

State Senator
MIKE GABBARD

CHAIR

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

VICE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER

PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SENATE DISTRICT 19: WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK,
ROYAL KUNIA, KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO, KALAELOA, HONOKAI HALE,
AND PORTIONS OF WAIPAHU & KO 'OLINA

Aloha Friends,
Spring is just around the corner and so is the dreaded day to file our tax returns. I hope the warmth of spring eclipses the pain of tax season. Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and my phone number is 586-6830.
Mike Senator Mike Gabbard



Barbers Point Bowling Center Grand Opening

I'm happy that Barbers Point Bowling Center is officially opening on March 8th. Proprietors, Bev Brennan and Linda Painter, secured a lease with Ford Island Ventures and have been busy the last few months getting the place cleaned up and ready for bowlers. Bev and Linda want everyone to know that the Bowling Center is no longer just for the military, but will now be open to the public. Their hours of operation will be Sunday through Thursday from 9am to 11pm and on Friday/Saturday from 9am to 2am.

The Bowling Center has a new kitchen which will serve local specials as well as the standard snack foods you find at other bowling venues. The opening is a welcome relief to many area bowlers who've had to commute to the next closest bowling alley in Pearl City. The Bowling Center will feature leagues and also have open play. For more information, please give them a call at 673-2695.

Kualaka'i Parkway Finally Opens

Talk about a long-time coming! It was awesome to attend the dedication ceremony for Kualaka'i Parkway (formerly the North-South Road) on February 11th. The cost of this 2.3 mile road, which links Kapolei Parkway to Farrington Highway, was \$155 million, with 80% of the cost paid by the feds. The actual construction of this road took 4 years but West Oahu residents have been waiting for over 20 years for it to be built.



The untying of the maile lei ceremony was performed by (above photo, from left) Senators Will Espero and Mike Gabbard, Lieutenant Governor James "Duke" Aiona, Senator J. Kalani English, Representatives Kymberly Pine and Sharon Har, and Senate President Colleen Hanabusa.

Listen-Story Community Meeting

Please join me at my next "Listen-Story" meeting at Kapolei Starbucks (next to Chevron) on Saturday, March 27th from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Rise Above Plastic Bags Rally

Senator Gary Hooser and I participated in a rally at the State Capitol on February 10th to express our support for legislation to ban single use plastic bags or to impose a small fee on those bags. The event was sponsored by the Rise Above Plastic Bags Coalition, which is made up of the Surfrider Foundation, Styrophobia, and Sierra Club.

I introduced SB 2559 this session to ban the use of single use plastic bags that are non-biodegradable. Another bill that is being considered is HB 2125, introduced by Rep. Mark Nakashima, which would impose a 10 cent fee for each plastic bag a person uses at a retail store.

I'm hopeful that one of these measures gets passed into law this session. This will cut down on the fossil fuel that's needed to produce plastic bags and also reduce the waste going into our landfills or littering our landscape and oceans.

It's time we start using reusable bags instead of plastic. It's the right thing to do for our oceans, marine and bird wildlife, and for all of Hawai'i nei. You might be shocked by these facts put together by the Coalition, which highlight this wasteful problem:

- **Plastics are the number one source of marine debris and each year over a million seabirds and hundreds of thousands of marine mammals die from ingestion of and entanglement in plastic bags.**
- **Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled.**
- **Americans go through more than 100 billion plastic bags every year, requiring more than 12 million barrels of oil to produce.**
- **The average American uses 400 plastic bags a year.**

“BETWEEN 500 BILLION AND 1 TRILLION PLASTIC BAGS ARE USED WORLDWIDE EACH YEAR.”



Senator Gabbard is greeted above by the “Plastic Bags Monster” whose costume is made up of 400 plastic bags, the annual number used by the average American. Can you imagine 300 Million times that many bags going into US landfills every year???



Texas residents Alton & Janis Holt celebrated their 20th Anniversary by stopping by the State Capitol on February 26th.



Sen. Gabbard honored Kapolei resident Sgt. Malua Tuimaleali'ifano and Walk Across Oahu team members (from left) Yvette Lee, John Cummings, and Tofi Mika Togiola on February 26th.



Pastor Garret Shon of Hope Chapel Kapolei delivered the Senate's daily prayer on February 4th.

Around the Neighborhood

Volunteer Special Enforcement Officers Program Needs You!

Waipahu Neighborhood Board Chair, George Yakowenko, stopped by my February 20th "listen-story" meeting in Kunia (photo at right) in the hopes of recruiting a few more good people for the City's Volunteer Special Enforcement Officers Program.

Back in 2003, when I was a City Councilman for West Oahu I authored legislation to set up this program within HPD. This is great for retirees (perfect for golfers who are getting bored playing 5 days a week!) and anyone else who is willing to donate 5 hours a week to help their community by issuing citations for disabled parking violations, expired registrations, safety checks, parking out of stalls, and abandoned vehicles. Last year, George and the 18 other volunteers in the program wrote 3,000 tickets. What's great is that this frees up our HPD officers so they can devote more time to getting the real bad guys.

In order to qualify, volunteers must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, have a valid driver's license, pass a background check, and complete 40 hours of training. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Sgt. Emilio Laganse at 529-3136.

Contractor Named for Ka Makana Ali'i Mall

DeBartolo LLC announced on Feb. 10th that they are moving forward with the Ka Makana Ali'i Mall and have selected Nordic PCL to be the general contractor for the 1st phase of their 1.5 million sq. foot shopping center in Kapolei (at the intersection of Kapolei Parkway and Kualaka'i). The mall will feature two hotels and construction is expected to start in a year or 18 months. The land for the project is being leased from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.



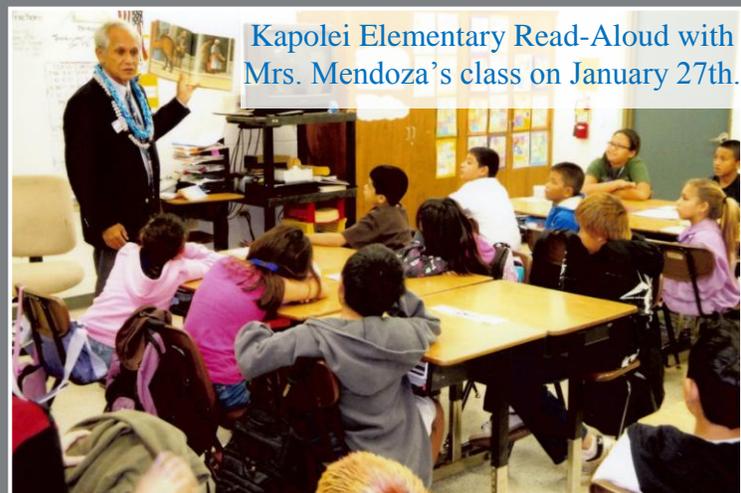
Sen. Gabbard spent his Saturday morning on February 20th listening to the ideas and concerns of District 19 residents. Special thanks to the barista team at Kunia Starbucks for accommodating 25 of us!

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban Would be Welcome Relief for Many

You might have seen the news recently that I introduced a bill this session, SB 2356, which would ban gas-powered leaf blowers. The main reason I'm working to get this bill passed is that many people around the island have contacted me, as Energy and Environment Chair, to do something about the noise and air pollution that these things cause. It's a quality of life issue, as I've heard repeatedly on the phone and in person.

SB 2356 would allow electric leaf blowers which are quieter and don't pollute the environment as much or cause problems for people who have respiratory diseases. If you'd like to check out the text and status of SB 2356, you can see it online:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/lists/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2356



Senator Gabbard Stands Up for Renewable Energy

I joined with the Blue Planet Foundation, Sierra Club, Earthjustice, and the solar industry on February 24th in criticizing Hawaiian Electric (HECO) for attempting to prohibit any more homes and businesses on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Lana'i, and Molokai from installing photovoltaic panels. This would have forced solar contractors to shut down and also would have greatly hindered our goal of powering our economy with renewable energy, instead of fossil fuels. Fortunately, Hawaiian Electric rescinded its request for the solar moratorium on February 26th. Here's the statement I made to the media on the matter:

Hawaiian Electric's Solar Moratorium

*Statement by Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environment*

Prohibiting Hawai'i's homeowners and businesses from installing solar energy systems on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Lana'i, and Moloka'i is not in the public interest. In fact, it is directly at odds with the interests of the families and small business owners that my colleagues and I represent.

Today's solar and other types of renewable energy systems being installed directly on homes and businesses are a glimpse into a future that is not far off. These efforts by thousands of individuals committing to a clean energy future are a crucial part of the solution to Hawai'i's energy problems and should not be discouraged by our utilities.

Hawai'i's energy security situation is dire – we are incredibly vulnerable to oil price spikes and supply disruptions that are charged to utility customers, who must simply pay their bill no matter how high it rises. Furthermore, as an island chain, we are exposed to sea level rise and other consequences of global warming that threaten the way of life that we are so fortunate to enjoy. If Hawai'i – which has so much to lose - cannot move decisively to address its own impact on climate change we cannot credibly expect others to do the same.

Meanwhile, in these challenging economic times when Hawai'i needs jobs more than ever, the solar industry is creating green jobs for working families. It is one of the few industries that have survived the economic downturn relatively unscathed. There is no doubt that Hawaiian Electric's proposal will put solar contractors out of business and this is simply unacceptable in the current environment.

On a more personal level, my district has world-class solar potential and at the same time folks are paying as much as \$600 per month for electricity for their homes. I'm concerned that Oahu could possibly be next in line for this PV ban, and I'm not willing to stand by and watch Hawaiian Electric remove the one off-ramp that these families have to reduce their electricity bills.

As Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, it's clear to me that our efforts to convert Hawai'i to renewable energy cannot succeed if we allow the utilities to have veto power over which plans and projects get selected. The Hawaiian Electric companies must begin living up to their responsibilities as public utilities and stop acting in opposition to the interests of the citizens of our state.

