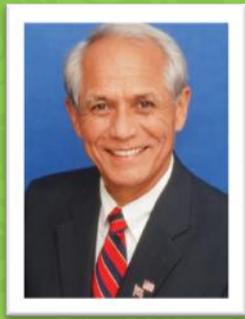


Senator Mike Gabbard



July 2010



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Senate District 19

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

Aloha! Hoping you and your ohana are enjoying the summer. Best wishes for a happy 4th of July. Here are a few things happening around town:

Mike Gabbard
State Senator for the 19th District

Calling for Climate & Clean Energy Legislation on World Oceans Day

I joined other elected officials, environmental groups, and community leaders at a news conference on June 8th (World Oceans Day) to call on the U.S. Senate to pass comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation this year. The news conference was organized by the Conservation Council, our state's oldest wildlife organization founded in 1950. World Oceans Day was declared by the United Nations in 2009 to draw attention to our vulnerable marine ecosystems. I made the following statement that highlights the need for action at the federal level:



Listen-Story

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale on Saturday, July 24th from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

I hope you can make it! Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My phone number is 586-6830 and my email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov.

“Federal climate change/clean energy legislation is critical to the future of our islands. The Gulf Oil disaster brings home how vulnerable we are because of our dependence on foreign oil. Most people have forgotten that back in 1977, the oil tanker Hawaiian Patriot caught fire and sank 300 miles off the coast of Honolulu spilling 30 million gallons of crude. This was roughly three times the 10.7 million gallons that spilled from the Exxon Valdez. What saved us from a huge disaster were strong trade winds and ocean currents pushing the oily mess westward away from the islands. The question is not if we will have a disaster, but when, if we keep importing over 40 million barrels of oil each year and don't make a major push toward renewable energy now!”

Algae May Provide Fuel of the Future



I was given a tour of Cellana's biofuels research facility in Kona by Operations Manager, Avery Kramer, on June 3rd. Cellana is a joint venture between Shell Oil and HR BioPetroleum dedicated to developing biofuels and animal feed from algae. According to many scientists, algae is a good candidate for a sustainable fuel of the future because it grows very rapidly, is rich in vegetable oil, and can be grown in ponds of seawater or brackish water. Coincidentally, a friend of mine sent me an article a few days later highlighting how EADS, the parent company of Airbus, and Diamond Aircraft recently made the first ever flights powered entirely through algae based biofuels. I'm convinced that algae could be a real game changer in meeting our future transportation energy needs!

Project Citizen: Creating Tomorrow's Leaders

On June 9th, I had the opportunity to serve as a judge in evaluating a student presentation on global warming and energy efficiency in schools. Jason Duncan's 8th grade American History and Government classes participated in simulated legislative hearings the week of June 7th as part of the Project Citizen project at Kapolei Middle School. Project Citizen is a program for middle and high school students that helps them become more involved in the public policy making process. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is coordinated with assistance from the National Conference of State Legislators.



From left: Carol Feinga (Kokua Foundation), Ken Dennison (Kapolei Middle School educational assistant), Senator Mike Gabbard, and Jen Homcy (Kapolei Middle School science teacher) served as judges for Kapolei Middle School's 8th grade Project Citizen program on global warming/energy efficiency on June 9th.

Project Citizen is perfect for getting our young people motivated and plugged into current public policy issues. I was very impressed with how the students were able to take the problem of global warming and come up with common sense solutions like reducing our consumption of fossil fuels and putting PV panels on our schools. These are the kind of engaged students who will be our elected officials of tomorrow.

Other judges who participated in the panel were Carol Feinga – Kokua Foundation, Jen Homcy – Kapolei Middle School science teacher, and Ken Dennison – Kapolei Middle School educational assistant. For more information about Project Citizen, please visit: <http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=introduction>



From left: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa, Senators Gabbard & Taniguchi, Chief Justice Moon, and Senator Sakamoto.

Kapolei Court Complex Dedicated



It was fun participating in the dedication ceremony for the new Kapolei Court Complex on May 28th. Many of you may have already visited the facility, as it officially opened in March of this year. The Kapolei Court Complex is a welcome addition to the community because for far too long residents from the west side of Oahu have been burdened with traveling to Honolulu to deal with family court matters. Now, residents from this area, as well as neighboring communities, will find relief in a new facility with less wait time and easier access to court services.

The facility is situated on close to 15 acres of land—11 of which were generously donated by the Estate of James Campbell—and houses 12 non-jury courtrooms, 1 jury courtroom, and a juvenile detention facility. The building's symbolic significance has been enhanced with the inclusion of culturally significant art by well-known artists Doug Young and Leland Miyano. The completion of the project symbolizes another phase of the city of Kapolei; making our community a place where we can truly work, live, play, and find justice for all.



Senator Gabbard is a member of the Access to Justice Commission and led the attendees of the Annual Summit in singing Hawai'i Pono I at the UH Richardson School of Law on June 25, 2010.



Honouliuli Forest Reserve: A Gift to Future Generations

We're constantly faced with the bad news that much of our open, green space is being paved over in the name of progress. However, I took part in a very different occasion on June 2nd when I participated in the celebration of the acquisition and protection of the Honouliuli Forest Reserve. The Reserve includes 3,592 acres of lowland diverse forest on the eastern slope of the Wai'anae Mountain Range. Thirty-five threatened and endangered species have made their homes there, including 16 found nowhere else in the world. The land is part of the watershed directly impacting the Pearl Harbor Aquifer, which is the largest drinking water resource on Oahu.

The Trust for Public Land bought the property from the James Campbell Company LLC in September 2009, thanks to funding assistance from many sources. The Army Compatible Use Buffer Program, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Program, the Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Fund, a private trust established by Edmund C. Olson, and a loan provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation played integral parts in saving the Reserve. The State's Department of Land and Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i, The Nature Conservancy, the Gill Family Trusts, and the Hawai'i Community Foundation have provided and will continue to offer their support for the project.



Mahalo to the Trust for Public Land and all of the public, private, and government entities and individuals who collaborated to preserve the Honouliuli Forest Reserve. Protecting our precious watershed resources, from the top of the mountain to the depths of the ocean, requires many hands working together with aloha.



Congratulations to Conchita and Filemon on their 40th Anniversary!

It was an honor to be a part of the 40th Wedding Anniversary for Kapolei residents, Conchita Pizzaro Corpuz and Filemon Valdez Castillo Jr, at Hickham Air Force Base on June 19th. The happily married couple met in Honolulu in the summer of 1968 and had their first date at Mabuhay Restaurant and Princess Theatre.

They have been blessed with three adult children: Leilani Ceicilia, Filemon III, and Michele Marcella. They also are proud grandparents to seven adorable grandchildren, with an eighth on the way in December. Filemon had a distinguished career serving our country in the Navy and at one point was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. One of their greatest memories together was buying their first home with very little funds to rely on. They attend St. Jude Catholic Church in Makakilo and call their family a glorious reward from the Lord I wish them many more years of happiness and success together.

Kealakai Provides More Affordable Homes for Kapolei

Rep. Sharon Har and I presented an honorary certificate from the Legislature to Bruce Barrett, Executive Vice President of Castle & Cooke Homes Hawai'i, at the blessing for Kealakai at Kapolei on June 13th. The new affordable housing project—a joint venture between Castle & Cooke and the Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation—features 140 fee simple units starting as low as \$230,000. They have units with 1 to 3 bedrooms and up to 900 sq. feet of living space. Families are expected to move in starting August 2010.





Waipahu Cane Haul Run 2010 Around the Corner

I invite you to join me in participating in the Waipahu Cane Haul Run 2010 at Hawai'i's Plantation Village from 7:00am to 10:00am on August 22nd. This is a great way to get some exercise and spend some time with the family. The event is being sponsored by the Volunteer Resource Center of Hawai'i, Waipahu Community Coalition, and Waipahu Weed & Seed. For more information, please call 354-3663. You can also download entry forms at www.canehaulrun.blogspot.com, and if you register by August 2nd, the entry donation is \$20.



Apartments to Get Free CFLs

The Blue Planet Foundation and Hawai'i Energy are sponsoring a great program to give away 36,000 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) on a first come first serve basis to apartment buildings. By signing up with the program, they will replace one CFL for every old-style incandescent bulb that is turned in. *(At right is Sen. Gabbard with Henk Rogers, founder of the Blue Planet Foundation.)*



As you may know, CFLs use $\frac{1}{4}$ the amount of electricity as old-style light bulbs and save over \$100 in electricity costs over the life of the bulb. To participate, please go to this link and fill out the form: <http://www.blueplanetfoundation.org/cflexchange>. If you have any questions, please contact Blue Planet Foundation at CFLexchange@blueplanetfoundation.org or call Eric Batalon at 954-6144.

link and fill out the form:



*"Listen-Story" at Kapolei Starbucks
June 12, 2010*



*Hands Across the Sand at Waikiki
June 26, 2010*



*SongFest at Kapolei Elementary
June 10, 2010*

Kidz Club Session at Ko 'Olina: Great Way to Learn Golf

If you'd like your keiki to learn the great game of golf, Ko 'Olina is the place to be this summer. Starting July 25th, Ko 'Olina Golf Club's PGA Professionals will begin their Kidz Club sessions. All first-time students will receive a Hawai'i State Junior Golf Association membership, Kidz Club shirt & cap, First Swing for Juniors book, rules of golf book, and a 25% coupon for the purchase of golf clubs. The deadline to sign up is July 18th. For more information, please call the Ko 'Olina Golf Club at 676-5300. Please note there is a fee for participating.

