

Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard

April
2015

Aloha e Friends,

We're now more than halfway through the 2015 Legislative Session and as usual, it's been an exciting one. With hundreds of people coming out to testify on various issues, protests at the Capitol and more, every day is unique and challenging. As always, please contact me at 586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

Mike

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Energy & Environment

MEMBER

Health

Judiciary & Labor

Higher Education & the
Arts

District 20

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



"Listen Story" Meeting

My next Listen Story meeting will be held May 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Kapolei High School cafeteria, next to the teachers' lounge.



Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard Launch

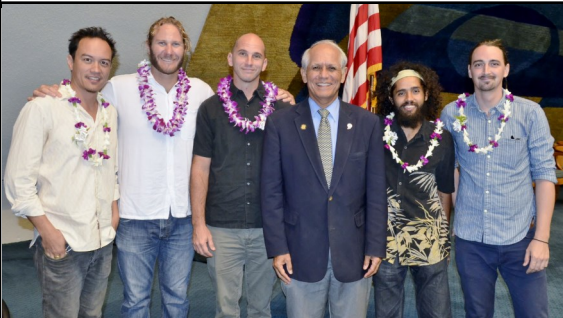
There was a packed house at the State Capitol for the *Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard* launch on April 1! Hawai'i Green Growth co-hosted this event, along with my Energy & Environment counterpart in the House, Representative Chris Lee, and myself. Over 160 leaders attended, including Legislators, cabinet members, congressional delegation staff, Hawai'i Green Growth members, and representatives across government, the non-profit sector, business, education, and the community. I believe Hawai'i has a real opportunity to be an international leader in sustainability, and the *Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard* has the potential to help get us there. The Dashboard is a new online tool that tracks how well we're doing achieving our sustainability goals, and will help



decision-makers going forward to gauge Hawai'i's progress. It's designed to measure six sustainability targets (at state and county levels), set forth by the Aloha+ Challenge: clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education.

So far, two targets—clean energy and solid waste reduction—are being tracked and measured. The other four are slated to launch in 2017. Last session, I joined my colleagues in the State Legislature to unanimously endorse the Aloha+ Challenge through SCR 69, followed by a launch at the Capitol on July 7, 2014. Since then, the State, Counties, OHA and partners in Hawai'i Green Growth have been working together to move us closer towards our shared 2030 goals. The online tool is a collaborative project led by Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG), which brings Hawai'i leaders from energy, food, environment and other sectors together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i and be a model for integrated green growth. There were a number of speakers at the launch sharing what they are currently doing, and their plans for the future, to move toward these goals. We heard from Mayors Billy Kenoi of Hawai'i County, Alan Arakawa of Maui County, and Bernard Carvalho of Kaua'i County; as well as David Lassner, UH President; Ka Pouhana Kamana'opono Crabbe, CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA); (cont. pg 1)

(from pg 1) Matthew Lynch, Sustainability Coordinator from UH; and Jacqueline Kozak Thiel, the State Sustainability Coordinator. The Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard was internationally recognized at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa as a model of integrated sustainability. For more details on the Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard, visit: dashboard.hawaii.gov/aloha-challenge. At the conclusion of the event, I announced that I'll be working with Hawai'i Green Growth to organize the first Aloha+ Challenge Legislative Retreat this summer. We'll be reaching out to legislators, state agencies, county and private sector partners, so we can all work together on priorities for policy and funding to advance the Aloha+ Challenge in 2016. Ideally, we'll develop a high-impact and high-profile Aloha+ Challenge joint package for 2016 to highlight Hawai'i's leadership at the World Conservation Congress in September.



(L-R: Matt Lynch, Rafael Bergstrom, Allen Fanning, Sen. Gabbard, Mike Davis, and Hunter Heavilin).

Permablitz

The Hawai'i State Senate honored Permablitz Hawai'i on March 24. Blitz, from the German word for lightning, means a focused application of energy. A Permablitz is when that energy is focused on installing a garden that's based on permaculture design principles for sustainable living and land use. It's an informal day-long gathering where a group of people come together to create or add to edible gardens at a home, school or other public space, while sharing skills related to permaculture and sustainable living. At the same time, the participants build

community networks and have a lot of fun. Permablitz is a reciprocal volunteer network; if you help in three blitzes, you have an opportunity to get your own space, or a space of your choosing blitzed. Pretty cool! In a typical backyard blitz, one of the Permablitz designers collaborates with the residents of the home to create a plan for an edible landscape. Twenty or so volunteers will come to help, as they learn by doing, under the direction of experienced designers and practitioners. They'll do things like dig new garden beds, mulch, put in a pond or taro patch, terrace a sloped landscape, make swales, or graft fruit trees. Everyone's enthusiasm is focused on whatever tasks are needed, leading to a finished product in just one day! An amazing thing about Permablitz is the amount of work that can be done in a short period of time, as volunteers cheerfully chat as they work. As of 2014, more than 150 Permablitzes have been held throughout Australia, California, Canada, Istanbul, Uganda, and Hawai'i. Visit their webpage: permablitzhawaii.com

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Awards

The State of Hawai'i hosted the 3rd annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week (HISAW) during Feb. 22-March 2. HISAW shares information and promotes public engagement in what the Hawai'i State Legislature has declared "the single greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people." An awards ceremony was held in the Capitol Auditorium on March 2 and I presented the "Greatest Hit 2015 Award" to Carmel Partners, represented by Tom Lefevre, and Island Topsoil, represented by Lorra Naholowa'a. In June of 2014, a major Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) breeding site was identified at Iroquois Point, on land managed by Carmel Partners. Since the discovery, Carmel Partner has worked tirelessly with Island Topsoil to follow all necessary CRB procedures. Carmel Partners and Island Topsoil are leading examples in the business community of partnering with government to effectively protect Hawai'i's natural environment and the community. In addition to the several groups receiving awards for their efforts to eradicate invasive species, also in attendance was a big 'Little Fire Ant'. As I left the stage, my parting words to the LFA, as I shook his hand, were, "Look out, bud. You're next."



American Heritage Girls Honored on Senate Floor

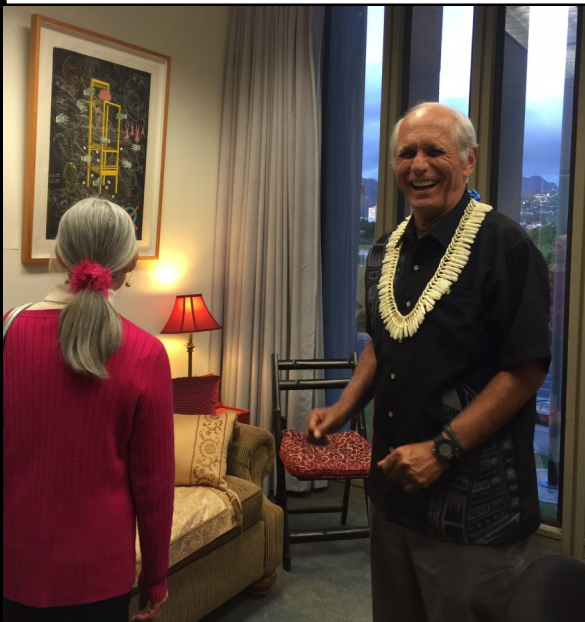
Recently, my colleagues and I in the Senate honored and congratulated the American Heritage Girls (AHG) as young wahine who are being trained to become women of character and integrity. The only two AHG troops in the state were at the Hawai'i State Capitol during Session on March 16: Troop 1 and Troop 50. Troop 1, consisting of 40 girls, was the first troop formed in Hawai'i, and is chartered by Calvary Chapel West O'ahu. Troop 50 has 35 girls, and is chartered by Waipio Grace Brethren Church. For the last two years, Troop 1 has sponsored kids in a low-income neighborhood in Wahiawa. They gathered donations of gifts, school supplies, and crafts or games to engage the kids and were helping hands, willing to serve the community.

AHG was founded in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio by a group of parents wanting a wholesome program for their daughters.

Currently there are more than 35,000 AHG members who meet across the U.S. The organization offers badge programs, service projects, girl leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences to its members. AHG broadens the members' social development through extra-curricular activities. This character building program has successfully served thousands of girls since its inception and will continue to do so long into the 21st century. In AHG, girls' ages 5-18, meet together to enjoy learning new skills, giving service, growing in their faith, practicing leadership, experiencing teamwork, building friendships and strengthening character. AHG has a multi-level structure, which means that girls from all levels comprise one troop and meet together. These troops are led by dedicated adult volunteers who facilitate the AHG program while recognizing girls' valuable input. The girls are actively learning to love God, cherish their families, honor our country, and serve in our communities with true aloha. It was wonderful to be able to bring them to the Senate and honor them with my colleagues.



(L-R: Jamie Wood—Leader of Troop HI50, Summer Lindsey, Savannah Lindsey, Taylor Berge, Sen. Gabbard, Ella Bartholomew, Maria Victoria "Marivic" Lopez Benson, Danielle Long and Regina Leonardi—Leader of troop HI1).



Art at the Capitol

I had a great time meeting all the folks that came out on March 6 for the 7th Annual Art at the Capitol. This is when all the legislators open their doors to the public so that people have an opportunity to view the variety of art work displayed in our workplace. It was a beautiful evening—over 150 folks stopped by my office.

One gentleman, who was visiting from St. Petersburg, Russia, was astounded at how open our building is. He said that in Russia, it would take weeks to get even an appointment with a government official, let alone have the ability to just walk into their offices! It reminded me of how lucky we are to live in a place where an open and transparent government is a priority.

Save the Dates!

- April 9 TJ Maxx Grand Opening at Kapolei Commons 8 a.m.—10 p.m.
- April 15 NextEra/HECO Public Meeting at the Kapolei High School Cafeteria and the Pearl City High School Cafeteria 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- April 16 NextEra/HECO Public Meeting at the Kakaako Conference Room at Ward Warehouse and at Windward Community College 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- April 17 Ti leaf lei workshop—Kapolei Public Library
- April 20 First Solar Powered Plane lands at Kalaeloa



Senator Gabbard was at a press conference on March 31, 2015 at the Hawaiian Humane Society, where they announced the location of the new West O‘ahu campus, which will be at Hoopili. (L-R: Rep. Matt LoPresti; Rick Zwern, chairman of the board, Hawaiian Humane Society; Pamela Burns, CEO, Hawaiian Humane Society; Sen. Gabbard; Cameron Nekota, vice president, D.R. Horton - Schuler Homes; and Bob Bruhl, president of D.R. Horton - Schuler Homes.)

Senator Gabbard met with a group of Youth Challenge Academy Cadets in his office on March 23, 2015. They stopped by during their tour of the Capitol. The Senator answered their questions and told them he would be there for their graduation. Their program, based in Kalaeloa, gives teens another chance to get back on track and complete their high school studies.



Senator Gabbard honored Josiah Fa'au'u Tana with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawaii State Senate on March 18 for his achievement in earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Only about 5 percent of those who join a Boy Scout troop attain the Eagle Scout rank! (L-R): Sen. Gabbard, Josiah F. Tana, Siemo Tana, and Fa'au'u Tana.

Senator Gabbard met with the Military Christian Homeschoolers of O‘ahu and their parents on March 18, 2015, during their visit to the Capitol. He answered some of their questions and introduced them in the Senate chamber during Session to a full audience in the gallery.

