



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## *Legislative update...*

*Aloha e friends,*

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your 'ohana! Please take the opportunity this season to express gratitude to your family, friends, and coworkers who help and support you throughout the year. And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

*Mike*

## Ka Makana Ali'i Opens in Kapolei

I was stoked to participate in the Grand Opening of the first phase of the Ka Makana Ali'i Mall on October 21st. I spoke with many people who attended the various activities, and the one theme I heard repeatedly, was

"thank God, we don't have to get on H-1 and go to Pearlridge or Ala Moana." One lady added,

*"This means more quality time with my family, less time on the freeway."*

Notable tenants, who I was able to personally congratulate with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate/State Legislature in addition to the mall's developer DeBartolo Development, were *Macy's*, *Olino Theaters*, *California Pizza Kitchen*, and *FarmLovers Farmers' Markets*. Ka Makana Ali'i is home to the first *Hampton Inn & Suites*

in the state and is the first regional mall to be built on O'ahu in over 30 years with 1.4 million-square feet of retail space. The mall is located on 67 acres of lands leased from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and will generate more than \$1 billion in revenue for the agency. It's also expected to create more than 5,000 jobs.

## Ideas for Legislation

Tempus fugit...where did 2016 go? This means our legislative session, which will begin on January 18<sup>th</sup>, is just around the corner. As always, I'm interested in your ideas if you'd like to offer suggestions for changes or improvements in how our state government operates. You don't have to have a full-fledged bill written out, just a few bullet points to get us started and we'll take it from there. Please let me know.



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## COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ♦ Water, Land and Agriculture

## VICE CHAIR

- ♦ Transportation and Energy

## MEMBER

- ♦ Judiciary and Labor
- ♦ Higher Education & the Arts

## DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

## NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "listen story" meeting will be held at the Ewa Mahiko District Park meeting room **November 5th from 9:00am-10:00am**. We'll skip our Listen Story meeting in December because of the Christmas Holiday Season. We'll resume in January and will send out a notice on the date, time, and place.

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## INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON FOREIGN FISHERMEN CONTROVERSY



Pictured L-R: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Rep. Ty Cullen, Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Nicole Lowen, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, and Sen. Sam Slom direct questions to Bruce Anderson, Administrator for the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

You might have seen in the news that the Associated Press (AP) released an article on September 7th about labor concerns within the local longline fishing industry. This story was part of a six-month investigation by Pulitzer Prize winners Martha Mendoza and Maggie Mason.

The story detailed how approximately 700 men from countries, such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, & Kiribati, work on U.S. flagged fishing boats based in Honolulu Harbor. Due to a federal exemption, these foreign fishermen can work on the board, but they aren't allowed to fly into the state or to move freely about in Honolulu with work visas.

The AP story brought up allegations of possible forced labor/slavery and also highlighted concerns about working conditions, including low pay, substandard medical care and food, and unclean living quarters.

In response, as Chair of Senate Water, Land, & Agriculture Committee, I partnered with Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair of the House Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, and Rep. Mark

Nakashima, Chair of the House Labor & Public Employment in hosting an informational briefing on October 19th at the Capitol on this controversial matter.

The AP Story was a real shock and has concerned a lot of us. The informational briefing was a good opportunity to hear from the Department of Land and Natural Resources Aquatic Resources Division, which issues fishing licenses, and the longline fishing industry. It also allowed us to pull together additional facts on the existing working conditions for the foreign fishermen.

I commend the fishing industry for being proactive and establishing the new universal contract and launching a working condition survey. One of the things we're still figuring out is what jurisdiction the state has in this arena, given the federal laws that are in place. As WLA Chair, I'll do all I can to ensure that these foreign fishermen are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

## KALAELOA WATER SYSTEM NEEDS NEW OWNER

I wrote a letter to Randy Iwase, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission on August 31st, expressing my support of the approval of change of control for Hunt Kalaeloa Water to take over the *Kalaeloa Water Company*.

Since the closure of the Barbers Point Naval Air Station in 1999, the Navy has continued to own and operate the water system in Kalaeloa, but has made minimal improvements. The Board of Water Supply has also unfortunately declined taking over the water system in

this community. According to filings with the PUC and the Consumer Advocate, there's approximately 30% unaccounted water in the Kalaeloa water system.

Given the importance of conserving water to meet our island's future needs, this must change. I see this proposal as a win-win that *Hunt Kalaeloa Water* is willing to step in to help resolve this serious situation. I'm hopeful the PUC will approve allowing *Hunt Kalaeloa Water* to take over the water system by its spring 2017 target date.



## U.S. SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE FIELD HEARING

I presented testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources at a field hearing at the Capitol on October 18<sup>th</sup>. U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono presided over the hearing as a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The field hearing focused on federal and non-federal partnerships in integrated water management and efforts to improve water security in Hawai'i. Here's an excerpt from the testimony I relayed to the Committee:

*The Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative has become a cornerstone of our state's efforts to improve integrated water management and water security in the state. Through this collaborative effort led by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, three aggressive water strategy areas have been identified: conservation, recharge, and reuse. The principal goal of the Initiative is to create 100 million gallons per day in additional, reliable fresh water capacity for our islands by 2030, including recharging our aquifers through rainwater capture with a goal of 30 million gallons a day. Achieving these ambitious goals is directly tied to the successful stewardship of our watershed areas. The State Legislature has taken the need to focus on fresh water security to heart. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a bill signing ceremony for 7 water supply related bills. This is the most water-related bills in memory—and the direct result of a close partnership between the Water and Land Committee in the House and our committee in the Senate. The issue will remain at the forefront in coming sessions. A few of the highlights include:*

- **Act 169 (SB 2645)** provides funding for and requires the adoption of a 5-year statewide water loss audit program to encourage our water utilities to track leaks and prevent water waste.
- **Act 170 (HB 1749)** amends the Hawai'i state water plan to include the utilization of reclaimed water at all state and county facilities for all uses other than potable/drinking water needs. The new law sets an ambitious goal for the water sector just as Hawai'i has adopted a nation-leading standard around 100% renewable energy.
- **Act 172 (HB 2040)** establishes a 2-year Natural Capital Investment Partnership under the state Department of Land Natural Resources to spur water innovation and public-private partnerships in the water sector.

*As we look to our future priorities, it's important that the state and federal government provide sufficient financial resources to enable our Watershed Partnerships and the state DLNR to protect more of our watershed forests. We should also continue to encourage the EPA and state Department of Health to work together to find good uses for the funding available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Going beyond state and county buildings, we need to update our plumbing and building codes to include the latest efficiency and reuse potential and conserve our water resources. The State Legislature will also revisit legislation to create a program that offers incentives to local residents who invest in water conservation systems.*



(Pictured: U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono; Gov. Ige; Sen. Gabbard, Chair Water, Land, and Agriculture/Vice Chair Energy & Transportation; and Rep. Yamane, Chair Water & Land/Committee Member Energy & Environmental Protection.)

# WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

I was honored to present an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature at the 50th Anniversary celebration for Waipahu Intermediate School on October 21st. The school was first established for grades 7 and 8 on the current campus of Waipahu High School with a student population of about 660.

In 1969, WHS and WIS School exchanged campuses. Today, WIS is the largest single track intermediate/ middle school in the State of Hawai'i, educating approximately 1,300 students annually.

The school has earned accolades for success and blazed trails over the years. In 1991, WIS won the *Statewide Intermediate School Quiz Bowl*. In 1995, the school was one of the first schools in the state to install a Local Area

Network (LAN) and closed circuit television system.

WIS has made great strides with technology, integrating it into their music and fine arts programs, as well as offering students opportunities to utilize software in core curricula for multi-disciplinary projects on a variety of devices including laptops and tablets. In 2007, the robotics team won First Place in *Documentation* and Third Place Overall for *Botball*. WIS's Cafeteria received the *Green Building Award* in 2008 upon completion.

At the annual Chorus Competition with all public middle schools on O'ahu participating, WIS won 1st place in 2011, 2012, and 2014. WIS students, in partnership with 'Olelo Community Media, won Honorable Mention for the Student Television Network National Video Competition in the Spot Feature category. In 2016, they won First Place in the Music Video Category and 3rd Place in the *Crazy 8s Short Film* non-fiction category.



Sen. Gabbard presented a joint Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature to Rich Hartline, VP of Development for DeBartolo, to celebrate the Grand Debut official opening and blessing of the Ka Makana Ali'i Mall on Friday, Oct. 21. Co-sponsors of the certificate were Rep. Andria Tupola (her district), Sen. Will Espero, Rep. Ty Cullen, Rep. Sharon Har, Rep. Matt LoPresti, and Rep. Bob McDermott. (Pictured: Rep. Cullen, Sen. Gabbard, Rep. Har, Stephanie England – General Manager of KaMakana Ali'i, Rich Hartline – VP of Development, DeBartolo Group, Edward Kobel–President and COO, DeBartolo Group, Councilmember Kym Pine, and Rep. Matt LoPresti.)



Sen. Gabbard was invited to speak at the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Annual Convention on Oct. 25 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and was awarded the Farm Bureau "Legislator of the Year" for his dedicated service and distinguished contributions to Hawaii's agricultural industry. (Pictured L-R: Randy Cabral – Pres. Of the Board of Directors and Hilo County Dir., Sen. Gabbard and Brian Miyamoto-Executive Director.)



## Envy Eyes & Wax Opens in Kapolei

I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate at the opening of *Envy Eyes & Wax Day Spa* in Manawa at Mehana in Kapolei on October 22nd. *Envy Eyes & Wax Day Spa* offers our community quality massage, facial, eye lash extension, scrub, and full body wax services.

Tammy Pak, master esthetician, licensed state board instructor, and CEO of *Envy Eyes & Wax Day Spa* has been in the esthetic/cosmetology field for nearly twenty years. Ms. Pak's staff earns the highest praise from their loyal male and female customers who are thrilled with the affordable rates, excellent customer satisfaction, and all the services needed to feel beautiful inside and out.

With options like side by side couple's massage, Deluxe European Facial, and a Zen Package Facial including a body scrub and massage along with a complementary foot bath, we will be the envy of everyone on the island with this day spa in our community.