



Aloha Friends,

I completed my 8th session as your State Senator on May 1st. It was also my 6th session as the Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee (ENE). I continue to do all I can to move us forward on our clean energy goals and to protect our precious environment. A big congratulations to the 2014 high school graduates from James Campbell High School, Kapolei High School, Waipahu High School, Island Pacific Academy, and American Renaissance Academy. And a special shout-out to Waipahu Principal Keith Hayashi for being named Principal of the Year. I also want to welcome Queen's Medical Center – West in Ewa into the community. As of May 20th, we are very fortunate to have our hospital back! Please let me know if I can ever help you or your family in any way. I can be reached at

586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov



Senator Gabbard held his Listen Story meeting at the Kapolei Starbucks May 10th.

"Listen-Story" Meeting

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be held at Ewa Mahiko District Park on June 28th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. If you can't make it, please email me and I'll send you the notes.



COMMITTEE CHAIR

* Energy and Environment

MEMBER

* Judiciary and Labor

* Transportation and International Affairs

* Education

District 20

Kapolei, Makakilo, and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu

My Legislation

Four of the bills I authored passed the Legislature this session. Here's a short description:

2014 Legislative Session Overview

During the 2014 Legislative Session, we introduced 2,312 bills (1,185 in the House and 1,127 in the Senate). Of those, 245 passed the Legislature. Governor Abercrombie has until June 23rd to notify us whether he intends to veto any of those bills. The Legislature can then choose to override any of those vetoes during a Special Session on July 8th. You can contact Governor Abercrombie at governor.abercrombie@hawaii.gov or 586-0034 if you'd like to weigh in on any of the 2014 legislation.

SB 2175 (Act 56) – authorizes the Dean of the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish a two-year hemp remediation and biofuel research project. This starts us on the path of growing our own hemp, an incredible crop that is used in over 27,000 products. (I highly recommend a short documentary called, *Bringing it Home*, if you're interested in finding out more about the potential of this amazing plant.)

SB 2196 – would extend the barrel tax, which was scheduled to end in 2015, to 2030. Some of these funds are dedicated to energy and food security. The bill would also reinstate the Energy Systems Development Special Fund, which assists the UH based Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute secure federal funding for their important research.

SB 2657 – would set procedures for the continuation of roof guarantees and warranties when solar PV panels are installed on the roof of a home. There have been disagreements in some situations in the past and this will make things work more smoothly.

SB 2658 (Act 55) – would allow solar projects to be located on parcels of Class B & C agricultural lands greater than 20 acres as long as a special use permit is obtained through the Land Use Commission. A provision in the bill requires the solar developers to lease additional lands to farmers at 50% lower than the market rate to make it easier for agriculture to thrive.



Fighting Invasive Species

One of my top priorities this session as the ENE Committee Chair was to make sure we dedicated more resources to addressing the huge problem we have with invasive species. As you've most likely heard, Little Fire Ants have recently been discovered in Waimanalo, which is a huge cause for alarm given the impact they've had on the Big Island. So, this session I worked closely with Rep. Chris Lee, Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee in the State House, and my other colleagues, to get invasive species funding legislation included in the Joint Majority Package. I was stoked to see HB 1716 pass the Legislature. The bill will dedicate \$5 million to the detection, prevention, control, outreach, and research of invasive species. I was also very pleased to be appointed by Senate President Donna Kim as a member of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), which is an inter-departmental collaboration of government agencies that work together on this major problem. As a member of HISC, I'll have a direct hand in making sure this funding is spent wisely.



Senator Gabbard, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and Carol Gabbard visited David Wong's farm in Waianae on February 18th, where they checked out a healthy dry land taro patch, grown using Master Cho's Natural Farming method. With the addition of 15 MW of solar PVs on the property, his farm will be a showcase for agriculture and energy.

Mokulele Takes Flight at Kalaeloa Airport

If you're looking to hop over to a neighbor island this summer, look no further than the Kalaeloa Airport to get to your destination. That's because Mokulele Airlines is launching flights from the Kalaeloa Airport starting on July 1st. They will begin with three round-trip passenger flights from Kalaeloa Airport to Kahului Airport in Maui. Departing flights from Kalaeloa will be at 7:35 a.m., 1 p.m., and 6:20 p.m. Returning flights from Kahului will be at 6:15 a.m., 11:40 a.m., and 5 p.m. They will use 9 passenger Cessna's for their flights.



Former Honouliuli Internment Camp Proposed as National Park

On May 8th, the National Park Service released a study which is proposing that the former Honouliuli Internment Camp in Kunia be added to the National Park System as a National Historic Site. During World War II, about 2,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated at the Honouliuli Internment Camp. The site of the former internment camp is located on land owned by Monsanto Hawai'i, which has stated that they are interested in donating the land. A series of statewide public meetings are being held to get input on key findings of the study. Public comment on the study, which can be accessed at www.nps.gov/pwro/honouliuli, will be accepted until July 15th. Comments can be emailed to pwr_honouliuli@nps.gov. Congratulations to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i for all their hard work and dedication in helping to preserve the artifacts of this difficult chapter of our nation's history.



Senator Gabbard, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and Carol Gabbard lay a wreath at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Senator Gabbard donned his hemp aloha shirt and joined fellow legislators at Governor Neil Abercrombie's Bill Signing Ceremony for SB 2175 on April 30th. The new law will initiate a two-year research study of industrial hemp. Pictured from (L to R) Rep. Chris Lee, Rep. Richard Creagan, Rep. Angus McKelvey, Rep. Jessica Wooley, Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Beth Fukumoto, Rep. Aaron Johanson, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Governor Abercrombie, Senator Russell Ruderman, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Mike Gabbard, Rep. Richard Onishi, Senator Sam Slom, and Senator Laura Thielen.



Quick State Budget Summary

For the Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015, we have a \$23.9 billion operating budget and a \$5.1 billion construction (CIP) budget. Major components of the operating budget are: Human Services (22%); Budget and Finance (18%); Other Departments (15%); Education (16%); Health (13%); University of Hawai'i (9%); and Transportation (7%).

District 20 Construction Funding

It's great news that the Fiscal Biennium 2013 – 2015 State Budget included \$178,722,000 in construction projects for District 20 schools, UH West O'ahu, roads, non-profits, and other infrastructure. Here's a rundown of those projects.

Transportation

- Kualaka'i Parkway Extension – Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt Ave. - \$15,001,000
- H-1 Westbound PM Contraflow Lane - \$55 million
- H-1, Modification of Makakilo to Palailai Interchange - \$5.7 million
- Kunia Road - Third Lane over Farrington Highway to H-1 - \$3 million
- H-1 Kunia Interchange Improvements - \$780,000
- O'ahu Bikeways – Waipio Point Access Road to Lualualei Naval Road - \$11,932,000

UH West O'ahu

- University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu Science, Technology, and Creative Media Facility - \$2 million
- University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu Allied Health Building - \$28.8 million
- University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu Road B - UHWO to Kualaka'i Parkway – \$3.5 million

Schools

- East Kapolei High School - \$5 million
- East Kapolei Middle School - \$3 million
- Mauka Lani Elementary School - Electrical Upgrades - \$700,000

Grants-in-Aid to Non-Profits

- Kapolei Community Development Corp. Grant in Aid (Heritage Center) - \$1,150,000
- Seagull Schools Childcare Center Grant in Aid (Kapolei Elem. School) - \$1.2 million

Kalaeloa Infrastructure

- Kalaeloa Enterprise Energy Corridor - \$7 million
- Youth Challenge Academy, Bldg. 32 Repair and Improvements (Kalaeloa) - \$340,000
- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor New Fuel Pier - \$3 million
- Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor Turning Basin and Entrance Channel - \$400,000
- Army Aviation Support Facility - \$31,219,000



Senator Gabbard checked out the lower tunnel next to the fuel pipe system during a tour of the underground fuel tanks at the Navy's Red Hill Fuel Site on March 5th. From left to right: Lt. Commander Angela Watson, Captain Mark Wheeler, Senator Will Espero, Senator Josh Green, Carlton Saito (Senator Gabbard's Committee Clerk), Gary Gill (Deputy Director of the Department of Health), and Senator Gabbard.



Senator Gabbard spoke to high school students from across O'ahu at Blue Planet Foundation's Clean Energy Rally in celebration of Earth Day at the State Capitol on April 22nd.



Senator Gabbard, Senator Will Espero, and Rep. Karen Awana spoke with the members of Ewa Mahiko Holooho Club in the Senate Chambers at the State Capitol on April 14th.



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Senator Gabbard and Rep. Sharon Har presented certificates from the State Legislature to honor the Blessing of the new Pier 1 Imports store in the Kapolei Commons Shopping Center on May 23rd. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Har, Jeffrey Trinh (Pier 1 Imports Regional Manager), Leia Naehu (Kapolei Store Manager), and Senator Gabbard.



Senator Gabbard met with 7th grade students from Island Pacific Academy (IPA) and 8th grade exchange students from the Thomas Jefferson Institute of Mexico in the Senate Chambers on May 1st. Pictured in the front row on the far left is Thomas Jefferson Institute teacher, Celina Gomez, and on the far right is IPA Spanish teacher, Laura Guzman.



Senator Gabbard met with the officers and Board members of the Kalaeloa Heritage and Legacy Foundation (KHLF) at his State Capitol office on March 12th. KHLF is a non-profit organization that has worked to establish the Kalaeloa Heritage Park. Pictured (L to R) are Valerie Kane (Secretary/Treasurer and Board member), Dan Lyman (Board member), Melissa Lyman (President and Board Member), Senator Gabbard, Lance Holden (Board member), Eric Matanane (Vice President and Board member), and Shad Kane (Board member).



The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kapolei II Elementary School took place on April 2, 2014. Participating in the event were Don Horner (Board of Education Chairman); Raymond L'Heureux (Board of Education Assistant Superintendent); Laureen Dunn (Kapolei II Elementary Principal); Rep. Ty Cullen; Senator Gabbard; Rep. Sharon Har; Governor Neil Abercrombie; Heidi Armstrong (Board of Education Area Superintendent); Councilwoman Kym Pine; Sharon Thom (Kiewit Senior Vice President); Aika Fujimoto (Kiewit Project Manager); Bob Bruhl (D.R. Horton Hawai'i President); and Damon Gray (Kiewit Project Manager).