



Legislative Update from

Senator Mike Gabbard

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WAIPAHU, AND KO 'OLINA

Aloha,

We've had a family health crisis at the office the past few weeks. On September 16th, my Office Manager, Rock Riggs and his wife Ali, had to fly their newborn daughter, Grace, to San Diego for emergency heart surgery. She made it through her first surgery all right, but is faced with two more surgeries in the next 6 months. She has a rare congenital heart defect called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. Your prayers and thoughts are greatly appreciated. Consequently, we've been short-staffed at the office while he and his family have been in San Diego. Please bear with us as we do our best to reply to all your emails, phone calls, and letters in the months ahead.

Call me at 586-6830 or email me at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can ever help you or your family in any way.

Jared Kaonohi's Eagle Court of Honor

I made a presentation to Kapolei resident, Jared Kaonohi, at his Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at the LDS, Makakilo Stake on September 10th. Jared is a Kamehameha Schools Honor Roll student who has been a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the scouts since he was a Cub. He has served as Scribe and Historian, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. While he is not busy with scouting projects, Jared is active in The



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day-Saints, where he currently has been honored with the responsibility of being the Vice President for his Seminary class. Jared has also been a Captain in Command for The Honolulu Police Department's Junior Police Officers. His proud parents, Miles and Ilona Kaonohi of Kapolei, have done a wonderful job raising Jared to be a good citizen and responsible young man.

Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen-story" community meeting will be held at the Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron Station) on Saturday, October 22nd from 9am to 10am. If you can't make it, please drop me an email or call me at the office.



Warning about Plastic Bottle Bombs

A Kapolei High School teacher forwarded me an email recently about a very disturbing thing that we should all be on the lookout for. It turns out some very "sick minds" are creating homemade bombs by putting drano, tin foil, and a little water in soda bottles and capping it. These bottles are then left on people's front yards. The bottle bomb goes off in about 30 seconds or less, when an unsuspecting person tries to carry it to the trash. The explosion has enough force to sever fingers and cause second to third degree burns. We checked with HPD and at [snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp) to confirm this is for real. You can read the snopes story at this link: <http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp>. Please be careful to protect you and your family and contact HPD at 911 if you see anything like this in your neighborhood.



Hawai'i Moving Toward Clean Energy Future

I wrote the following article for the October 2011 Clean Energy Supplement included in the Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle.

Want to hear a sad statistic? Each year we send \$3-6 billion dollars overseas to buy over 40 million barrels of oil to light up our homes, drive our cars, and keep our jets fueled to bring in tourists. This is absolutely absurd given the fact that Hawai'i has so many renewable natural resources built in. We have abundant sunshine, great wind, powerful ocean currents, underground pools of magma on the Big Island and Maui, and fantastic growing conditions for biofuels. Yet, we're more dependent on fossil fuels than any other state in the nation. This is unacceptable!

I took over as Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee in 2009. Since assuming this post, I've made it my mission to get Hawai'i to kick its addiction to imported fossil fuel by exploring every avenue for energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy resources.

Many of you may know that our state launched the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) in 2008 with the goal of having 70% of our energy needs met through energy efficiency and renewable energy by 2030. This is a lofty goal, but it's attainable if government, our utilities, the private sector, and each of us in the community continue to focus on making Hawai'i a leader in cutting edge clean energy technology.

One of the highlights of my job is visiting with homeowners and businesses that have put photovoltaic (PV) panels and solar water heaters on their rooftops to lower energy costs. It's true that the up-front costs can sometimes discourage people from making these very important investments. However, you should know that both homeowners and businesses in our state can take advantage of tax credits and rebates to make both PV and solar water heaters more affordable.

One bright spot from this past legislation session was Act 204. This new law directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an on-bill financing program for residential electric utility customers to finance energy efficiency or renewable energy systems and pay for them through their regular monthly electric bills. The PUC is currently doing the study and may implement on-bill financing in the coming years.

SunRun and SolarCity have also entered the Hawai'i market recently. These companies actually lease PV systems to homeowners at a fixed monthly cost. This arrangement was made possible by legislation I authored in 2011 which became Act 9.

Our state ranks first in the nation in PV capacity installed per capita. But we've got a long way to go, because out of the 267,000 single family homes in the state, only 5,000 currently have PV. At the Legislature, we've worked to make sure that we've kept incentives in place during our economic downturn. The state Renewable Energy Income Tax Credit provides up to 35% of the actual cost with the following caps:

- \$5,000 per PV system for a single family house
- \$350 per unit per system for multi-family residential
- \$500,000 per system for commercial system

Folks are also eligible for federal tax credits that cover 30% of the cost. However, this one is set to expire at the end of 2016. (Continued on next page...)



We also rank first in the nation in solar water heaters per capita. To date, there are close to 100,000 residential systems installed. We were also the first state in the nation to pass a law in 2008, which mandates that all new single family homes have solar water heaters. Our tax credit for solar water heaters is up to 35% with the following caps:

- \$2,250 per system for single-family house
- \$350 per unit per system for multi-family residential
- \$250,000 per system for commercial property

Please bear in mind that you can also qualify for a federal tax credit of up to 30% and a \$750 rebate from Hawai'i Energy, which is the entity that manages the public benefit fee you pay each month on your HECO bill.

I'm one of the lucky ones who purchased an all-electric Nissan Leaf in April of this year. I can't tell you how great it is not having to worry about the high cost of gas. Our state also allows electric vehicles to be exempt from HOV/Zipper lane regulations and not have to pay state and county parking meters. Here are some of the policies in place to make an electric car affordable for you.



- \$7,500 federal tax credit for the purchase of an electric car (doesn't expire until car manufacturers sell 200,000 of their electrical vehicles)
- \$4,500 state tax credit for purchase of electric car (have to apply by Jan. 2012)
- \$1,000 federal tax credit for electric charging station
- \$500 state tax credit for electric charging station

As you can see, there are some great programs that can help you make the switch to reduce your electric bill and leave the gas pump behind. We, as elected officials, can talk until we're in blue in the face about how great these programs are, but it's going to take you buying in to make Hawai'i a world leader in clean energy.



Senator Gabbard was interviewed by Jeff "The Solar Guy" Davis on the Hawai'i's Tomorrow Radio Show at the KGU 760AM studio on August 31st. The interview focused on upcoming development in Senator Gabbard's district in West Oahu and what's happening on the renewable energy front.



West Oahu legislators sponsored a Town Hall meeting on September 21 at Kapolei High School to let the community know about UHWO programs and progress towards its opening in fall of 2012. Here Senator Gabbard thanks and welcomes Chancellor Gene Awkuni as a future good neighbor.



Senator Gabbard addressed the students and faculty of Kaleiopuu Elementary School on September 9th at their Patriot's Day Remembrance Assembly. Other guests present were Representative Ty Cullen and Lt. Colonel Sage.

Ways You Can Lend a Hand

Friends for Kea Davis-Milo Fund

One of our neighbors in Makakilo, Kea Davis-Milo, needs your help. Kea is a professional singer and has a husband and two young children. She was recently diagnosed with a rare, neurological disease called Moyamoya. The only treatment for this disease is a high risk surgery that costs an estimated \$1.5 million. Her insurance company will cover 85% of the cost, but that still leaves a \$150,000 bill. If you'd like to make a donation to Kea, you can make a deposit at any Bank of Hawai'i branch to the Friends of Kea Davis-Milo or do it online at this website: www.life4kea.com. You might also be interested in attending her Big Kokua Bash – An Extension of Life Concert for Kea Davis-Milo at the Waterfront at Aloha Tower on Saturday, November 12th from 6pm to 2am. To purchase tickets or to find out more information, call their hotline at 744-8769.



Praise & Worship Concert Lifting Up Japan – The Kapolei United Methodist Church (KUMC) is having a benefit concert for the victims of Japan's recent devastating earthquake and tsunami on Saturday, October 8th from 5pm to 7pm. It will take place at their church located at 91-1037 Lexington Street in Kalaeloa. They will pray for the victims and collect offerings toward rebuilding efforts through LIMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). There will be music by Kapolei KUMC Praise Band, Glory to God Singers, and HaChanMo Praise Team. For more information, contact Pastor SonHye Kim at 421-8439 or kapoleikumc@gmail.com.

2nd Annual Kapolei High School Project Grad – GOLF for GRADS – Kapolei High School's Project Graduation 2012 Committee is organizing a golf tournament on Friday, November 18th at the Kapolei Golf Course. Registration is at 10:30am and the shotgun start is scheduled for 12pm. The deadline to enter is October 14th. Project Grad is focused on providing a fun, safe, drug-alcohol-tobacco free celebration for the Kapolei High School Class of 2012. The Committee is made up of volunteer parents, teachers, and students whose goal is to make grad night a date our teens "live to remember". Please contact Charisse Freitas at 478-8582 or Denise Faris at 753-4374 to get details on the entry fee, format, and opportunities for sponsorship.



Honeywell UOP Biorefinery Coming to Campbell Industrial Park

Rep. Sharon Har and I presented a certificate from the State Legislature in honor of the groundbreaking for Honeywell UOP's Integrated Biorefinery at the Tesoro Refinery in Campbell Industrial Park on August 30th. This project will be a pilot-scale refining facility to convert biomass into green transportation fuels and will be made possible by a \$25 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy. As a result of this project, UOP anticipates being able to replicate the facility on a commercial scale. Each commercial application would have the potential of producing 50 million gallons of fuels annually, while creating approximately 800 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs. Locally, the Honeywell UOP Integrated Refinery in Campbell Industrial Park will provide 85 jobs during peak construction and around 40 sustained jobs. The facility will produce fuels that offer more than a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.(mahalo Senator Inouye!)

