



Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard

November  
2015

*Aloha e Friends,*

I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving! While our state faces big challenges with the high cost of living, homelessness, and traffic congestion, we are still blessed by living in one of the most beautiful places on earth with people who value and perpetuate our spirit of aloha. As always, feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

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## District 20

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

## Ideas for Legislation

The 2016 Legislative Session will kick-off on January 20, 2016. Leading up to that date, I'll be working on bills to introduce with the goal of improving our quality of life. I'm also interested in getting ideas from you on things we can do at the Legislature to make positive changes. Please contact my office if you'd like to weigh in. It doesn't have to be a fully fleshed-out concept. All we need is a few bullet points to get the process going.

## West O'ahu Education Town Hall Meeting

We're finalizing the details for the West O'ahu Education Town Hall Meeting, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 7pm to 9pm at the UH West O'ahu Multipurpose Room. The event is being sponsored by myself, Senator Espero, and Senator Nishihara and will focus on the Ewa, Kapolei, and Waipahu communities. The general theme of the Town Hall will be to inform the community about the situation with public K-12 school facilities, including electrical upgrades and AC, planned new schools, and curriculum.

## You're invited! West O'ahu Education Town Hall Meeting

CO-SPONSORED BY SENATORS...  
Mike Gabbard, Will Espero, Clarence Nishihara



Join us for an evening focused on Ewa, Kapolei, and Waipahu schools and UH West O'ahu. There will be special guest speakers and Q & A.

December 1st, 7pm to 9pm

UH-West Oahu Multi-Purpose Room  
91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, HI 96707

We'll also have leaders from UH West O'ahu talk about the long range plans for the university, its innovative programs, and its role in serving the broader community. One of the most exciting things being highlighted is the partnerships that are being forged between the Department of Education and UH West O'ahu. Here's our speaker line up:

- Suzanne Mulcahy, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support – Department of Education
- Dann Carlson, Assistant Superintendent, Office of School Facilities and Support Services – Department of Education
- Kathy Wong-Nakamura, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration – UH West O'ahu
- Doris Ching, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – UH West O'ahu

There will also be ample time for Q & A from the community. I hope you can make it!

## Governor Releases Funding for UH West O'ahu

I was very pleased to get word from Governor Ige on October 15<sup>th</sup> that he had released \$7 million in funding for the construction of a new Administration and Allied Health Facility at UH West O'ahu in Kapolei. The total cost for this project is \$36.7 million and the plan is to have it completed by 2018. This will make our great university even better!

## Special Session for Judiciary Appointments

One of my duties as a State Senator is to collaborate with my colleagues on the confirmation of judges. The Senate will hold a Special Session on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to consider the confirmation of three judicial appointments. The nominees are:

- ◆ James McWhinnie for District Court of the First Circuit
- ◆ Melvin Fujino for the Circuit Court of the Third Circuit
- ◆ Shirley Kawamura for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

As a member of the Judiciary and Labor Committee, I'll also participate in a hearing on these judicial nominations on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am in Rm. 325 at the State Capitol. You're welcome to attend the hearing and you can submit testimony to [JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov).

## Building Construction Futures Event

I'm helping to get the word out about the Building Construction Futures event, which will be on November 10th from 9:30am to 3:00pm at the Kroc Center in Kapolei. Kiewit is sponsoring the event and inviting Active Military and Veterans members to a one-day program to introduce them to the construction trades. Participants will hear from representatives of various trade crafts offering employment opportunities in the construction industry (such as Sheet Metal Workers, IBEW, and Carpenters). Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the rail precast yard. The program is free of charge and lunch will be provided. They are looking to fill 10 slots. Please RSVP Bill Mulcrone if you plan to attend: [bmulcrone@helmetstohardhats.org](mailto:bmulcrone@helmetstohardhats.org) or 708-272-2812.



Sen. Gabbard enjoyed an ono plant-based, oil-free dinner with Dr. John McDougall and his wife, Mary, at Down to Earth in Honolulu, Oct. 13, prior to his speaking engagement at the Vegetarian Society of Hawaii at the Ala Wai Golf Course clubhouse. If you missed it, the recording will be here: [www.vsh.org/videos.htm](http://www.vsh.org/videos.htm).

Sen. Gabbard toured the NOAA Daniel K Inouye Regional Center (IRC) on Ford Island, on Oct. 7. This world-class facility consolidates National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) programs and operations on Oahu into a single facility on federally-owned property at Ford Island where they manage programs on fisheries, ocean, coastal, climate, and atmospheric issues in the Pacific. These programs affect not just Hawai'i, but also the larger Pacific region. The NOAA IRC also provides educational tours for school children, helping them to better understand environmental stewardship, diverse marine ecosystems, weather, climate, geology, & culture. One of the interesting aspects of the facility is that they cool the building using a cold water deep well system. (Pictured: L-R: Steve Gallagher, Director; Dr. Malia Chow, Sanctuary Superintendent; and Sen. Gabbard)



## Parenting Conference with John Rosemond

For all you parents out there, there will be a Parenting Conference with John Rosemond here on O'ahu on November 13th and 14th. I consider him a personal friend and highly recommend his no-nonsense message. You might know John from his weekly parenting column that appears in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* on Saturdays. John is known for his "old school" form of childraising that instills discipline that leads to respectful and well-behaved children. The November 13th event will take place from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Hawai'i Baptist Academy (2429 Pali Highway). The registration fee is \$5 which includes John's book, "Parenting by the Book". On November 14th, the event will take place at the FilCom Center (94-428 Mokuola Street) from 9:00am to 2:00pm. There will be a \$20 registration fee, which includes lunch and his book, "The Well-Behaved Child." Childcare for keiki under 11 will be provided at both events for an additional fee. You can register at [waterhouselecture.org](http://waterhouselecture.org) or by calling 732-5561, Ext. 204. The registration deadline is November 8th.

Sen. Gabbard met with Roger Kaiwi of Kona Fancy Ventures and toured his coffee milling operation in Captain Cook, Kona on Oct. 21. He also talked story with some of the farmers as they dropped off their cherry. Coffee cherry is the raw product, a seed that Roger's company processes for Hawaii Coffee Co. to make their world famous Royal Kona Coffee as well as their Hawaii's favorite Lion Coffee.



## Patriot Glow Run

The U.S. Vets 11th Annual Charitable Patriot Glow Run 5K will start at Pointer Field in Kalaeloa at 6 p.m. on November 14th. All the proceeds for the event will benefit U.S. Vets, a home for formerly homeless veterans. There will be food trucks, GLOW contests, cash prizes, and live entertainment. To register or donate, visit [usvetsinc.org/barberspoint](http://usvetsinc.org/barberspoint).

## The Color Run

The Color Run will also take place in Kalaeloa on November 7th at 9am. The run, where participants are splattered with different colored paint powders, will start and finish on Hornet Street off Roosevelt Avenue. This event will benefit Make-A-Wish Hawai'i. To purchase tickets and get more information, visit [thecolorrun.com](http://thecolorrun.com)



Sen. Gabbard was invited to speak at the 10th Annual Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi Day & International Day of Nonviolence Oct. 2.

## Live and Let Live 2015

My office is once again on the Steering Committee for the 2015 Live and Let Live Campaign. You might remember that this is the driver safety awareness campaign which encourages people to not speed, drink and drive, or use cell phones while driving during the Christmas Holiday Season. Live and Let started on the Wai'anae Coast in 1985 and currently involves the Kapolei and Wai'anae Coast communities. There will be a Kick-Off event on December 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kapolei High School. There will also be a sign-waving event on December 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. on Kapolei Parkway from Kamokila Boulevard to the Kapolei Middle School. I hope you can participate!

## Honoring Don Harlor

I surprised Don Harlor with an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature at the Ewa Beach Library on October 15th. In 2008, the Harlor ohana moved to Ewa Beach from Los Angeles. As you might remember, in 2011 O'ahu was hit by heavy rain and strong 55-mph winds which toppled power lines resulting in a lengthy power outage in Ewa Beach. A few months later, Japan experienced a

catastrophic earthquake and devastating tsunami, by which Hawai'i was threatened but miraculously spared. It was at that time, that Don Harlor helped to form the Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee (Ewa EPC) and became its chair. Mr. Harlor led the Ewa



EPC in conducting a very successful inaugural "Get Ready Emergency Preparedness Fair" at Ewa Makai Middle School in 2011, followed by four more successful annual fairs. Thanks to Mr. Harlor's guidance, Ewa Beach has qualified as a NOAA-certified StormReady and TsunamiReady community. Mahalo to Don for his tireless hard work and dedication to making the Ewa community a safe place to live and raise families. We wish him luck as he steps down from the Ewa EPC in January. He has left a legacy that will be remembered and will inspire others for many years to come.

## Honoring Ezra Mo'o

I had the opportunity to surprise Ezra Mo'o with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate at the Makakilo Stake of the LDS Church on October 28th. Ezra was recognized as part of his Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Ezra is the son of proud parents Tehina and Lori, and is a natural leader who is kind, giving, and respectful as well as being full of ambition--the good kind.

At the age of 14, Ezra began his own DJ business. He started off with a pair of golf clubs that he used to barter for most of his music equipment. For the past four years he has owned and operated EM Productions.

While he was a student at Kapolei High School, Ezra participated in the Marine JROTC program where he earned the Kings Guard Award for his participation in exhibition riflery and later received the Non-Commissioned Officers Award. He served as the Commander over the Exhibition Riflery for all four years and as a Platoon Sergeant for three of his four years. At the end of his senior year, Ezra held the rank of Marine JROTC 1st Lieutenant.

The scouting program has been an important part of Ezra's life since the age of 8 when he joined the Cub Scouts. Ezra has been an Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. He is a recipient of the Arrow of Light Award, which is the highest award in Cub Scouting. For Ezra's Eagle Scout project, he coordinated all the work and equipment needed to paint multiplication charts on three flights of stairs at Maukalani Elementary. Outside of Scouts and church, Ezra loves to fish, dive, and body board and dreams of one day owning his own fishing boat. After he returns from a two year mission for the LDS Church, Ezra plans to enlist in the Marine Corps and become a dog handler. We wish him all success.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Ezra Mo'o on Oct. 28 at the Makakilo Stake of the LDS Church for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

(Pictured L-R: Lori Mo'o, Sen. Gabbard, Ezra Mo'o and Tehina Mo'o)