

**SENATOR MIKE GABBARD**  
 HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 201  
 415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
 PHONE: 586-6830 FAX: 586-6679  
 SENGABBARD@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

*Sen. Gabbard's  
 Legislative Update  
 January 2010*

*Aloha Friends,*

*Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are well. The 2010 Legislative Session begins on January 20th. Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830.*

*Mike*

*Listen-Story Meeting*

My next community meeting will be at Kunia Starbucks on February 20th from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

*I hope to see you there!*



**CHAIR**

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**VICE CHAIR**

TRANSPORTATION,  
 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND  
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**MEMBER**

PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY  
 AFFAIRS  
 JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT  
 OPERATIONS

**Senate District 19  
 West O'ahu**

WAIKELE  
 VILLAGE PARK  
 ROYAL KUNIA  
 KAPOLEI  
 MAKAKILO  
 KALAELOA  
 HONOKAI HALE  
 AND PORTIONS OF  
 WAIPAHU & KO 'OLINA

**Wear Blue for Oceans Day**

I'm co-sponsoring the "Wear Blue for Oceans Day" at the Capitol on January 13th. The event will take place on the 4th floor from 10am to 2pm and will give environmental groups and government agencies a chance to set up booths and share information on the importance of protecting our oceans.

One of the main purposes of the event is to bring attention to President Obama's efforts to create the first ever National Policy for our oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes. We need a National Policy to bring clarity and better coordination amongst the 20 different federal agencies which now work in the area of ocean resource management.

For more information, please contact my office or check out this website:

[www.wearblueforoceans.org](http://www.wearblueforoceans.org)



**Best Wishes for a Happy  
 New Year in 2010!**

**Environment Committees  
 to Focus on Environmental  
 Review Law**

Rep. Hermina Morita, Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, and I will be co-chairing an informational briefing to hear about the results of a comprehensive two-year study by University of Hawai'i (UH) at Manoa researchers on Chapter 343, the state's environmental review law.

The hearing will take place on January 15th at 1pm in Room 329 at the Capitol. The study was funded by the Legislature and is intended to provide us with recommendations on what changes in law are needed to both better protect our environment and give better guidance to developers and government agencies on when an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement should be conducted.

This is the first review of Chapter 343 since 1991. Mahalo to UH researchers Karl Kim, Denise Antolini, and Peter Rappa for all the hard work they put into this very important effort.



### Honokai Resident Becomes an Eagle Scout

I was happy to speak at the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Mahakea Gomes at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Makakilo Stake in Kalaeloa on December 5th. Mahakea is a Honokai Hale resident and graduated from Kapolei High School in 2008 with a 3.8 GPA. While at Kapolei High, he played soccer, football, and was also an avid paddler. He's currently a full-time student at Leeward Community College majoring in fire science.

*Pictured from left are proud parents Wesley & Dora Gomes, Eagle Scout Mahakea, Scout Master Keith Ka'ahanui, and Sen. Mike Gabbard.*

For his Eagle project, Mahakea and two other seniors at Kapolei High built a pavilion. Congratulations to Mahakea for this achievement, his proud parents Wesley and Dora Gomes, and his Scout Master Keith Ka'ahanui.

### Youth Challenge Academy Looking to Expand

On December 3rd, I wrote a letter to Colonel Anthony Kissik of the National Guard Office of Athletics and Youth Development expressing my strong support of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy's (HYCA) proposal to use the former Kulani Corrections Facility on the Big Island. The current HYCA facility is located in Kalaeloa.



Our state has a 16% high school dropout rate. This rate would be much higher if we didn't have programs like HYCA, which give high-risk youth a second chance to get their high school diplomas and make the right decisions for their futures. The HYCA has an outstanding 88% completion rate and 70% of the participants end up receiving their high school diplomas.

I'm very excited for HYCA to be able to expand to the Big Island, so they can offer opportunities in vocational, horticulture, and mechanical education training. HYCA has an excellent staff that cares about these young people and with this additional facility they'll be able to help even more of our struggling youth.



### Makakilo Elementary Choral Music Program Spreads Christmas Message

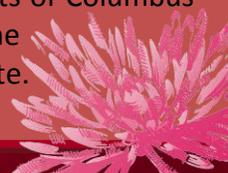
Parents, neighbors, school staff, and students gathered at Makakilo Elementary School on December 16th to hear a performance by the new afternoon Choral Music program. I was happy to help open their performance by singing Hawai'i Pono'i with the students. During the Christmas Holidays, the chorus performed at festivals and venues around the island.



### Akanas Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

*Photo by Michelle Scotti of I Do Believe Photography*

Larry and Wilma Akana celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Nehelani Reception Hall (Schofield Barracks) on December 5th. Larry and Wilma are Waianae residents and are active with the Knights of Columbus and the Women's Auxiliary. I surprised the Akanas at the celebration with an honorary certificate from the State Senate.



## Remembering Historic Military Events at Ewa Field & Ft. Barrette

On December 6th, I was honored to be a part of two historic events to commemorate the valor and heroism of our military during the attacks by Japanese war planes at the former Marine Corps Air Station Ewa (Ewa Field) and Ft. Barrette on December 7, 1942. These two locations served as two of the first battlefields in our country's involvement in World War II. During both events, I had the opportunity to share my thoughts on the importance of the occasion. Here is what I had to say:

*Aloha and good morning. It's an honor to be here. My daughter, First LT. Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo in the Hawai'i National Guard, who recently returned from her second tour of duty in the Mideast, sends her regrets. She wanted to be with us this morning. It's interesting to note how we've come full circle. Tulsi is presently with 19 other HNG soldiers doing military training exercises with the Japanese military for two weeks.*

*I'd like to acknowledge Ewa Field survivor John Hughes, Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Major Allan Kellogg, National Park Historian, Daniel Martinez, and Paul DePrey the Superintendent of the WW-II Valor in the Pacific Monument.*

*I'd also like to thank John Bond for all his hard work in raising awareness about the events that took place at this location 68 years ago. To all of our veterans, it is only because of your sacrifice that we can stand here today, as a free people. Thank you.*

*In legislation (HCR 49) that we passed during the 2009 session calling for the preservation of Ewa Field, we specifically highlighted the bravery of the Marines who were attacked at this very place on December 7, 1941.*

*I am inspired by the story of how one Marine stood amidst gunfire striking the ground around him and emptied his sidearm at an aircraft attacking overhead. Lt. Shiga, a Japanese fighter pilot, remembering the event years later, found the "spirit of dogged tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" that he did not expect from an American, and commented that this Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered.*

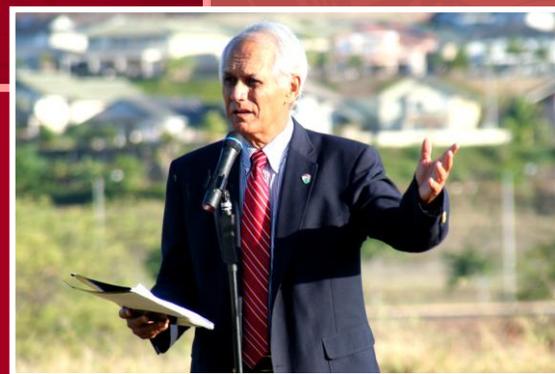
*On behalf of the Hawai'i State Senate, I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks and respect to those 4 Marines and two civilians who died here during the Japanese attack. We hope that we can continue coming back to this place, with our children, and our children's children for many years to come to honor the important sacrifices made by our military men and women. Mahalo and Ke Akua me ke Aloha.*



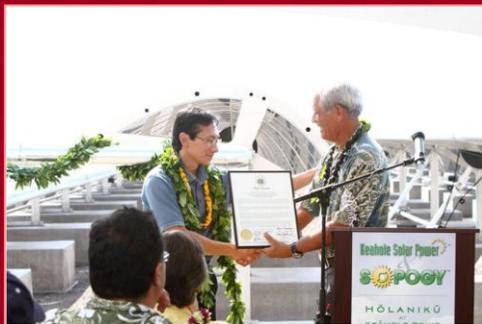
**Sen. Mike Gabbard and National Park Historian Daniel Martinez paid their respects at the Fort Barrette ceremony in Kapolei on Dec 6th (photo above).**

**The event honored the memory of Corporal Joseph Medlen, an Army Railway Engineer, who was mortally wounded during an attack by Japanese war planes on the morning of December 7, 1941.**

**Both this event and a second ceremony at the former Marine Corps Air Station Ewa "Ewa Field" were organized by Ewa Beach resident John Bond.**



### Sopogy's Keahole Solar Farm blessing ceremony on the Big Island on December 10, 2009.



### Hawai'i Needs More H1N1 Vaccine Now

I held a news conference at the Capitol on December 13th to demand that Governor Lingle and the Department of Health (DOH) take swift action to get more H1N1 vaccine into the hands of doctors for high-risk patients. We're in the middle of a pandemic and it's alarming that people who need the vaccine to protect themselves and their families can't even get it. Basically, what we've got right now are bureaucrats standing between patients and their physicians. We've already had 11 deaths in Hawai'i. People's lives are at stake here, so we have to stop fooling around.



The first main point I made was that I've been contacted by constituents, doctors, and others in the medical community who are very frustrated with the DOH's current vaccine distribution system which has been plagued by problems. Doctors have complained that they've had little to no input in how the vaccine is being distributed, that there's been a lack of transparency in the distribution process, and that a disproportionate amount of vaccine has gone to pharmacies.

Secondly, I asked the question why we can't get more vaccine to Hawai'i now. I had seen a news clip a few days prior to the news conference where the Director of the CDC, Dr. Thomas Frieden, said that about 85 million doses of swine flu vaccine were available. In addition, many states have so much H1N1 vaccine right now that they no longer have to reserve it for priority groups, but are instead making it available to anyone that wants it.

Now that the shortage of vaccine on the mainland has eased, the Governor and her team at DOH should be demanding that the CDC direct it to us. There's absolutely no excuse for pregnant women, chronically ill patients, and young children to go another day without having the protection of being vaccinated. Given that our flu season will likely peak this month, it's critical we act quickly.



### Climate Change Task Force Should Convene

I joined with Robert Harris, Director of the Sierra Club - Hawai'i Chapter, and Mark Fox, Director of Government Affairs for the Nature Conservancy, at a news conference on December 15th to bring attention to Governor Lingle's decision to not fund the Climate Change Task Force.



The fact that the legislature passed SB 266 last session and then overrode the Governor's veto in order for it to become law (Act 20) indicates our interest in this issue. Act 20 established the Climate Change Task Force within the Office of Planning. The task force has been directed to investigate the potential impacts and costs of global warming trends and ocean level rising on the people, natural resources, economy, visitor industry, air and sea transportation, buildings, public utilities infrastructure, shoreline erosion, and public health. In addition, the task force is supposed to develop recommendations for addressing or mitigating the near and long term effects from global warming.

Our state's budget crisis poses many serious challenges, but also provides us with opportunities if we are creative and show leadership. There are federal and private dollars available to states that are leaders on this issue, but the Task Force first has to meet to get the ball rolling. Because the Governor did not think it important enough to release the manini amount of funds appropriated for Act 20 (\$50K for this fiscal year), thereby making it so the Task Force could at least have its first meeting, Hawai'i was not able to apply for funding (\$10 million) from the federal EPA's Grants to Develop Climate Change Showcase Communities. The deadline for applying was July 22, 2009, with the grants being awarded in January 2010. Talk about missed opportunities!