

# Legislative Update

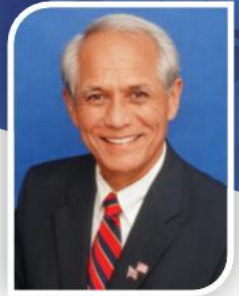
March 2009

*Aloha Friends,*

*Ah, Spring in paradise! Aside from tax deadlines, it's one of my favorite times of the year. It's crunch time at the Capitol for this legislative session, which ends May 7th. Here are a few items I'd like to share with you.*

*Mike*

*Senator Mike Gabbard*



## [Listen-Story](#)

My next community meeting will be held at Starbucks in the Kunia Shopping Center (94-673 Kupuohi Street) on Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 am. Please contact me if I can help you. My phone number is 586-6830 and my email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov).

## [Change in Law Would Improve Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure](#)

I've been working closely with my colleagues at the Legislature and the Department of Health on a change in law, which would make the state eligible for federal stimulus funds. HB 1807 would specifically amend our loan program statutes to allow the state to receive grant monies. We could potentially get up to \$30 million for our Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and \$20 million for our Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund. This funding would be used for the construction of new wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. These projects would help improve public health, protect the environment, and stimulate our economy.

## [Telework Bill Moves Forward](#)

I authored SB 256 this session with the goal of getting more people teleworking in our state. As Kapolei grows, we're likely to see more traffic unless we look for creative ways to get people off our roads. Telework is a perfect solution that allows people to use the latest technology to work from home. This reduces stress and allows people to spend more time with their families. The bill would establish a temporary telework task force to develop a plan to encourage and expand telework opportunities in both the private and public sectors.

## [Federal Stimulus Package Money for Our Roads](#)

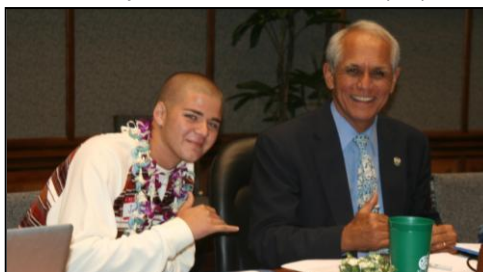
I'm pleased to announce that our state will be receiving \$127 million in funding for highway improvement projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (federal stimulus package). Kapolei has two road projects that meet the federal criteria and are "ready to go." The two projects are:

1. Kalaeloa Blvd Widening and Reconstruction, Phase-1 OR&L Right of Way to Lauwiliwili Street - \$7 million
2. H-1, Seismic Retrofit, Farrington Highway & Makakilo Separation - \$1.8 million

Sen. Gabbard reads at Kalei'opu'u 3/03/09



Justin Gryde shadows Sen. Gabbard 3/12/09



Mauka Lani Ohana Council at Capitol 3/10/09





## [Makakilo Community Park Play Apparatus & Adult Exercise Station Improvements](#)

I recently received an email from a Makakilo resident about the playground equipment at Makakilo Community Park. The constituent frequently takes her two young children to the park, but was disappointed about the poor condition of the play apparatus. We contacted both the City's Department of Parks and Recreation and Councilman Nestor Garcia's office to get an update on planned improvements to the park.

I'm pleased to report that the City Council appropriated \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 to remove the existing play apparatus and put in a new composite play apparatus with resiliency surface. The new play apparatus will include a slide, finger maze, wall with wheel, alphabet panel, trap door climber, arch bridge, loop climber, chinning bar, orbit overhead climber, tic-tac-toe, and crawl-through panel. The project is scheduled to go out to bid by June 30th of this year. The park will also be getting an adult exercise station complements of Mayor Hannemann's community benefits package.

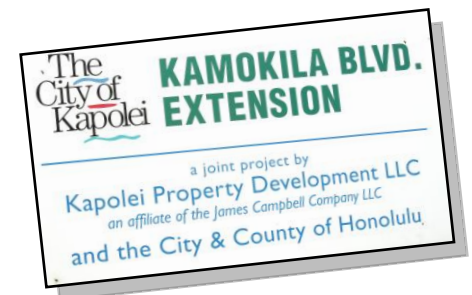


## [Peggy Ann Pavao Named Leeward District Teacher of the Year](#)

I'll be honoring Peggy Ann Pavao during the Education Week ceremonies at the State Senate on March 23rd. Peggy was acknowledged for being named 2009 Leeward District Teacher of the Year. She has been a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Kapolei Middle School for the last nine years. Peggy has been an effective and talented teacher who urges "students to know they can do anything they desire as long as they are willing to make it happen."

## [Kamokila Boulevard Extension Ready for Kapolei Costco and Target Openings](#)

It's awesome that the Kamokila Boulevard Extension finally opened on February 26th. This short 2/10 mile road, which is located between the new Costco and the Kapolei Judiciary Complex, will be huge in reducing traffic in Kapolei.



The best news of all is that the road was ready in time for the opening of Costco on February 27th and Target on March 4th. I started working on the Kamokila Extension in 2003 when I first took office as a City Councilman. A big mahalo to Kapolei Property Development and the City for getting the work done!

Kapolei Costco Grand Opening on 2/27/09  
Sen. Gabbard with General Manager Max Ramos



Kamokila Boulevard opened on February 26, 2009  
Dedication Ceremony 3/03/09



Above photo from left: Pastor Arlen Nagata, Sen. Gabbard, Dave Rae, Trudi Saito, Mayor Hannemann, Councilman Garcia, Councilman Apo, Rep. Sharon Har & Kirk Caldwell.

Kapolei Target Sneak Preview on 3/03/09  
Sen. Gabbard with Store Manager Jon Radtke



## Army Wounded Warrior Program Helping Our Heroes

I had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Frederic Browning on February 20th. Mr. Browning is the advocate for the Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) for Hawaii, Samoa, Guam and Micronesia. He retired from the Army with 29 years of service and rose through the ranks to become a Colonel. He also happens to own a home in Kapolei.



If you're not familiar, AW2 is the official U.S. Army program that assists and advocates for severely wounded, injured, or ill soldiers and their families. AW2 provides individualized support to soldiers, who have been injured or become ill during their service in the Global War on Terrorism. They are committed to ensuring that AW2 Soldiers and their families are given the best possible care and successfully return to duty or transition to civilian life. If you'd like to learn more or you're interested in volunteering, please contact Mr. Browning by email at [frederic.browning@va.gov](mailto:frederic.browning@va.gov) or by phone at 808-433-7869.

## The Voice of Kapolei Honored at the State Senate



I recognized Damon Duhaylonsod and *The Voice of Kapolei* ohana at the State Senate on March 20th for providing an informative, innovative, and upbeat voice for the Kapolei area for over 4 years. In 2005 Damon Duhaylonsod, founder of the successful *Hawaii Skin Diver* magazine, took a chance and combined his publishing know-how and love of the Kapolei community with great results. Thus, *The Voice of Kapolei* community newspaper for Honokai Hale, Nanakai Gardens, Kapolei, Makakilo, Ko 'Olina & Kalaeloa, was born.

The paper now boasts a distribution of 12,000 issues and a website that receives over 12,000 hits a month. In a relatively short amount of time *The Voice of Kapolei* has become a trusted and respected source for information on everything from community events, to reports from elected officials, to sports updates, to local blogs, to economic growth insights, and more. Damon will be the first to tell you that his successful ventures can certainly not be solely attributed to him. His family has been involved from the very first brainstorming session on the concept of the paper.



## Tony Hawaii Auto Group Goes Solar

It was an honor to attend the blessing for Tony Hawaii Auto Group's new solar project in Waipio on February 3rd. President and CEO, Stan Masamitsu, showed great initiative and foresight by installing three solar electric systems that completely fill all of their available roof space. The 298 kW system, installed by REC Solar Inc, will save the company an estimated \$104,273 the first year and over \$5 million over the next 25 years. The 25 year expected return-on-investment is a remarkable 1200% while reducing CO2 output by 6,667 tons. Those are numbers that every businessman, businesswoman, and environmentalist should be impressed with.



Center photo from left: Sen. Gabbard, Drew Bradley, Isabelle Christensen, Marius Kroksjo, Mike Koga, Stan Masamitsu and Tony Masamitsu.



## **Aloha Aina Earth Days Honored**

I honored Chris Harris (below), General Manager of Access Information Management, at the State Capitol on March 5th. Mr. Harris was recognized for his company's participation in the Aloha Aina Earth Days. A big mahalo to Chris and his staff at Access Information Management for going the extra mile for our environment.



Aloha Aina Earth Days are held at area public schools and involve 15 recycling companies that recyclable items, such as green waste, plastic, glass & aluminum containers, cell phones, computers, printer cartridges, tires, paper, and cardboard, at no charge. The program started in 2004. Proceeds from the recyclables go toward our schools and community organizations. Since the program's inception, more than 1,100 net tons of resources have been recycled and \$67,500 has been raised.

Access Information Management is a San Francisco based records and information management company which has a facility in Kapolei. They offer a comprehensive array of services including off-site records storage and management, off-site media protection, secure shredding, and digital document management. Other West Oahu honorees (above, right) included the following:



1. **Vince Parengit, Family Towing (Kapolei)**
2. **Liana Bisch, Hawaiian Earth Products (Kapolei)**
3. **Dave Barbour, Interstate Battery Systems (Waipahu)**
4. **Jeanette Grace, Paradise Lua, Inc. (Waianae)**
5. **Allen Evans, Refrigerant Recycling, Inc. (Kapolei)**
6. **James Banigan, Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corporation (Kapolei)**
7. **Rene Mansho, Aloha Aina Earth Days Coordinator**
8. **Nik Nikolaidis, T&N Computer Recycling Services (Waikale)**
9. **Blane Yamagata, Unitek Solvent Services (Kapolei)**
10. **Dave Shiraishi, City's Dept. of Environmental Services (Kapolei)**

## **Island Insights TV Special – Alternative Energy & Sustainability**

On February 26th, I was a guest panelist on *Island Insights'* PBS Special on Alternative Energy and Sustainability, which focused on the points-of-view of government and industry policy makers and was moderated by Dan Boylan. Also on the panel were State Energy Administrator Ted Peck, Noelani Kalipi of First Wind, and Robbie Alm from HECO. Check out the online video at <http://www.kmeb.org/insights02.htm>.



La Ola on Lana'i, Hawaii's largest Solar Wind Farm  
01/06/09 Dedication Ceremony

