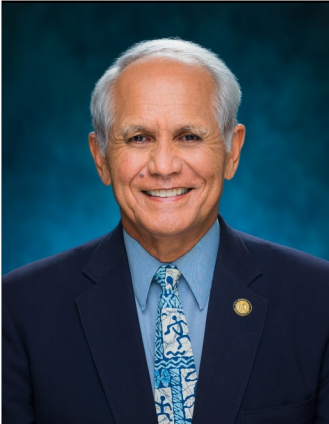


The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



Aloha e Friends,

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. With the end of the 2017 Legislative Session just five weeks away, I want to thank everyone who has taken time to get involved in the process. Whether you submitted testimony online, came to the Capitol to testify in person, sent an email, or made a phone call...your efforts are appreciated. As lawmakers, we count on our constituents' input to help guide our decisions... We're here to represent you, and your voice matters. And, as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email me at 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>.

Mike

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (AEN) UPDATE

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Award Ceremony



On March 10, I presented two awards at the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) award ceremony for the 5th annual Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Week. Each year, HISC recognizes individuals and organizations who make substantial contributions to the fight against invasive species.

I presented the Greatest Hit 2017 award to Solomon Champion, and the O'ahu MVP 2017 award to Sandy Webb. Congratulations to all the winners and mahalo for all you do to combat invasive species in Hawai'i.

Sen. Gabbard presented the Greatest Hit 2017 award to Solomon Champion at the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council award ceremony on March 10.



Sen. Gabbard presented the O'ahu MVP 2017 award to Sandy Webb at the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council award ceremony on March 10.



Sen. English and Sen. Gabbard challenge the mascots of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council: the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and the Little Fire Ant.

April 2017
Vol. 11 Issue 4

COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ◆ Agriculture & Environment

VICE CHAIR

- ◆ Water and Land

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary & Labor

DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next Listen Story meeting will be held Saturday, May 6th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge, next to the cafeteria. (We skip April due to the numerous hearings and general crazy "busy-ness" that occur during this time.) If you can't make it in May, send me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- AEN Committee Update 1
- Industrial Hemp Briefing..... 2
- Kunia Village 2
- Community Updates..... 3
- Legislative Honorees 4



Industrial Hemp Informational Briefing

On March 29, I honored Dr. Harry Ako, who was the Principal Investigator of the UH Industrial Hemp Research Project, and his team. As a result of their efforts we've learned industrial hemp grows quite well in Hawai'i.

The Senate floor presentation was followed by a joint Informational briefing to provide an update about industrial hemp research, the current status of the state Industrial Hemp Pilot Program, and the future of hemp development in Hawai'i.

The briefing included presentations by: Dr. Harry Ako, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture; and Maui Hemp Institute for Research & Innovation. Hemp is an incredible crop that has big potential in our islands.



Sen. Gabbard held an informational briefing on the UH Industrial Hemp Research Project's findings on March 29. Pictured left to right: Steve Rose, Sen. Gabbard, Vincent Mina.



Sen. Gabbard honored the UH Industrial Hemp Research Project team with honorary certificates on March 29. Sen. Gabbard, principal investigator Dr. Harry Ako, and team member Melody Heidel sported their hemp shirts during the presentation. Pictured left to right: Shauna McHugh, Alan Yoshimoto, Sen. Gabbard, Melody Heidel, Dr. Harry Ako.

This was an opportunity to bring some attention to the kinds of exciting opportunities that are just around the corner as our state Industrial Hemp Pilot Program is rolled out. I'm confident hemp will be a niche crop for our farmers that will make good use of the Hawai'i brand, and that this time next year, we'll have farmers around the state growing hemp! *Hemp, Hemp, Hooray!*

Kunia Village



Sen. Gabbard toured the Kunia Village affordable homes for agriculture workers on March 27. Picture left to right: Dr. Blake Vance, Sen. Gabbard, Noelle Giambalvo, Kevin Carney, Stephanie Whalen, Jonathan Durrett.

On March 27, I visited Kunia Village for a tour of the new and renovated rental homes for agriculture industry workers. The village is located on the site of the former Del Monte Plantation Camp. The James Campbell Company donated the 119 acre property to the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center when Del Monte left the Hawai'i market.

With funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program, HARC renovated 45 of the original homes and is building 37 new homes to provide affordable housing for workers and retirees of Hawai'i's agriculture industry. Dozens of homes are still available to rent: of 82 units, only 22 have been leased so far.

To qualify, at least one household member must work in an agriculture or aquaculture industry that complies with the USDA's definition of farm labor. Renters must also fall

between the minimum agriculture income required by the USDA and 60% of the area median income, which is determined by household size. Rent will be capped at 30% of the residents' income. The homes will remain rental units in perpetuity. If you or someone you know is an agriculture worker and want to know more about Kunia Village, contact the housing office, located at 92-1770 Kunia Road. You can also reach the office by phone at 439-6375, by email at KU-Management@eahhousing.org, and online at <http://www.eahhousing.org/pages/apartmentdetail/130>.



Sen. Gabbard toured the Kunia Village affordable homes for agriculture workers on March 27. Pictured left to right: Kevin Carney, Sen. Gabbard, Dr. Blake Vance.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Hawai'i Blue Zones

I'm excited about helping to lead the charge to make healthy choices easier in our community. If you've not yet heard about the Blue Zones, I encourage you, your friends and family to visit the [Blue Zones - Hawai'i](#) Facebook page and [Blue Zones Project – Kapolei Ewa](#). You can also [sign up here](#) to receive community updates, or text BZPHawaii to 66866. By leveraging secrets discovered in Blue Zones around the world—rare hotspots where people live long, healthy, and happy lives — Blue Zones Project is helping transform communities across the U.S. into areas where the healthy choice is easy and people live longer with a higher quality of life.

Safe Streets Solutions

Community members and public officials met in a neighborhood in Kapolei on March 28 to brainstorm



Community members shared ideas at the Safe Streets Solutions meeting in Kapolei on March 28. Pictured left to right: Sen. Gabbard's office manager Meg Turner, Cora Speck, Cosmo Arakawa, Pono Higa, Alexandra Jamora.

solutions for safer streets. Sadly, too many people are hit in marked crosswalks and this has got to stop. The [Hawai'i Bicycling League](#) is organizing these community meetings at locations where pedestrians were killed or seriously injured, while in a crosswalk.

Suggestions for solutions ranged from pedestrian crossing flags, better lighting, more HPD enforcement, cutting tree branches that obscure lighting, and speed-reducing rumble strips/speed tables/speed humps.

Representatives from the Villages of Kapolei, Kapolei Neighborhood Board, Kapolei Elementary, Malu'ohai Homestead, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation, City

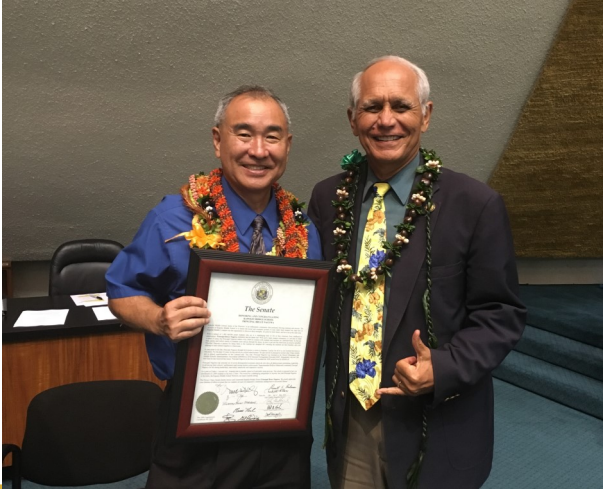
Department of Transportation Services, Department of Health, Queen's Trauma Center, Nanakuli-Maili Neighborhood Board, Blue Zones Project, my office and Rep. Har, and the Hawaii Bicycling League were there.

The next Solutions Meeting will be in Nanakuli on Saturday, April 15, 2017, at the site where cyclist Aitnes Kenan was killed on February 16, 2017 at about 5 a.m. Please check www.hbl.org or call 735-5756 for updates. Previous Solutions Meetings in Nanakuli/Waianae, Kailua, Kaneohe, and Pearl City have resulted in education, enforcement, and engineering changes to reduce traffic collisions and injuries.

Servant Leadership

uLEAD stands for University Leadership Education for Advanced Development. I was invited to speak on "Servant Leadership" at the uLEAD seminar on March 14 at UH West O'ahu. I shared events from my past that led me to devote my life to civil service, and some highlights from my lifelong journey so far, that is helping me to become a better servant leader.

LEGISLATIVE HONOREES



Sen. Gabbard honored Kapolei Middle School Principal Bruce Naguwa, who was named 2016 National Distinguished Principal of the Year, on March 22.

Principal Bruce Naguwa

On March 22, I honored Kapolei Middle School Principal Bruce Naguwa, who was named National Distinguished Principal of the Year for 2016 by the Hawai'i Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association. Principal Naguwa has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing the school's performance and raising the achievements of his 1,400 6th-8th graders. This is the second time he has been named National Distinguished Principal of the Year. Principal Naguwa was one of several educators recognized by the Senate as part of Education Week at the Capitol.

Dr. Harry Ako

Imagine a crop that has thousands of uses, has the potential to be a boon for Hawai'i farmers and our economy, grows "crazy" fast and actually destroys the weeds underneath the plants because it grows so quickly the weeds can't keep up. This crop is naturally

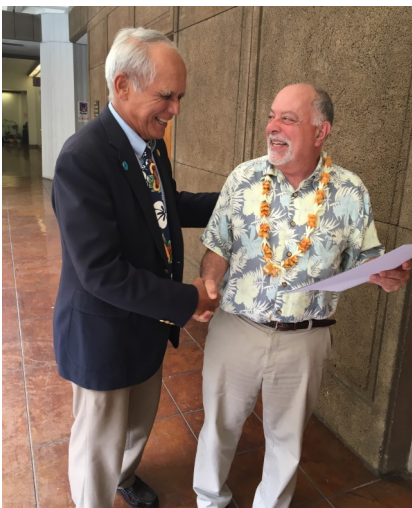
resistant to most pests, and requires very little to no pesticides or herbicides. This plant builds up and revitalizes the soil by aerating and depositing carbon dioxide. This miraculous crop exists and has already been grown here in our islands with great success. The crop is...hemp.

Hemp seeds are an amazing source of complete protein. They're incredibly popular in products like granola, hemp milk, chocolate bars, salad dressings, and protein powders. A single acre of hemp can produce four times more paper than one acre of trees. No other plant on earth is capable of producing as much paper per acre as hemp.

I could go on all day about the glories of hemp, but "hemp and Hawai'i" would not be discussed together if not for the significant efforts of the Industrial Hemp Research Project, Principal Investigator Dr. Harry Ako and his team, Melody Heidel, Alan Yoshimoto, and Shauna McHugh. Thanks to their determination and dedication, the Industrial Hemp Research Project proved without a doubt that industrial hemp can grow well in Hawai'i!



Sen. Gabbard honored the UH Industrial Hemp Research Project team with honorary certificates on March 29.



Sen. Gabbard presented a surprise honorary certificate to his longtime friend, Dr. Bill Saleebey, on March 28.

Dr. Bill Saleebey

I honored my longtime friend, Dr. Bill Saleebey, with a surprise honorary certificate on March 28. A California native, Dr. Saleebey is an expert on the psychology of personal and business networking and has made it his life's work to bring the concept of connecting with other to the forefront of business and personal development. Dr. Saleebey worked as a counselor and professor in American Samoa in 1976-1977 where we struck up a friendship. We recently reconnected after nearly 40 years, leading to a happy reunion at the State Capitol.