

Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard

September  
2014

*Aloha e Friends,*

Hope you and your family are well. A big congrats to the Leeward Boom girls (13-14 years old) Kapolei soccer team for winning the AYSO U-14 Girls National Championship in California in July. Also, don't forget the 4th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair will be at Ewa Makai Middle School (on Kapolei Parkway) from 9am to 1pm on Sept 6th. They'll be giving away \$10,000 in free disaster preparedness merchandise, so "come on down." As always, 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



Senator Gabbard hosted his August 23rd "Listen Story" meeting at Kapolei High School

## Hearing Set to Get Update from HECO on Solar Crisis

You might have heard in the news that HECO submitted their responses to the April 28th Public Utilities Commissions' decisions and orders on August 26th. These filings lay out HECO's plans for ensuring that more solar PV can be connected to the grid and how they will reduce electricity prices and modernize the grid. Some of the high points that do look encouraging are that HECO plans to have 65% of our energy needs met with renewable energy and also lower our electricity costs by 20% by 2030. Of course, the devil is in the details of this 2,700 page filing, because HECO also proposes to raise the cost for those who have or want to hook up solar. I'll be co-chairing an informational briefing at the Capitol on September 19th at 1pm in Rm. 325 to hear more on HECO's plans for making sure that more people can get solar PV connected to the grid.

## "Listen-Story" Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at Ewa Mahiko District Park on September 27th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. If you can't make it, send me an email and I'll forward you the notes.

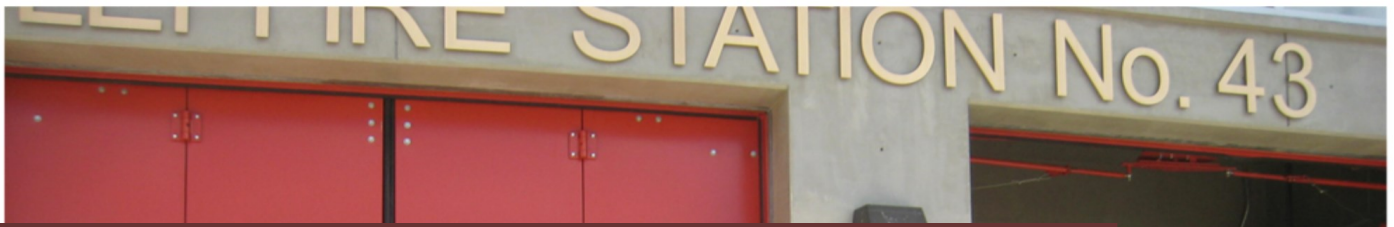
## Rid-A-Fridge Saves You on Electricity Costs and Puts Money in Your Pocket

If you're ready to get rid of that old clunker fridge, Hawai'i Energy, the state's energy efficiency program manager (minus Kauai), has a refrigerator/freezer recycling program called "Rid-A-Fridge", where Oahu residents receive \$50, and Maui & Big Island residents receive \$65 when they turn in their second refrigerator/freezer (full size in working condition). Hawai'i Energy will also pick up the refrigerator/freezer for no charge. Five hundred households can participate based on funding available. Residents who give up a second older refrigerator save \$292 on Oahu, \$314 on Maui, and \$336 on the Big Island a year in electricity costs.

**Here are the steps to participate.**

**Step 1:** Call for a free pick-up. On Oahu, call 537-5577. On Maui and Hawaii Island, call toll-free 1-877-231-8222.

**Step 2:** Complete & send in application. You'll receive the application during the pick-up and it must be postmarked within sixty (60) days of the pick-up.



Sen. Mike Gabbard visited the East Kapolei Fire Station on August 13, 2014, and met with Fire Chief, Manual (Manny) Neves and Deputy Fire Chief, Lionel Camara. (L-R: Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr., Assistant Chief Scott Lawton, Fire Chief Manuel Neves, Senator Gabbard, Fire Fighter III Koa Beasley, Fire Captain Peter Mendoza, Assistant Chief Ronald Rico, Fire Fighter I Kevin Ho, and Battalion Chief John Pacheco Jr.)



### Waipahu Intermediate School Ant Problem



On the evening news the week of August 17th, ants were biting students and damaging electrical equipment at Waipahu Intermediate School.

We reached out to Department of Education (DOE) Assistant Superintendent, Raymond L'Heureux, about the situation. He informed us that the DOE had secured an exterminator to address the problem and that things were improving. We also connected with Waipahu Intermediate Principal Randell Dunn who confirmed that this was the case.

### Roosevelt Avenue Tree Pest Infestation

I've been working with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Hawai'i Community Development Authority, the Outdoor Circle, and the community on an issue related to the Chinese Banyan trees on Roosevelt Avenue, between Barbers Elementary School and COSTCO. An arborist has concluded that these magnificent trees are infested with four kinds of insects: two species of Gall Wasps, a Thrip and Lobate Lac Scale.

I support DOT's plans to cut down the trees in the interest of health & safety and liability concerns and to replant Kou or some other native species of trees. This is a \$200,000 project and DOT has a contractor to move forward with this plan in the fall. At the same time, I'm aware that Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board is opposed to the plan. So I welcome input from the community on this difficult situation. I drive by these majestic trees every day, and hate to see them go, so if anyone has a solution, please let me know.



Sen. Mike Gabbard presented James "Kimo" Yamaguchi, Facilities Manager for UHWO, with an Honorary Certificate on August 14, 2014, for winning the "2013 President's Award for Excellence in Building and Ground Maintenance." (Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard; James "Kimo" Yamaguchi; and UHWO Chancellor Rockne Freitas.)



**Sen. Gabbard attended the Dedication Ceremony for the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Readiness Center, and presented an Honorary Certificate to General Joseph Kim on August 2, 2014.**



### Upcoming Library Events

Congratulations once again to Branch Manager Liane Watanuki and her staff at the Kapolei Public Library for the library reaching its 10th Anniversary milestone on August 23rd. In my August newsletter, I had an announcement about a free one hour Qigong Workshop with Stuart Holloway at the Kapolei Public Library. It was scheduled to take place on August 9th, but had to be re-scheduled to Sept. 13th at 1pm at the Kapolei Public Library because of the recent hurricanes. Another interesting presentation coming up at the Kapolei Library will be a foodscaping and permaculture workshop with Matthew Lynch. This is set for Sept. 6th at 1pm. For more information, call 693-7057.

Over at the Waipahu Public Library, Young Adult Librarian, Zhan Hunt, will be hosting an informational meeting about a new Teen Library Council. This is on September 6th from 11:30am to 12:30pm. The plan is for this new Council to be made up of young people from 7th to 12th grade who are service and community-minded individuals. For more information, call 675-0358.

### Waipahu High School Early College Program – A First in the State

Principal Keith Hayashida and Early College Program Director, Mark Silliman, gave a presentation on Waipahu High School's Early College program at the State Capitol on August 26th. The Early College High School program was started with a \$130 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Foundation to the U.S. Department of Education in 2002.

This free program is for low income, first generation college students who want to complete an associate degree in liberal arts. Thirty two states and 280 schools now have implemented the program, which serves 80,000 students across the nation. President Obama mentioned the program in his 2013 State of the Union speech. Waipahu High is the only school in the state with this program, which is in its 3rd year. So far 328 Waipahu High students have participated (with 424 college courses taken). Courses range from sociology, philosophy, art, Asian Studies, microbiology, and calculus, and are taught on the Waipahu High campus. Early College students are more likely to graduate from high school and earn college credits compared to students of similar backgrounds.



**Sen. Gabbard co-presented with Rep. Sharon Har, an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate to Branch Manager, Liane Watanuki in honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Kapolei Public Library.**



## Hawai'i Maoli's Ka Mana O ke Kanaka Awards

I presented certificates from the State Legislature at Hawai'i Maoli's 5th Annual Ka Mana O ke Kanaka Awards on August 16th at the Ihilani Hotel in Ko Olina. This year's recipients of the awards were: Herb Lee, Jr. (Pacific American Foundation Executive Director and community leader), Admiral Robert Kihune (USN retired business leader and former Kamehameha Schools Trustee) and Paulette Kahalepuna (cultural practitioner).

In 1997, Kapolei-based Hawai'i Maoli was established by members of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Members of Hawai'i Maoli are dedicated to the preservation of Hawaiian culture and traditions. It's the mission of Hawai'i Maoli to promote the social and economic self-sufficiency of Kanaka Maoli communities, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and individual Hawaiian Civic Clubs, in a manner that reinforces their cultural

foundation. Hawai'i Maoli strives to provide for the education of Hawaiian citizens and those of Hawaiian ancestry, to preserve and cherish all sources and records of Hawaiian traditions, customs, language and historic sites, as well as to engage in economic development programs which benefit the social, health, and moral welfare of Hawaiian communities.

## Grand Opening of New Hope Leeward Church Kapolei Campus

Rep. Sharon Har and I presented a certificate from the State Legislature to Pastor Mike Lwin (Senior Pastor) and Pastor Alex Panida (Campus Pastor) to celebrate the Grand Opening of the New Hope Leeward Kapolei Campus, a 27,000 square foot ministry center, on August 24th.

In the summer of 2002, New Hope began planning for a new church on the Leeward Coast. That dream became a reality on January 12, 2003 when New Hope held its Leeward Grand Opening service at the Leeward Community College Theater. With a vision to turn Leeward neighbors into the 'ohana of God and a passion to present the message of Jesus Christ in a creative yet practical way, New Hope Leeward continues to build leaders and grow with over 5,000 in weekend attendance today.



## ShareFest Honolulu

I hope you can join me at the ShareFest Honolulu event at the UH Manoa Sustainability Courtyard on September 20th from 11am to 4pm. I'll be singing on the Acoustic Sound Stage from 12:30pm to 1pm. For all you old-timers, I used to sing professionally in San Francisco during the "Summer of Love" and produced a CD in 2002. The ShareFest encourages "freely sharing our talents and resources together so we will strengthen our community ohana."

The event is being organized by Positive Media Hawai'i, Transition O'ahu, and Sustainable UH. Some of the booths they'll have are: a Positive Media Sewing Station T-Shirt ReFashion, a Tasty and Meatless Pop-Up, a Poetry Writing Corner, a Seed and Plant Exchange, ShareFest Swap, Free Bike Repair, a Basket Weaving Demo, and Eco Booths.

