



Legislative Update from Senator Mike Gabbard



Aloha,

Whew, I'm worn out. We recently finished our biennial family reunion, and I'm still recovering from my sons attempt to kick my okole on the golf course and tennis courts. (Newsflash! Dad won the coveted perpetual 2011 Gabbard Golf Classic by 4 strokes. AND, mom and dad squeaked out a best of five doubles victory over our two oldest sons on the tennis courts, which sent the young whippersnappers home with their tails between their legs. Let's hear it for the old timers!) It was great hanging out with the kids and grandkids and giving them the guided tour of our wonderful, blossoming community. I'm hoping they'll choose to relocate their families here and contribute in some way to Hawai'i nei. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.



UH West Oahu Townhall Meeting

Rep. Sharon Har, myself, and other West Oahu legislators will host a Townhall meeting focused on the new UH West Oahu campus on Wednesday, September 21st from 7-8:30pm at the Kapolei High School cafeteria. UHWO Chancellor Dr. Gene Awakuni will be giving a presentation on the current Kapolei campus construction which will be completed by April 2012. He'll also be talking about the 22 bachelor degree programs that will be offered. They'll have applications on hand for those young and old who want to get signed up for the Fall 2012 semester, when the campus officially opens. Dr. Awakuni will be joined by other UH West Oahu faculty and administrators to answer questions.

Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen-story" community meeting will be held at the Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale (91-015 Farrington Highway) on Saturday, September 24th from 9am to 10am. If you can't make it, and you would like me to address a concern or issue, please drop me an email or call me at the office.



Senator Gabbard's most recent monthly Listen Story meeting at the Kapolei Starbucks on August 20th.

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WAIPAHU, AND KO 'OLINA

Kahuku Wind Farm

Senator Gabbard checked out the Kahuku Wind Farm during a family outing on August 25th. The farm provides 30MW of power and was built by First Wind.



Hawai'i Five-0 Films in Kalaeloa

Recently, we had a surprise visit at our home in Kalaeloa by the crew of *Hawai'i Five-0*. They knocked on our door and asked if they could look around, and possibly do a shoot in our living room and bathroom. They liked what they saw, we agreed to the shoot, so they came back a couple weeks later to dismantle our home, moving all our stuff into the garage, and putting in their props and furniture, which included a piano. It was quite an experience getting an up-close look at the making of this hit Hollywood TV show. (One of the things I love about the series is the spectacular cinematography of familiar places we all know. A Gabbard family favorite is an aerial shot of Kapiolani Park by the tennis courts at dusk.) It's amazing to see the incredible detail that goes into the sets for the program. It was also neat seeing how many locals work on the crew. Shortly after the shoot at our home, I got the chance to make a cameo appearance in the filming of the premiere episode for the second season. On July 25th at 5 a.m., I showed up at The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) along with 180 other extras to shoot a couple scenes, which took about six hours. I'll appear as a captain in Navy whites, the grieving husband of the Governor who was assassinated in last season's finale. I won't spoil anything else. If you want to know "the rest of the story", you'll have to attend the second season world premiere at Sunset on the Beach (Queen's Surf Beach) in Waikiki at sunset on September 10th or when it airs nationally on KGMB, Monday, September 19th at 9:00pm. <http://www.civilbeat.com/posts/2011/07/29/12318-capitol-watch-july-29/>



**Watch Sen. Gabbard & Associate
Pastor Nofo Elitese of Kaimuki
Christian Church on Hawai'i 5-0 on
KGMB, Monday, Sept. 19 at 9pm!**

Olomana Gardens Leading the Way for Sustainable Agriculture on Oahu



My family and I got a tour of the lush, 5-acre permaculture farm, Olomana Gardens, in Waimanalo on August 5th. The farm is owned by Glenn Martinez and his wife Liz. Glenn is also the President of the Hawai'i Farmers Union, which is a chapter of the oldest and most distinguished farming organization – representing nearly 300,000 members. Glenn and Liz recently attended a permaculture workshop my non-profit, Healthy Hawai'i Coalition, hosted at American Renaissance Academy back in June to help people start their own gardens. The central features of their farm are integrated systems of animals, composting, and aquaponics. They grow organic fruits and vegetables. They also regularly hold agriculture workshops and host school tours. To learn more about Olomana Gardens, check out their website at <http://www.olomanagardens.com/>.

Kapolei Post Office Closure

In July 2011, USPS put the Kapolei Post Office on a list of 3,653 local post offices across the country which may close in January 2012. Given that Kapolei is one of the fastest growing areas of our state, it doesn't make any sense that they would

be scaling back service for our community. I've spoken to local USPS leaders and sent in testimony asking that they reconsider this decision. I'm also working with our Congressional delegation in the hopes they can help out. USPS is offering a 60-day comment period to allow the public to weigh in. If you have time, please send a letter to USPS District Office, 3600 Aolele Street, Honolulu, HI 96820. I've put together an online survey using Survey Monkey and will be tabulating the results and sending them to USPS right before their deadline on September 30th. You can take the survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KT658NY>. USPS has notified me that they are open to public-private partnerships and are willing to look at another "contract postal unit" for Kapolei. (There is a small one already at Armac Printing in the Kapolei Shopping Center.) They'll also be holding a Townhall meeting to get input from the Community on September 8th from 5 to 7pm at the Kapolei High School cafeteria.

A Night to Remember Helps and Inspires Homeless

I presented an honorary certificate on behalf of the State Senate to Brother Bob Dunham of Songs of the Children at the first “A Night to Remember” event at U.S. Vets in Kalaeloa on August 27th. The purpose of the event was to allow homeless people to come together, enjoy an evening of hope and inspiration through a movie showing and testimony by Brother Bob and others. The event featured a showing of the popular movie, *Soul Surfer – the Story of Bethany Hamilton* and also personal testimony on the problems of alcohol abuse and homelessness from host, author, inspirational speaker, and Vietnam veteran, Brother Bob.

Brother Bob has given his time, energy, mana’o, and—perhaps most importantly—his own story to anyone who needs help that he encounters. He has been reaching out to people who have found themselves homeless, addicted, or overcome with the burdens of life for many years. He generously shares his own testimony of overcoming adversity, from his book “I Love You, But...”, as he speaks to people. It is this personal connection that has allowed Brother Bob to help so many people.



Brother Bob founded Songs of the Children, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, in 1997. Songs of the Children (SOTC) works to inspire, motivate, and encourage people through testimonies and faith in Jesus Christ. SOTC engages in evangelism and prayer for personal needs and salvation, sharing personal testimonies from former homeless or addicted individuals, producing events for the homeless to view motivational movies and musical performances, as well as freely giving away the book written by Brother Bob to the homeless.

In 2000, SOTC partnered with Life Church to open a much needed women’s shelter in Kailua-Kona. SOTC also garnered donations and contributed lots of blood, sweat, and tears to open a Vietnam veterans’ shelter, also in Kailua-Kona. Mahalo to Brother Bob for reaching out to the homeless and anyone in need, for sharing his heart and touching testimony, as well as dedicating his life to giving a loving hand up, not a hand out.

Special Session for New Judge – Karen Nakasone

The State Senate held a Special Session to confirm Karen Nakasone as a Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit (Honolulu) on August 31st and September 1st. Judge Nakasone was confirmed by the Senate by a unanimous vote and also got a favorable recommendation from the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee, when we voted 4-0 in her favor on August 31st. Judge Nakasone, who was nominated by Governor Abercrombie, has been a Deputy Public Defender in Honolulu since 1996. She is filling the vacancy on the Circuit Court made by Sabrina McKenna, who was appointed to the State Supreme Court.

Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park Helping Us Say Goodbye to Fossil Fuels

I submitted testimony to the Navy Region Hawai’i in support of the 5 MW Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park in Kalaeloa after the first public hearing which took place on July 19th. I also attended the Section 106 Public Hearing on August 4th at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands headquarters in Kapolei. For those unfamiliar, this is a joint 21,000 solar panel project between Hunt Development Group and the Navy. Scatec Solar North America will be the contractor installing the solar panels. It will provide enough energy to power 5,000 homes, 20 construction jobs, and 2 full-time permanent operations and maintenance positions. The current plan is to locate the solar panels on the existing Ewa Field runway to help define and protect it. The power will be sold to HECO under a 20-year power purchase agreement. The cost of the project is \$35 million and is in compliance with the Kalaeloa master plan and draft administrative rules. There have been some concerns about preserving Ewa Field, so I’m happy Hunt and the Navy are working with the Pacific War Memorial Association on some type of commemoration of this historic World War II battle site.



Kapolei High Welcomes Marine Corps JROTC

Kapolei High School held an Activation Ceremony on August 22nd for their new Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. The JROTC program had

been at Castle High School for the past 16 years, but was moved to Kapolei after enrollment had fallen below the required limit. What's awesome for Kapolei High is that their program is the only Marine JROTC in the state. There has been overwhelming interest from Kapolei High students since it started on July 1st. Right now, they already have 170 members. JROTC programs are funded by the Department of Defense and run by the different military services. Their mission is to provide leadership training while promoting the importance of citizenship, personal growth, public service, and career exploration. Its role is not to be a recruiting facility, but to serve more as a social club. Kapolei High students that are interested in joining the Marine JROTC program should contact their school counselors.



Kaneohe Green Home Reception

Senator Gabbard presented certificates from the State Senate to Michael Fairall, Principal of Moku-lua Woodworking Ltd., and Tiare Cowan, President of Archipelago Hawai'i, at a Reception for a new "Green" Home in Kaneohe on July 29th. Michael and Tiare were honored for their efforts in designing and building the first home in the state to achieve the National Green Building Gold Standard.

"Back to School Shopping Spree" Helps Needy Kapolei Students Hit the Books

Senator Michelle Kidani, Reps. Karen Awana and Ryan Yamane and I were among dozens of chaperones who volunteered to shop with students in need during Target's second annual "Back to School Shopping Spree" on August 9th at the Kapolei Target. The event was sponsored by Target and the Salvation Army KROC Center. Other chaperones included Honolulu Police Chief Louis Kealoha and Miss Hawai'i Lauren Cheape. We were paired with keiki as they shopped for essentials such as school supplies, clothes and shoes with an \$80 gift card. Fifty-one students from Kapolei Elementary and Kapolei Middle schools were given the opportunity to shop for back to school essentials. "Back to School Shopping Spree" is a national event, with 492 stores participating. The program provides more than 11,700 students in need with school supplies. Target began the event in Hawai'i last year with each Oahu store (Salt Lake and Kapolei) hosting 50 children. This year each store hosted a total of 100 students. Mahalo to Target and Salvation Army for investing in our keiki and helping those in need.

