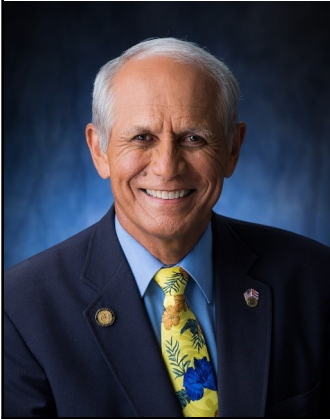


The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



Aloha e friends,

Happy New Year! Opening Day of the 2017 Legislative Session is on January 18th and I invite you to join me at noon in my office, Room 201 at the State Capitol, for refreshments.

And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email 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 at www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

Mike

January 2017
Vol. 11 Issue 1

COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ◆ Agriculture & Environment

VICE CHAIR

- ◆ Water and Land

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary & Labor

DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

State Budget Overview

Governor Ige released his Fiscal Year 2017-2019 state budget proposal on December 19th. The budget will now be worked on by both the State House and State Senate and will be finalized in late April 2017. Here's an overview: the Operating Budget, which includes the costs for running the various state government departments, is \$14.254 billion for FY 2018 and \$14.377 billion for FY 2019. The Capital Budget, which is made up of construction projects, like schools and roads, is \$2.366 billion for FY 2018 and \$781.8 million for FY 2019. I was very pleased to see that the Governor included the following Senate District 20 projects in his budget:

- ◆ Kalaeloa Airport Utility System Improvements - \$10 million
- ◆ Kalaeloa Airport T-Hangar Construction - \$8 million
- ◆ Kalaeloa Enterprise Avenue Energy Corridor to Midway Road - \$3 million

NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held on January 28th from 9 am to 10 am at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge.

Kalaeloa Enterprise Energy Corridor Moving Forward

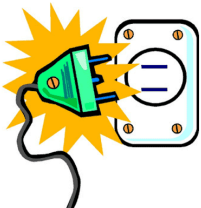
As I mentioned already, the Governor is proposing \$3 million to complete the Kalaeloa Enterprise Avenue Energy Corridor. This is a very important project that will bring HECO power into Kalaeloa via a 12-kv electrical line. Since the Barbers Point Naval Air Station closed in 1999, the Navy has

continued to run Kalaeloa's electrical system, but hasn't put in the necessary upgrades to keep the electrical sys-

tem operating well. As a result, homes, businesses, and important government agencies, like the FBI, Army National Guard, and Coast Guard have suffered repeated power outages over the years. Paul's Electric should start construction on the project by spring 2017.

The Legislature appropriated \$7 million in 2014 and \$3 million in 2016 and will need the additional \$3 million this upcoming session to run the electrical line from Roosevelt Avenue to Kalaeloa Airport. The project should be completed by November 2018.

ELECTRICITY



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FARM TOURS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Over the last couple of months, as Senate Agriculture and Environment Chair, I've had the opportunity to visit many farms across our state. I'm a firm believer that as lawmakers we can't just read position papers and PowerPoints, but we must also get out in the field and hear from farmers directly. Here's a rundown of my visits in December:



Kellen Smith invited Sen. Gabbard to visit Ka'ala Farms on Dec. 1, and meet some of the students from Nanakuli High and Intermediate School who work there once a week.

On **O'ahu**, I toured the Mililani Agricultural Park led by UH's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to see turfgrass, banana, breadfruit, honey, vegetable and aquaponic operations and meet some of CTAHR's partner producers in the agricultural industry.

I also checked out Ka'ala Farms and Ma'ō Farms in Wai'anae. These two organic farms are doing great work in helping to inspire our young people to become the next generation of farmers who help to make us more self-sufficient.



Founder of Mouna Arts and Cultural Village in Wai'anae, Muthukumar Sooriyakuma invited Sen. Gabbard to visit on Dec. 19.



Kamuela Enos, Social Enterprise Director of Ma'ō Farms, invited Sen. Gabbard to visit on Dec. 19 where he met some of the students from Wai'anae who intern there.

It was very cool seeing the Mouna Farm Arts and Cultural Village in Wai'anae, which is dedicated to providing food and experiences of healing and heart through farming, nature, the arts and beneficial plants.

On **Maui**, I got a tour of the 36,000 acres of former HC&S sugar lands and learned more about A&B's plans to keep those lands in agricultural production. I hooked up with a group of apprentice farmers who are

part of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program and saw one of their projects that is transitioning Bobby Pahia's existing conventional dry land taro farm to the Korean Natural Farming methods. Finally, I got to see Vince Mina's urban microgreens, Kahanu 'Āina Greens Farm, which also uses the Korean Natural Farming techniques

On **Kaua'i**, I was given a tour by Jerry Ornellas, the Board of Agriculture's Kaua'i representative. I visited the state's largest taro farm, Hariguchi Farm, and learned about some of the challenges they face with endangered birds causing damage to their taro plants. I toured the Tropical Flower Express, the East Kaua'i Irrigation System, and the state's largest coffee farm, Kaua'i Coffee.

On **Hawai'i Island**, I toured Robb Farms, an organic farm which focuses on lettuce, broccoli, and fennel, and Kekela Farms, an organic farm which grows greens and other vegetables. One of the highlights was visiting the Waimea Homesteads and learning how 43 homestead families are growing food on their 5-acre parcels of land. Waimea Homestead Community Association President and owner of tomato farm WOW Farms, Mike Hodson, gave me a briefing of the plans for the Waimea Nui Project, which is focused on making the Waimea community food self-sufficient.



Simon Russell, Chairman of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) Legislative Committee and Vincent Mina, President of HFUU, hosted Sen. Gabbard on a tour of Kahanu 'Āina Greens Farm Dec. 4, on Maui with Bobby Pahia (world-class taro farmer).

24 HOUR FITNESS GRAND OPENING

I presented an honorary certificate from the State Senate in recognition of the Grand Opening of 24 Hour Fitness in the Ka Makana Ali'i mall in Kapolei on December 3rd. 24 Hour Fitness, a leading health club industry pioneer, serves close to four million members in more than 400 clubs across the U.S. Their mission is simple—helping people improve their lives through fitness. Headquartered in San Ramon, California, 24 Hour Fitness is in 13 states and the Aloha State is proud to be home to the newest facility. With personal training services, innovative group exercise classes, and a variety of strength, cardio and functional training equipment, 24 Hour Fitness offers fitness solutions for everyone, with the convenience of plenty of free parking and a great new location. The new, 30,000+ square foot Kapolei club features a modern design and open-floor plan. A sampling of the impressive amenities includes an indoor pool, whirlpool, steam room, and sauna. 24 Hour Fitness also offers virtual classes that allow members to take classes on their own schedule, when the studios aren't in use. Mahalo to Jason Roundtree, General Manager, and staff for their excellent service and support as we strive to improve our lives through fitness. With this beautiful new club in our community, we can each have a new, healthier version of ourselves in the New Year.



Sen. Gabbard, Rep. Har, and Jason Roundtree - General Manager, 24 Hour Fitness Kapolei Grand Opening Dec. 3.



Sen. Gabbard visited Chris Robb of Robb Farms in Waimea, Hawai'i Island on Dec. 22.



Sen. Gabbard visited Haraguchi Farm on Kaua'i, Dec. 9., the state's largest taro farm. (Pictured: Jerry Ornellas, the Board of Agriculture's Kaua'i representative, Rodney and Karol Haraguchi, and Sen. Gabbard.)

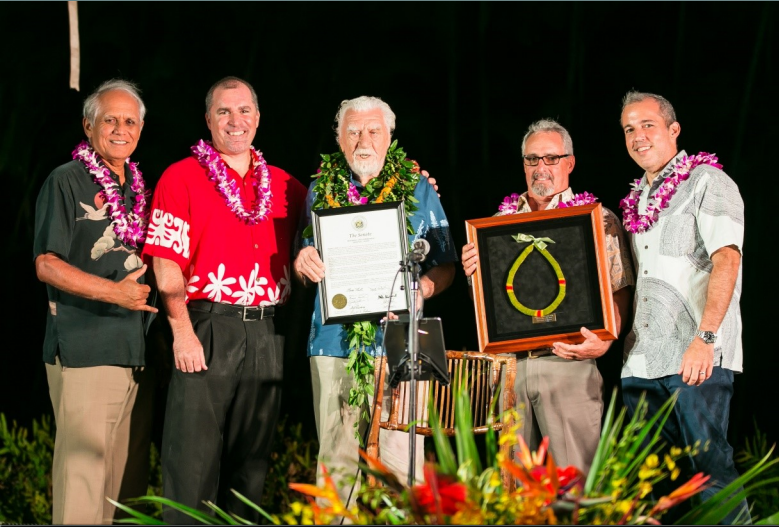
Auto Body & Paint Association of Hawai'i

I was invited to the Auto Body & Paint Association of Hawai'i's (ABPAH) Annual Meeting by Kapolei resident, Carl Vincenti. Carl's wife is the proud owner of Oka's Body Shop. I presented ABPAH with an honorary certificate from the State Senate at the event, which was held at Dole Cannery. ABPAH was established in 1959 with a commitment to professionalism, education, and automotive repair business industry unity. It's proudly the oldest association in the state. Their mission is to provide their members with the tools and education necessary to attain a high level of expertise which allows for maximum growth and prosperity. Knowing that their technicians need to stay up-to-date with the latest industry information, while their shop managers need to stay sharp on changes in employment law, strategic planning and other core business necessities in this day and age, ABPAH strives to provide the latest information they need. ABPAH also works hard at the Hawai'i State Capitol during the legislative session to serve as a united voice to represent all the industry. Mahalo to President Brandon Okahara of Oka's Auto Body, Vice President Dale Matsumoto of Auto Body Hawai'i, as well as the Board of Directors for their efforts to make sure your professional members are at the top of their game and keep learning to offer their customers the best possible service.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Dale Matsumoto, Vice President of Auto Body Hawai'i, and Brandon Okahara, President of Oka's Auto Body on Dec. 1.

HONORING ED OLSON



Sen. Gabbard presented Ed Olson with an Honorary Certificate on Dec. 3 (Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard; Kawika Burgess, HILT CEO; Ed Olson, Kahu o ka Aina; McD Philpotts, HILT Board member; and Matt Beall, HILT Board Chair.)

I presented Ed Olson with an honorary certificate from the State Senate for his conservation work throughout the islands at an event sponsored by the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust in Ko Olina on December 3rd.

Mr. Olson first came to Hawai'i in 1959 and quickly fell in love with the islands. He bought a swimming pool company in Honolulu as well as his first property—a condominium on O'ahu—and pursued a series of business interests in construction and storage. Mr. Olson's talent for business and determination to succeed was evident. He constructed over 34,000 pools from 1956 to 1980 before making his fortune as the founder of A-American Self Storage. This company was rated the 7th largest in the world and the 2nd largest privately owned storage operation.

Mr. Olson's business philosophy has dramatically changed since he first arrived; some would say the spirit of aloha moved him. As he saw former plantation workers struggling, cultural resources diminishing, and precious agricultural or

forested lands threatened by development, he knew he couldn't contribute to that.

Caring deeply for Hawai'i, Mr. Olson wished instead to preserve the land and its communities through the skills and wealth he had been fortunate to gain here. He became a major landowner in Hawai'i with the acquisition of sugar lands from the former C. Brewer and Campbell Estates on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. He became a true steward of this land.

In 2005, he created the Edmund C. Olson Trust for the protection of 15,650 acres of prime agricultural and conservation lands. The Trust is committed to the preservation of Hawai'i's agricultural and conservation heritage. The Olson Trust also owns several agriculture businesses, including Hamakua Macadamia Nut Co., Ka'u Farm and Coffee Mill, Palehua Ranch, and OK Farms. The Edmund C. Olson Family Foundation has assisted over 160 students to attend school and college.

As a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Council of The Trust for Public Land, Olson currently works to develop subsidiaries that benefit the future of our state through sustainable agriculture, conservation of natural resources, clean energy, and the building of communities secure in their heritage.



Sen. Gabbard visited the state's largest coffee farm, Kaua'i Coffee, and met with Fred Cowell, General Manager, Dec. 9.



Sen. Gabbard met with Rick Volner—HC&S General Operations Manager, at the former sugar lands on Maui Dec. 4, to get an overview of HC&S' operations and future plans.



Sen. Gabbard visited Mike and Trish Hodson of Wow Farms on Hawai'i Island Dec. 22, and learned about the Waimea Nui project.