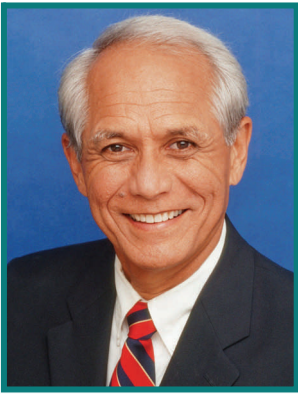


Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha Friends,

I recently attended the swearing-in ceremony for my daughter, Tulsi Gabbard, who became the new U.S. Representative for Congressional District 2, which encompasses rural Oahu, including Makakilo, and the Neighbor Islands. I know she's going to do a great job by bringing fresh leadership to our congressional delegation. Here are a few other things I'd like to share with you. Please contact me at 586-6830 or 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

* Technology and the Arts

District 20

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

Kalaeloa Public Safety Team Deserves Praise

I wrote a letter to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) last month to thank and congratulate the Kalaeloa Public Safety Team for their important work and accomplishments over the last 7 years. HCDA formed the Kalaeloa Public Safety Team in 2006 to bring together federal, state and county agencies to focus on public safety issues in Kalaeloa. The group is comprised of representatives from police, fire, first responders, transportation, maintenance, military and other government agencies. Over six months ago, the Department of Defense (DOD) made the decision to discontinue patrols in the Kalaeloa community. This resulted in an increase of crime and illegal dumping in the area. As the Senator for the Kalaeloa district and a resident of the community, I was especially happy to learn that DOD resumed military police patrols of Kalaeloa on December 6, 2012. Since the patrols have been resumed, we've noticed a decrease in illegal dumping and I'm confident we'll also see a reduction in crime. I offer a special mahalo to Pearlyn Fukuba of HCDA for facilitating these important public safety meetings each month. I would also like to recognize Victor Flint and Thomas D. Muehlhauser for their efforts in advocating for the reinstatement of the DOD patrols.

Governor Abercrombie Releases Funding for State Construction Projects

It was good news to learn that the Governor released \$70.2 million for construction projects related to our highways, airports, harbors, parks, and healthcare facilities on January 2nd. Included in that amount was \$25,150,000 for the state to purchase land for Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor improvements. The land in question is the last remaining parcel of land contiguous with existing harbor lands. No word yet on what the land will specifically be used for, but we have gotten information from the Department of Transportation letting us know that a new fuel pier for the harbor will be completed in 2017.



Senator Mike Gabbard congratulated former U.S. Senator Dan Akaka for being recognized as the first recipient of the Aloha Order of Merit award. The ceremony was held on January 14th in the State House Chambers.

"Listen Story" Meeting

My next meeting will be on Saturday, February 23rd at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) at 9am.



Energy and Environment Committee Ready for the Session

I just started my 5th legislative session as the Senate's Energy and Environment Chair. Newly-elected Hawai'i Island Senator, Russell Ruderman, will serve as my Vice Chair. These are a few of the bills I introduced dealing with energy and environment issues that are noteworthy:

- **SB 11, SB 12, and SB 623** – these bills came out of a renewable energy tax credit working group that I put together last fall. The goal of the bills is to make sure the tax credit for solar photovoltaic (PV) isn't having too big an impact on the state's pocket book, but at the same time not crippling the solar industry or making it too expensive for homes and businesses to install PV.
- **SB 15** - expands the current 10% ethanol in gasoline mandate to include 10% biofuels to provide a market when the production of renewable gasoline becomes commercially viable in the state.
- **SB 19** - allows landlords to sell electricity generated from renewable energy systems on their property to the tenants or lessees on that property or adjoining property, provided that the rate schedule is established for the duration of the lease and agreed to by the tenant or lessee.
- **SB 1290** - requires that all genetically engineered whole foods (fruits and vegetables) intended for human consumption sold, offered for sale, or distribution in the state be labeled.

2013 Legislative Timetable

February

- 7th Triple Referral Filing Deadline (Senate bills)
- 15th First Lateral (Senate bills)
- 18th Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 21st – 27th Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March

- 1st First Decking
- 7th First Crossover
- 11th Budget Decking
- 13th Budget Crossover
- 14th Last day to introduce substantive resolutions
- 22nd Second Triple Referral Filing deadline (House bills)
- 22nd Second Lateral (House bills)
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 29th Holiday: Good Friday

April

- 1st First Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- 5th Second Decking
- 11th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
- 12th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 19th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 22nd Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 25th Last Day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 26th Last Day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 2nd Sine Die (Session Pau!)

Invasive Species Threat Focus at the Capitol

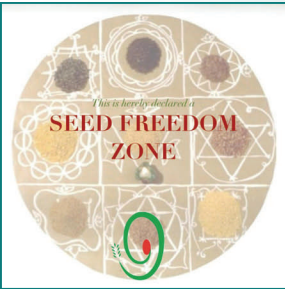
Ever seen a live Madagascar Hissing Cockroach? I did recently at an informational briefing on the threat of invasive species at the Capitol on January 11th that I hosted as the chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee. Invasive species have an enormous impact on our health, our economy, our environment and, indeed, our way of life. It's up to all of us to do our part to battle invasive species. First of all, people must take personal responsibility for keeping non-native species out of Hawai'i. Please don't bring in anything that doesn't belong here. And report any invasive species that you encounter. Secondly, government must step up efforts to inspect shipments and stop illegal species at the point of entry. Next, we must eradicate or at least control invasive species that get past inspection. But all of that requires having sufficient resources. I'll be doing all I can as a State Senator to help make this happen.



Legislation from Constituents

Since last session, I've gotten many ideas from constituents for bills that I've introduced on their behalf.

- **SB 28** – requires that scrap metal dealers purchase catalytic converters or the metals found in them only from a licensed vehicle recycler or licensed mechanic and copper wiring only from licensed electricians. This is to help reduce the theft of catalytic converters from cars and copper wiring from freeway lights.
- **SB 350** – moves the general excise tax filing deadline back to the last day of the month, instead of the 20th of the month, to make it easier for taxpayers.
- **SB 351** – reduces from 10% to 5% the portion of the general excise tax surcharge for the rail transit project that goes to the state for the administration of the tax. This will direct more funding to the City for its intended purpose.
- **SB 353** – prohibits companies from requiring employees to sign non-compete agreements as a condition of employment after they have already been hired.
- **SB 611** - requires homeowner associations to make association documents available to owners in hard copy for a reasonable fee or in electronic form through a website maintained by the property management company.
- **SB 990** - would eliminate the right of government workers, including the Governor, Mayor, police officers, fire fighters, hospital staff, and Board of Water Supply employees to use a government vehicle for personal use .



Honoring Dr. Vandana Shiva

I presented a certificate from the State Senate to environmental hero and seed freedom warrior, Dr. Vandana Shiva, during her presentation at the Kroc Center in Kapolei on January 16th. Dr. Shiva was in Hawai'i to share her extensive knowledge about seed and food freedom because our islands are currently the world's most significant center of biotechnology seed experiments. Dr. Shiva was born in 1952 in India. Although she intended to be a scientist, she found herself questioning the interconnectedness of nuclear physics, the environment, and living things. Dr. Shiva has authored many books that have been instrumental in shedding light on crucial issues, such as "The Violence of the Green Revolution", "Water Wars", and "Stolen Harvest". She is a founding board member of many important organizations such as the International Forum on Globalization and Diverse Women for Diversity. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993 and the 2010 Sydney Peace Prize. In 1991, Dr. Shiva founded Navdanya, a women-centered movement of seed keepers and organic growers across 17 states in India. Navdanya has been instrumental in setting up over one hundred community seed banks and training five million farmers in sustainable practices. Dr. Shiva and Navdanya volunteers are committed to raising awareness about the hazards of genetic engineering, biopiracy, and our declining food rights in the face of globalization and climate change.



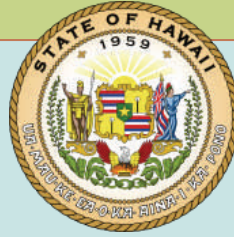
Senator Gabbard talked story with Office Manager Armid Vida and CEO Eric Masutomi of Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning at the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Legislative Briefing on January 10th.



Senator Mike Gabbard spoke with Pacific Biodiesel Vice President Kelly King and 'Aina Institute President Bob Shleser at the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Legislative Briefing at the State Capitol on January 10th.



**Senator Gabbard and Friends on OPENING DAY
~ Hawai'i State Legislature ~
January 16, 2013**



Jon Faurot



Bob King and Sam Millington of Pacific Biodiesel



Terry Lock and Kate Stanley of the Governor's Office



Courtney Bruch



Cassie Doyle (Consul General of Canada)



Carol Gabbard, Donovan Lewis – President of the Plumbers & Fitters Union, Rick Reed – Hawai'i Solar Energy Association Board member, Nancy Cardinet, Sharon Morawaki - Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum Chair, Dr. Gene Awakuni – Chancellor of the UH West Oahu, Robert Harris – Executive Director of the Sierra Club, Elden Esmeralda – Kapolei High School Principal, and Mark Duda – Revolusun Principal.



Brigadier General Joseph Kim and Major General Darryll Wong of the state Department of Defense



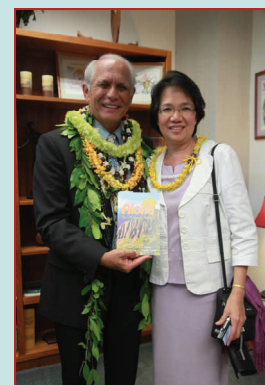
Kelly O'Brien, Carolyn Unser, and David Wilby of First Wind



Amy Hammond (Hawai'i Chocolate & Cacao Association)



Carl Vincenti



Anolia Facun, author of Aloha: Message of Hawai'i