, Rebecca Yara, Kui Kinimaka, Congresswoman Gabbard, A.J. Kimura, and Kaniu Kinimaka Stocksdales.



Senator Mike Gabbard and Rep. Sharon Har gave a pep talk to the 2,000 volunteers of the Convoy of Hope at the Kapolei Fairgrounds on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Convoy of Hope is a faith based organization with a driving passion to feed the world through children's feeding initiatives, community outreaches, disaster responses, and partner resourcing.

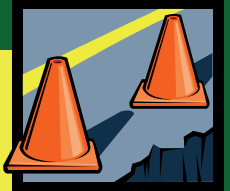
## New Restaurants Coming to Kapolei Commons

I got word recently that two big name restaurants will be coming to Kapolei Commons in the near future. It was announced on June 25<sup>th</sup> that well-known Italian restaurant, Olive Garden, has a tentative agreement to open a restaurant in a new commercial building at the corner of Kalaeloa Blvd. and Kapolei Parkway with a an expected opening in mid-2015. Ruby Tuesday will be opening by the end of 2013 next to Denny's in a new building currently being constructed .



## City Road Project Update

Last month, I included an update of the key state road projects in my newsletter. This month I'm doing the same for the city roads.



- **Makakilo Drive Extension** - Mayor Caldwell released \$3 million for Phase 1 Design earlier this year. There will need to be a Phase 2 Design as well before construction could begin. The extension, as planned, is 4,300 feet long and has an 880 foot bridge to span the gulch. The estimated cost to construct the extension is \$85 million. With the Honolulu Joint Traffic Management Center funded for construction between FY 2014 and FY 2016 at a cost of \$60 million, the Makakilo Drive Extension would not likely see construction until at least FY 2016.
- **Kapolei Parkway (open field next to the Court House)** – started construction in Nov. 2012 and is scheduled to be completed by Jan 2014.
- **Kapolei Parkway Urban Core 4A (the Kama'aha Ave intersection and connection up to Uluohia St)** – contract was recently awarded to Delta Construction. The contract time is 6 months and is anticipated to be completed in early 2014.
- **Farrington Highway Improvements (from Kapolei Golf Course to Fort Weaver Rd.)** - City has started the planning process for improvements to Farrington Highway. They have hired Group 70 to do the environmental assessment (EA) planning document. The EA has to look at all the alternatives, such as widening and even a “no build” alternative. It's likely that the project will widen the road and add bike lanes and sidewalks in accordance with the City's “complete streets” policy. Group 70 expects that the City will be eligible for federal funding, so they will do the EA to meet NEPA (federal EA) requirements. The goal is to have a draft EA done by the end of 2013, have a second public meeting, and then publish final EA by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014. The posted speed limit during the improvement work will most likely be 35 MPH.
- **Kamokila Blvd. Resurfacing (Zippy's to 500 Ft. from Makakilo Drive)** - will be resurfaced in FY 2014.

## Ko Olina District Eagle Scouts Honored

I honored a fine group of young men from the Ko Olina District of the Boy Scouts Aloha Council during their Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony at the LDS Makakilo Stake on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Here's a little information on each of their Eagle Scout projects, which is their final requirement to earn this coveted distinction. Pictured with me, left to right are:

Isaac Moa – built much needed benches for Waimea Falls Park

Isaiah Mo'o – concentrated on beautification of specific areas in Waimea Falls Park

Ammon Soma - built a rock wall at the Kamehameha School campus using the ancient Hawaiian practice of “uhau humu pohaku” or dry stacking.

Lindsey Takeuchi - designed and constructed stretching equipment for the Kapolei High School Athletics Department.

Elias McMoore – led his troop in designing and making 4 long benches for Kapolei High School students.

Oiake'ewe Wilcox – organized a food drive for the Onemalu Homeless Shelter for families in need in Kalaeloa.



## "Tower Garden" an Innovative Way to Grow Your Own Food

My wife Carol and I joined thousands of other O'ahu residents at the 2013 Hawai'i Farm Fair on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Kualoa Ranch. While checking out the different booths on display, I talked story with Wendy Loh, who introduced me to the "Tower Garden", a state-of-the-art aeroponic growing system that is perfect for people who live in condos and apartments, or have small yards. The "Tower Garden" allows people to grow a variety of local greens, herbs, and flowers on rooftops, patios, balconies, and terraces, basically anywhere as long as there's sun available. I was especially impressed with the design, given I have my own organic garden at my home in Kalaeloa. For more information about the "Tower Garden", contact Wendy at [jpaloha@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jpaloha@hawaii.rr.com) or 744-8888.



Governor Neil Abercrombie signed several energy related bills into law during a ceremony at the Capitol on July 3rd. One of the new laws, Act 261, was introduced at the Legislature as SB 19 by Senator Gabbard and gets rid of regulatory hurdles for landlords and lessors to be able to provide PV electricity to their tenants and lessees. Pictured (L to R) are Senator Gabbard, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Governor Abercrombie, Rep. Angus McKelvey, and Public Utilities Chair Hermina Morita.

Senator Gabbard gave a Legislative Wrap-Up presentation to the Kalaeloa Community Network at HCDA's Kalaeloa Field Office in Kapolei on July 11th. Seated (L to R) are Kyna-Haley Chu (Cloudbreak Communities Compliance Manager), Scott Wilson (Hawai'i Island Commercial Property Manager), Leipaoa Salausa (Onelauena Transitional Shelter), Davilyn Chang (Kumuhonua Transitional Shelter Program Manager), and Tom Tschudin (Carmel Partners Development Manager). Standing are Earl Ichimura (Pural President), Chuck Patterson (Cloudbreak Communities Property Manager), Senator Gabbard, Bev Brennan (Barbers Bowling Center Owner), Pastor Dave Hockney (West Oahu Community Church), Rado Menchor (Kumuhonua Transitional Shelter Program Specialist), D'ette Terada (Hale Ulu Pono), and Randall Shimoda (Pural Engineer).



Special Agent in Charge, Vida Bottom gave Senator Gabbard a tour of the recently opened FBI facility in Kalaeloa on July 10, 2013. The state of the art 160,000 square foot facility serves as the headquarters for all FBI operations in Hawai'i, Guam, Saipan and American Samoa.



Senator Gabbard met with Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda (L) and Consul Kiyoshi Mihara (R) of Japan regarding their office's efforts in fostering understanding and cooperation with the state of Hawai'i.